

Investing in Pandemic Preparedness

The current share of pandemic preparedness funding that is development assistance for health is small.

In 2019, a total of \$374 million was disbursed toward pandemic preparedness in low- and middle-income countries. This is less than 1% of all development assistance that went toward activities such as developing national response plans and training relevant workers to support operations in a pandemic.

Pandemic preparedness involves having national response plans, resources, and the capacity to support operations in the event of a pandemic, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

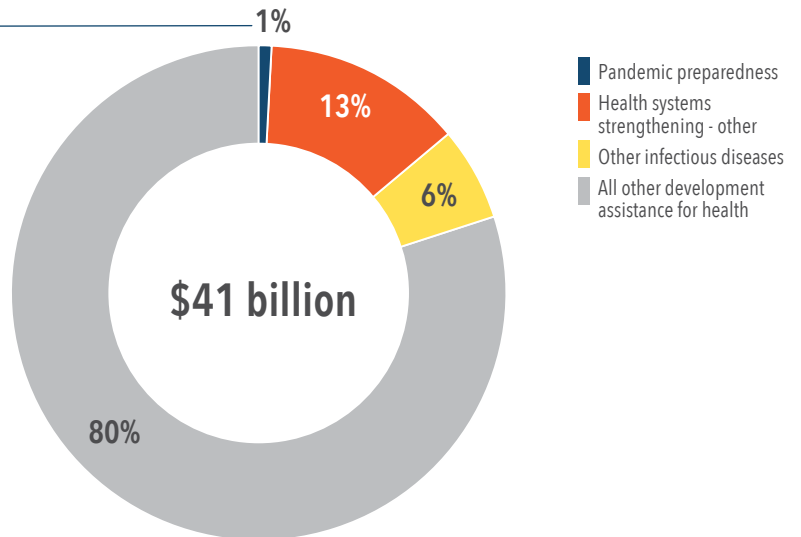
Pandemics do not respect international borders and thus require a global response.

While investing in health security, global public goods, and pandemic preparedness is critical for all nations, national capacity to do so varies. Development assistance for health can and should play a key role in this instance. In an increasingly globalized world where pandemics cannot be contained by national borders, a global response is required for such diseases.

Historically, significant increases in pandemic preparedness funding have been observed following some major epidemics. The figure at right highlights an increase in development assistance for pandemic preparedness in 2010, after the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, and again in 2014 and 2015, after the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. The majority of development assistance for pandemic preparedness comes from high-income countries and is disbursed by WHO.

Source: Global Burden of Disease Health Financing Collaborator Network. Health sector spending and spending on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, and development assistance for health: progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 3. *The Lancet*. 23 April 2020. doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(20)30608-5.

Development assistance for health by health focus area, 2019



Development assistance for pandemic preparedness by disbursing channel, 1990-2019

