

# DIAGNOSTICS FOR EPIDEMIC PREPAREDNESS

Our involvement with recent outbreaks including Ebola, along with landscaping of diagnostics needs to support WHO's R&D Blueprint for priority pathogens, have made it clear that we will only be able to meet the acute needs in diagnostic preparedness if we think differently about how all stakeholders can work together in the interest of global health security. We need to create flexible and comprehensive diagnostic solutions that address surveillance and rapid response needs.

*Cassandra Kelly-Cirino,  
Director of Emerging Threats, FIND*



## FAST FACTS

Diagnostics are a fundamental component of a successful outbreak containment strategy, as a complement to both vaccines and drugs, being involved at every stage from initial detection to eventual resolution.

Diagnostics are often absent in the countries where they are most needed, and weaknesses in the overall system mean that challenges to diagnostic preparedness are similar, regardless of the pathogen from which the threat originates.

6 out of the 10 WHO "Blueprint" pathogens have significant unmet diagnostic needs, including Disease X, an as-yet-unknown pathogen that could pose a future risk.

The unpredictability of disease outbreaks means there is a high financial risk to manufacturing diagnostics for pathogens with epidemic potential; and a lack of manufacturing and distribution support for low capacity production. There is also little funding available to address ongoing, regular outbreaks of endemic diseases; and poor surveillance capacity at national level in many countries.

Unlike vaccine preparedness, which is supported by CEPI to catalyze technical solutions, and Gavi, to address response speed and market sustainability, there is currently no entity that delivers end-to-end support for diagnostics for epidemic preparedness, from rapid R&D to market access.

## FIND OUTBREAK STRATEGY

Our strategy recognises that global outbreak preparedness depends on local action. It aims to concretely tackle challenges across the spectrum of diagnostic preparedness by identifying solutions to address technical needs, market sustainability, and response speed. To amplify its impact, we are also advocating for a global entity, similar to CEPI/Gavi for vaccines, that will convene stakeholders from across the diagnostics sector to implement solutions.

### Technical solutions

#### Critical assays

Pathogen-specific assays to address critical gaps and WHO R&D Blueprint needs

#### Comprehensive platforms

Diagnostic platforms with broad test menus allowing for rapid integration of new tests

#### Connectivity solutions

Fully interconnected, real-time data reporting

### Response speed

#### Trial sites & regulatory pathways

Trial sites ready to validate new diagnostics

Improved regulatory pathway and rapid access to validated diagnostics

#### Sample access

Established sample sharing commitments

Virtual specimen bank for priority pathogens



### Market sustainability

#### Manufacturing

Innovative business partnerships, subsidized dedicated manufacturing lines and other financing mechanisms

#### Global supply chain

Predefined, rapid procurement and stockpiling with agencies with global reach and supply chain capacity