

Global Health Council, supported by our diverse network, submitted the following statement to the World Health Organization for its Executive Board Special Session on the COVID-19 Response on Monday, October 5th, 2020.

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As global deaths from COVID-19 surpass one million and counting, world leaders gathering at this special session of the WHO Executive Board must renew commitments and revitalize efforts to control the pandemic. The most urgent priorities include: limiting the spread of the virus through proven public health measures, strengthening all levels of the health system, and stemming devastating [economic](#) and [social](#) impacts, while accelerating the equitable development and delivery of diagnostics, therapeutics, and safe vaccines, globally.

We urge member states to:

1. ***Meet the ACT-A funding goal of [\\$38billion](#) by March 2021 and prioritize the immediate need of \$15billion by the end of 2020:*** This partnership is the best chance the world has to ensure all forms of tests, drugs, and vaccines are made available, accessible and affordable, as quickly as possible for all those in need, especially in LMICs where health systems are not as adequately financed.
2. ***Ensure strong civil society participation in WHO response efforts and in every pillar of ACT-A.*** CSOs need more robust pathways for engagement to provide valuable expertise and technical input. This includes formal consultations, new engagement mechanisms in major forums and open dialogues around key issues.
3. ***Ensure continued investments in the full continuum of care at community, primary, and secondary levels***--on the path towards universal health coverage (UHC)--so that global advancements in: HIV/AIDS; tuberculosis; malaria; reproductive, maternal and child health; nutrition; water, sanitation, and hygiene services; routine immunization; and support for people living with chronic conditions, are not lost due to interruptions in services, especially for the most marginalized.

To overcome COVID-19 we must support immediate pandemic response efforts while we scale-up current efforts to strengthen health systems. The global health community stands ready to serve as a resource to WHO and Member States.

