

# CALL TO ACTION

WHO, Member States, and partners are working together to identify and implement priority actions to strengthen national, regional, and global preparedness for pandemics and emerging infectious disease threats. We recognize the role of communities and all sectors, and the need for harmonized and sustained momentum to end the cycle of panic and neglect that is all too common in pandemic preparedness and response.

We recall lessons from previous epidemics and pandemics, especially those caused by respiratory pathogens. These pathogens have and will continue to pose a significant global threat with the potential to cause tremendous morbidity and mortality, overwhelm health systems, de-stabilize the global economy, and exacerbate inequities, which exist in the access to both the tools to prevent pandemics and health care for all people.

This is a Call to Action to accelerate preparedness for pandemics and emerging threats globally. Effective preparedness relies on robust planning and coordinated action. A collective commitment on the following actions will see progress achieved by December 2025 as will be described in the (Preparedness and Resilience for Emerging Threats (PRET) monitoring framework:

(1)

**Update preparedness plans that affirm priority actions** and that have considered learnings from past events. Recognizing the risk posed by respiratory pathogens, planning for a respiratory pathogen pandemic based on the themes identified in the *PRET Module #1: Planning for Respiratory Pathogen Pandemics* is a priority.

(2)

**Increase connectivity among stakeholders in pandemic preparedness planning through systematic coordination and cooperation.** This includes building equitable systems; conducting joint exercises; and sharing information on good practices, challenges, and opportunities.

(3)

**Dedicate sustained investments, financing and monitoring of pandemic preparedness** with a particular focus on addressing the gaps identified during past pandemics and epidemics.

The COVID-19 pandemic response has demonstrated what can be achieved with political commitment, community engagement and funding. At the heart of this work is to ensure equity to be ready for the next pandemic together. Whole-of-society action is needed to make the progress outlined in this Call to Action. Implementation should therefore strengthen the resilience of communities; maintain, sustain, and build on routine systems; and leverage broader capacities for emergency preparedness and response.

This Call to Action was released at the Preparedness and Resilience for Emerging Threats (PRET): Global Meeting for Future Respiratory Pathogen Pandemics held on 24-26 April 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Learn more  
about the  
PRET initiative

