

# Advocates' Guide for PPPR: Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response in 2024



June 2024

If you're having trouble making sense of all of the initiatives around pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response (PPPR) this year, don't worry—you're not alone! This Advocates Guide provides a reference for the relevant information all in one place. The contents explain the major initiatives, key dates for involvement, how to get involved and make sure your priorities are heard by decision makers.

## Who is Who

**PPPR** Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response

**WHO** World Health Organization

**UN** United Nations

**INB** Intergovernmental Negotiating Body

**HLM** UN High-Level Meeting

## Pandemic Accord

The WHO convened the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) in December 2021 to draft and negotiate an agreement under the Constitution of the World Health Organization (WHO) to strengthen PPPR. [The Pandemic Accord](#) was meant to represent a global agreement on coordination, equity principles, financing expectations, and a range of capacity areas, including: disease surveillance, healthcare workforce, lab facilities, and resources for non-pandemic related healthcare. After two years of negotiations, countries were unable to reach an agreement by the World Health Assembly 2024 deadline, and agreed to continue negotiations for up to a year. The extension gives opponents to equity commitments new opportunities to undermine consensus or weaken commitments, accountability, or equity measures, especially as many countries will have elections this year where opponents may emerge stronger. Much work still needs to be done to bolster global solidarity in the response to future pandemics. And much work needs to be done to ensure proposals that were most hotly debated are resolved rather than abandoned. There was much debate around roles and responsibilities and accountability measures. [Other issues generating much discussion](#) included:

- Language on *unhindered* access that would speed drugs and other healthcare tools to all countries;
- Commitments to share technology & know-how and issue temporary waivers on intellectual property rights;
- *Pathogen access and benefit sharing (PABS)*, which refers to a proposed system where countries share genomic information about novel pathogens and tools developed to combat those pathogens, regardless of which country discovered the pathogen or developed effective tools; and
- Development of a medical countermeasures platform, which would facilitate equitable development, distribution, and delivery of vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics in the event of a pandemic.

As further initiatives are launched and other multilateral processes continue (for example, further negotiation on PABS; a possible Pandemic Accord Conference of Parties; and a UN High Level Meeting on PPPR in 2026), solidarity to advance civil society and community priorities for international PPPR will be essential.

## Key Terms

**Intellectual Property Waivers** are sometimes implemented in emergency situations to rapidly increase manufacturing.

**Pathogen Access & Benefit Sharing** refers to a proposed system where countries share genomic information about novel pathogens and share tools developed to combat those pathogens, regardless of which country discovered the pathogen or developed effective tools.

**Technology & Know-how Transfer** refers to training or information on a specific process that manufacturers need, and cannot produce themselves, to reproduce drugs and other pandemic tools.

**Unhindered Access** refers to the degree to which countries and populations have the ability to access drugs & other pandemic tools.

**Timeline and key dates:** Advocates can influence country representatives to advance community priorities and equity principles throughout 2024 and 2025.

- UN General Assembly will be held in September 2024, marking an occasion to mobilize government champions.
- World Health Summit in October 2024 will be an important venue to press European and African officials on the future of multilateral PPPR initiatives.
- The [2024 G20 Summit](#) will be held in Brazil in November 2024, offering an opportunity to mobilize financing the commitments set out in the [Pandemic Accord draft](#).
- The Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA) [will be held in November 2024](#), where African leaders will discuss PPPR self-reliance and resiliency plans.
- After the November G20 Summit, G20 presidency will turn to South Africa, a prime champion of PPPR efforts.
- The third [World Local Production Forum](#) will convene in 2025. Convened by WHO, this body brings together advocates, academics, and industry professionals to accelerate capacity-building for local production of medical products.

### **How to get involved:**

Get in touch with your government representatives to communicate your organization's or community's priorities, circulate to decision-makers demands for equity in multilateral agreements and communicate that governments will not have civil society support without concessions on equity measures. [Demand negotiations and discussions formalize and integrate inclusion of civil society at every level of decision-making](#). Call governments out at key multilateral conferences, hold them accountable for ensuring equity in the Pandemic Accord.

## Pandemic Fund

[The Pandemic Fund](#) was put into motion by G7 & G20 countries in 2022 and is currently based at the World Bank. The Fund is meant to provide resources for pandemic preparedness capacity-building, including but not limited to disease surveillance, health workforce, laboratories, supply chain, and risk management. The estimated need for global pandemic preparedness stands at \$10.5B annually; currently, \$1.69B has been committed to the Fund. Eligible recipients are countries who are already eligible to receive development assistance from the World Bank. Regional entities, such as the African Union or the European Commission, may also receive support from the Pandemic Fund through a partnership with any one of 13 development banks or global health institutions. See [this World Bank Factsheet on the Pandemic Fund](#) for more information.

**Timeline and key dates:** Throughout 2024 and 2025, advocates can influence country representatives to advance community priorities, equity principles, and ensure low- and middle-income country leadership.

- The deadline for proposals for the second round of funding (\$500M) closed on May 17, 2024. There is expected to be a third call for proposals in 2024 or 2025.
- Funding from the second round will be distributed in September/October 2024. Projects will need monitoring to ensure they are meaningfully engaging civil society.

### **How to get involved:**

Encourage your government to apply for one of the board seats during the 2025 reset of the Pandemic Fund governing board, or watch for announcements from AVAC to apply for one of two civil society seats on the governing board. Connect with governments who have representatives on the board to call for more civil society engagement. Publicize the priorities your organization or community believes should be resourced by the Fund through sign-on letters, briefs, and social media. Call on governments to plan for sustainable financing. Join the [Civil Society Constituency Group](#).

## African Vaccine Manufacturing Accelerator (AVMA)

The African Vaccine Manufacturing Accelerator, launched in December 2023, commits up to \$1B over the next ten years to support the sustainable growth of Africa's manufacturing base, to strengthen self-reliance and resilience in Africa. AVMA provides different types of incentives to offset the high initial expenses of production. Greater incentives will be available for a set of vaccines (referred to as the *priority vaccine market group*) if market demand for them needs to be improved, or if they address an unmet need. An African manufacturer investing in capacity to produce priority vaccines against a pandemic is also eligible for higher incentives.

**Timeline and key dates:** In the year ahead, advocates can support the accelerator program and advocate for reforms to leverage the investment.

- Gavi is holding civil society and community consultations on the design of the AVMA platform through July 2024. To get involved reach out to Samantha Rick at AVAC ([samantha@avac.org](mailto:samantha@avac.org)).
- [The G20 Health Ministers meeting is October 31, 2024](#) and advocates can push for supplemental funding in several areas: start-up costs; costs related to WHO pre-qualification and regulatory clearance; and funding to incentivize production of countermeasures (a category of goods that are essential to an emergency health response: such as vaccines, drugs, diagnostics, gloves, masks and other equipment and tools).

- Throughout the year, advocates can call for similar initiatives aimed at decentralizing production of diagnostics and therapeutics. It is not guaranteed that a vaccine will be developed quickly enough in a pandemic or that an effective vaccine could be produced at all—diagnostics and therapeutics are just as essential to pandemic readiness.

### ***How to get involved:***

Collaborate with regional organizations ([Waci Health](#), [EANNASO](#), [RANA](#), and with [AVAC](#)) to develop civil society and community priorities for AVMA. Develop civil society and community monitoring of AVMA investments to ensure they are reaching Africa-based manufacturers. Call for decentralization of all countermeasures production. Contact [samantha@avac.org](mailto:samantha@avac.org) if you're interested in tracking developments.

## **Pooled Procurement Initiatives**

During the African Union (AU) Summit in Addis Ababa in February 2024, [a pooled procurement mechanism](#) led by the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention was approved. It establishes steady demand for vaccine supplies, allowing producers to make long-term plans and establish a sustainable environment for their production. Many African nations struggle to obtain quality-assured medications and often pay exorbitant prices. Acting as one market and buying in bulk, through the Pooled Procurement Initiative, will lead to lower prices for products compared to the higher prices manufacturers offer when negotiating one-on-one with individual countries.

### ***How to get involved:***

Civil society and community advocates must monitor their country's procurement of medicines, vaccines, and diagnostics to ensure that countries are purchasing from local manufacturers wherever possible. Advocates can push their governments to stand strong in solidarity and not accept preferential agreements outside of the pooled procurement market. A preferential agreement for some in the short term undermines better prices for all, negotiated in solidarity, in the long run. Encourage African governments to sign on to the [African Medicines Agency](#) (AMA) to support creating one united market.

All of these initiatives are important and civil society organizations must come together now to amplify the voices of communities that have been, and will likely continue to be, most affected by pandemic threats. For timely updates on pandemic news, be sure to [sign up](#) for [Pandemic Watch](#). For more information, contact [Samantha Rick](#) and let us know what advocacy you have underway for PPPR.

### **About AVAC**

AVAC is an international non-profit organization that leverages its independent voice and global partnerships to accelerate ethical development and equitable delivery of effective HIV prevention options, as part of a comprehensive and integrated pathway to global health equity. Follow AVAC on Twitter [@HIVpxresearch](#) and find more at [www.avac.org](http://www.avac.org).