



ACT now to end COVID-19

The **COVID-19** pandemic is a global crisis demanding a global emergency response — because no one will be safe until this disease is defeated everywhere.

To achieve this, the world needs to mobilize a rapid, coordinated effort to develop and equitably distribute tests, treatments and vaccines at record speed, especially in the poorest countries, while strengthening the health systems needed to deliver them.

It is estimated that a total of at least US\$31.3 billion is needed to provide access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines to everyone who needs them in developing countries in the next 12 months¹. This figure could nearly double depending on manufacturing and procurement costs. While very significant, these costs will be modest compared to the trillions the global economy is projected to lose due to the pandemic without a coordinated and effective global response.

We also need to address the urgent humanitarian crisis caused by COVID-19. This global challenge demands collective action, leadership and tangible commitments. Canada has the potential to be at the forefront of the global emergency effort to end COVID-19 everywhere.

Canada should commit at least 1% of its total COVID-19 funding (CAD\$2 billion) in new and additional aid towards an emergency global response. This will help ensure countries have the tools they need to address COVID-19 directly as well as address the humanitarian and development disaster that is unfolding.

¹ [https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/act-consolidated-investment-case-at-26-june-2020-\(vf\).pdf?sfvrsn=2f9386e4_2&download=true](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/act-consolidated-investment-case-at-26-june-2020-(vf).pdf?sfvrsn=2f9386e4_2&download=true)

“None of us are immune to the effects of COVID-19, and none of us can beat the virus alone. Only by protecting each other can we protect ourselves. Canada is ready to help lead a coordinated global response which will contribute to overcoming the pandemic. Together, we will win”.*

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

*Canada and international partners launch the Coronavirus Global Response
PMO, (4 May 2020)

On June 27, Canada announced a contribution of \$120 million to the ACT-Accelerator and \$180 million for the immediate humanitarian and development impacts of the crisis. These were positive first steps, but the sheer scale of this global crisis demands more from all countries, including Canada.

the ACT Accelerator

The **ACT Accelerator** was announced on April 24, 2020 and is composed of global health actors, the private sector and other key stakeholders. The ACT Accelerator's goal is to develop and provide equitable global access to "innovative COVID-19 diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines ... in record time and at record scale and access — to save millions of lives and countless trillions of dollars."² The group has also called for the urgent strengthening of health systems so these tools can be delivered to those who need them and to mitigate the secondary impacts of other diseases.

Funding to the ACT Accelerator would flow to partners with a proven track record/commitment to transparency, accountability, prioritization of the public good, and impact, such as the **Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations** (CEPI); the **Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics** (FIND); **Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance**; the **Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria**; the **Therapeutics Accelerator**, and the **World Health Organization** (WHO). To end the pandemic, an estimated total of at least US\$31.3 billion is needed for the three ACT-A pillars of tests, treatments and vaccines just for the next 12-18 months in low and lower-middle income countries. A fair share for Canada's contribution to ACT-A would be around CA\$700-750 million in addition to what has already been committed.

humanitarian needs

Emergency humanitarian needs in the developing world due to COVID-19 are also growing. In mid July 2020, the **UN announced another increase for its humanitarian funding** appeal for a COVID-19 response from US\$6.7 billion to US \$10 billion highlighting the urgency of addressing food security and nutrition impacts, the disruption of education for millions of children, and the particular vulnerabilities of refugees. Non-Governmental Organizations that conduct humanitarian programming also deliver essential services that address these and other urgent needs, particularly at a local level, so we must step up funding to them as well. By investing at 1% of its COVID-19 response towards a global emergency response, Canada can help address the disease itself, while treating the secondary impacts of the pandemic.

new and additional aid

It's essential that this investment be new and additional aid so that the existing international assistance budget can continue to tackle the severe secondary impacts of the pandemic and existing vulnerabilities in developing countries. These include an estimated 265 million people facing acute hunger this year, rising rates of gender based violence, an estimated 1.1 billion learners being out of school, 785 million people who lack access to basic water services, and at least 80 million children set to miss their routine vaccinations to prevent other disease outbreaks³. COVID-19 is a new threat we could not have budgeted for and it would be a failure if funding is withdrawn from other life-saving programs in the course of addressing it.

² **Access To COVID-19 Tools (Act) Accelerator, A Global Collaboration to Accelerate the Development, Production and Equitable Access to New COVID-19 diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines**, World Health Organization (24 April 2020)

³ **World Food Programme** (21 April 2020), **UN Women** (27 May 2020), **Global Education Coalition, WaterAid** (10 April 2020), **World Health Organization with Gavi and UNICEF** (22 May 2020)

As of mid-May, per the Parliamentary Budget Office, Canada had allocated approximately CA\$146 billion towards COVID-19 response. CA\$2 billion is only 1% of that total and would have an outsized impact in protecting Canada and the world from COVID-19.