

ACTaccelerator
ACCESS TO COVID-19 TOOLS



ACT-Accelerator Diagnostics Pillar

NO ONE IS SAFE UNTIL
EVERYONE IS SAFE

THERE IS NO TIME TO WASTE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19.

Every day that passes means more deaths, more jobs lost, more futures ruined. Faster and more effective progress on the tools to test, treat and protect is vital. And once developed, those tools must be fairly shared among those most at risk from the disease.

**The time has come to ACT.
Act now. Act together. Act to end COVID-19.**

WHAT IS THE ACT-ACCELERATOR?

Launched at the end of April 2020, at an event co-hosted by the Director General of the World Health Organization, the President of France, the President of the European Commission, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-Accelerator) brings together governments, health organizations, scientists, businesses, civil society, and philanthropists who have joined forces to speed up an end to the pandemic.

Its goal is to reduce COVID-19 mortality and severe disease through the accelerated development, equitable allocation, and scaled up delivery of tests, treatments and vaccines, thereby protecting health systems and restoring societies and economies.

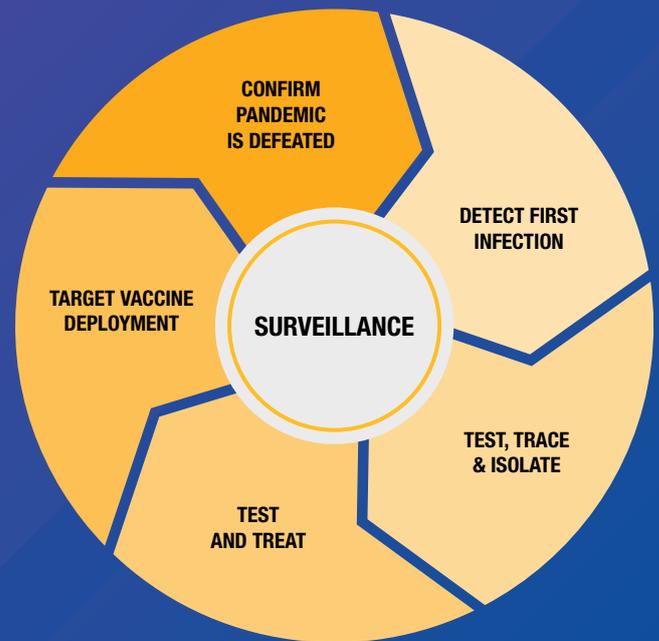
WHY DOES TESTING MATTER?

Until a vaccine has been developed and produced for global use, effective diagnostics are the most important medical technology available to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Testing is essential

Testing is essential at every stage of the pandemic response from the first diagnosed patient to the last confirmed infection. Diagnostics are needed to assess vaccine efficacy and inform deployment of vaccines in the face of likely supply and funding constraints. High-quality testing data offer reliable information for every decision we need to make to save lives, re-open economies, and ultimately defeat COVID-19.

Testing can be used to save lives today. By isolating those who are infected, we can break the chain of transmission. We know that aggressive testing – implemented as early as possible, as part of “test, trace & isolate” strategies, sustained over time and in conjunction with social distancing and other community measures – is containing the virus today, even in the absence of vaccines and dedicated treatments.



MAKING THE CASE TO ACT URGENTLY ON TESTING

Time is not on our side. Left unchecked, the total global cost of the pandemic could be in the region of US\$30 trillion, according to an analysis by McKinsey. Aggressive, systematic testing is the only way countries, if they act early, can avoid extensive and economically crippling, repeated lockdowns.

But today, current testing strategies require sophisticated healthcare systems and infrastructures. Today’s tests rely on complex diagnostics that need well-resourced, resource-intensive laboratory systems, making testing expensive and slow. Further, there are supply shortages that jeopardize access to testing, which is why manufacturing capacity must be put in place to rapidly scale up production of tests to meet global demand. Critical innovation is urgently required to get to a simple, accurate and affordable rapid diagnostic test that can be used wherever one is needed.

The world is faced with a window of opportunity to put in place the right conditions for effective testing strategies that can help avoid a future bottleneck when it is time to roll out approved therapeutics and vaccines.

When a treatment becomes available, it will be crucial to allow healthcare professionals to rapidly implement test-and-treat strategies. We also urgently need reliable rapid antibody tests to understand population immunity, which will be vital to enable implementation of a vaccination campaign once a vaccine has been developed. Bottlenecks in deploying these solutions will impede sufficient scale up and rapid uptake, which will prolong the pandemic.

US\$ 30 TRILLION

COULD BE THE TOTAL COST OF THE PANDEMIC

HOW DOES THE ACT-A DIAGNOSTICS PILLAR WORK?

Building on decades of experience fighting other epidemics and infectious diseases and deploying diagnostics and treatments at scale, co-conveners [FIND](#) and the [Global Fund](#), together with the World Health Organization and over 30 global health expert partners, are working to accelerate innovation and overcome the technical, financial, and political obstacles to achieving equitable access to effective and timely testing.

The ACT-A Diagnostics Pillar has been structured to achieve impact in three main areas:

- 1 All countries able to deploy affordable, quality point-of-care tests
- 2 Significant number of LMICs supported to put in place effective test-trace-isolate strategies
- 3 Minimized disruption of core health services

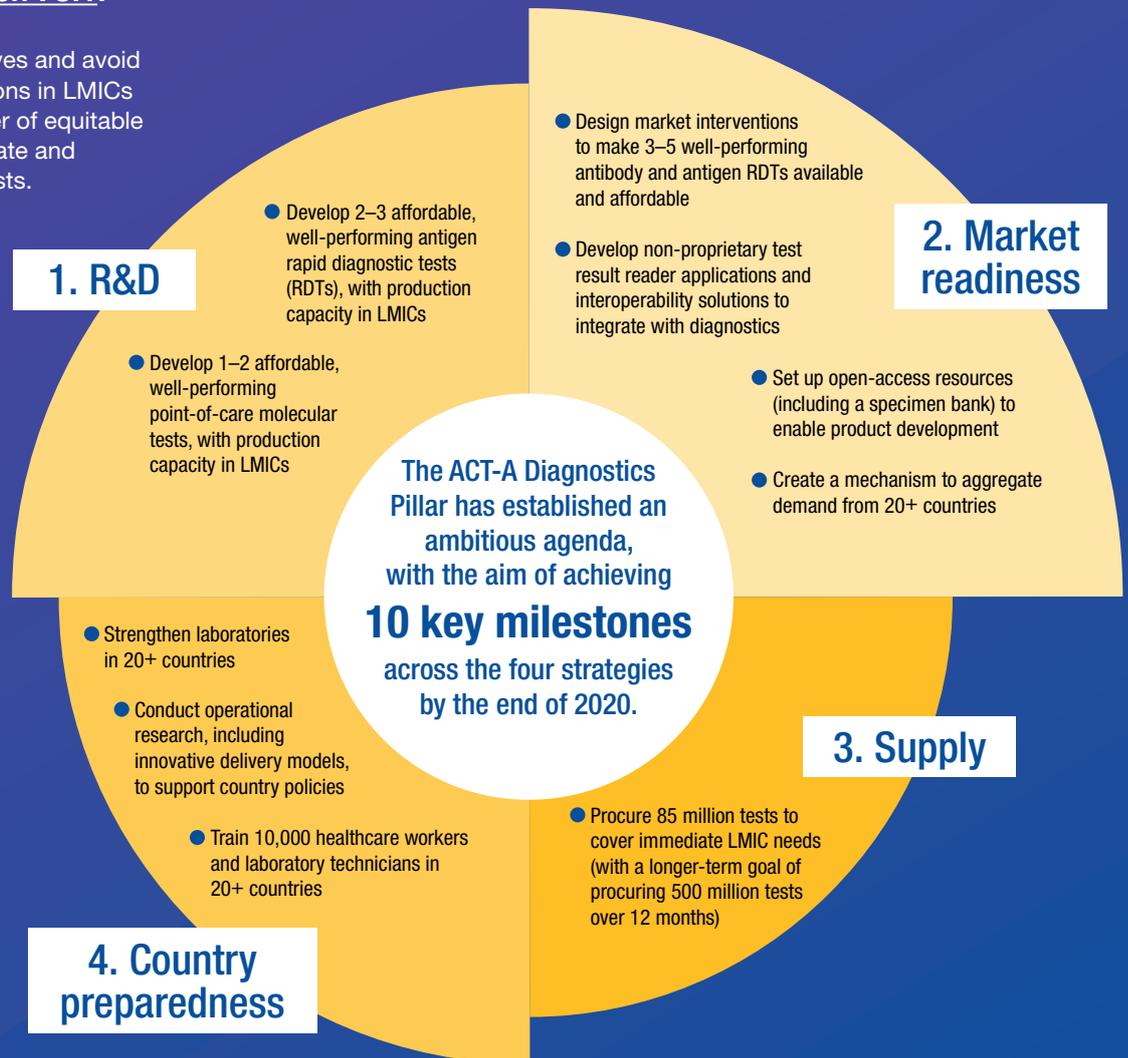
ACT-A Diagnostics Pillar: partners

The ACT-A Diagnostics Pillar is supported by working groups, composed of representatives from academia, industry, regulators, civil society, funders, international organizations and country representatives. Key leaders include: Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Global Fund Advocates Network, Imperial College London, Mayo Clinic Laboratories, Pan American Health Organization, Praesens Foundation, Unitaid, Water Street Healthcare Partners, World Bank, World Economic Forum, and the World Health Organization.

WHAT IS THE ACT-A DIAGNOSTICS PILLAR AIMING TO ACHIEVE?

Our goal is to drive universal and equitable access to testing as per the May 2020 World Health Assembly [Resolution 73.1](#).

We can save 9 million lives and avoid 1.6 billion further infections in LMICs alone, through the power of equitable access to simple, accurate and affordable diagnostic tests.



WHAT WILL IT COST?

Getting this huge job done quickly requires money. Global investments in global solutions are necessary to protect people now and in the future.

Based on a robust [costed plan](#), US\$ 6 billion is needed to achieve our aims over the next 12 months. This is just 77 cents per world citizen.

Every dollar invested in testing today is a dollar invested in our future global health security and an opportunity to protect the health advances of recent decades.

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