



# Equitable Access Policy

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## Context

The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) is a non-profit organisation established to develop vaccines to prevent and respond to future epidemics, and to secure access to such products for the populations who need them. It was born out of the experiences of the Ebola epidemic in West Africa, which demonstrated the need for new global mechanisms to coordinate and fund research and development of health technologies against epidemic threats.

At CEPI our vision is of a world in which epidemics are no longer a threat to humanity. We pursue this vision by accelerating the development of vaccines against emerging infectious diseases and enable equitable access to these vaccines for affected populations during outbreaks. Our commitment to this vision drives all of our work—from vaccine development and manufacture to allocation and deployment.

To realise this vision, CEPI will:

- Directly fund and coordinate vaccine development up to and including phase 2b, advocate for regulatory innovation and harmonisation, and fund associated costs for meeting regulatory requirements;
- Take a role alongside other organisations—including other funders—in support of sustainable manufacturing and in the maintenance and release of investigational vaccine stockpiles (free of charge where funded by CEPI) when an outbreak occurs;
- Together with awardees of CEPI funding and relevant stakeholders, facilitate and coordinate resource mobilisation for phase 3 trials to be conducted during outbreaks for the purpose of licensure;
- Take all possible actions at each stage of product development and manufacturing to maximise the achievement of equitable access to CEPI-funded vaccines.

## CEPI's Policy Regarding Equitable Access

CEPI is committed to achieving equitable access to the outputs of all CEPI-supported programmes including vaccines, platforms, data, results, and materials.

Equitable access to epidemic vaccines in the context of an outbreak means that appropriate *vaccines are first available to populations when and where they are needed to end an outbreak or curtail an epidemic, regardless of ability to pay.*

CEPI will facilitate equitable access to epidemic vaccines by:

1. Funding the development of vaccines and maintaining investigational stockpiles, to be used free of charge when an outbreak occurs
2. Coordinating with others in the global health community to enable licensure of vaccines funded by CEPI, including by securing resources for pivotal clinical trials

3. Collaborating with others in the global health community to ensure the procurement, allocation, deployment and administration of licensed vaccines to protect global health, at a price that does not limit equitable access and is sustainable to the manufacturer

CEPI will also ensure open access to data, results and publications arising from its funding and facilitate access to materials to accelerate vaccine development.

*The commitment to equitable access guides all CEPI investments and funding agreements*

## CEPI's Approach to Implementation

To ensure that CEPI delivers on its commitment to equitable access:

- CEPI deems access considerations to be critical and mandatory components of all agreements and will therefore ensure that such terms are negotiated and reflected in all partnership agreements.
- The Secretariat will summarise the partnership agreements for the CEPI Board, providing a detailed description of all access provisions to facilitate the Board's oversight.
- The CEO will affirm to the Board that s/he is confident the partnership agreements have successfully achieved outcomes consistent with the policy.
- In presenting proposals for new initiatives, the Secretariat will outline any context-specific opportunities or limitations to promote access deriving from the initiative.

## CEPI's Commitment to Collaboration

CEPI recognises that each stage of the vaccine development, procurement, deployment, delivery, and dispensing process involves considerations central to the goal of optimising equitable access. CEPI can take certain direct actions through the development process, including through funding agreements with awardees, to support this goal, but it cannot anticipate or address all potential barriers to equitable access on its own. Other entities in the global community have key roles and responsibilities regarding the ultimate achievement of equitable access, and therefore must act in a coordinated fashion to share with CEPI the responsibility for advancing and sustaining equitable access. CEPI believes that a shared commitment to the success of these vaccines is needed to maximise public benefit from this historic investment of public funds.

Towards that end, CEPI maintains a core set of guiding principles that provide a robust foundation for advancing equitable access.

These principles include:

- **Respecting the interests of all parties**, working as a trusted partner, while aiming to balance the short-term and long-term goals of CEPI and those of other stakeholders.
- **Prioritising transparency** by sharing CEPI policies and other information about how CEPI works and what it accomplishes, as well as encouraging CEPI awardees and other stakeholders to commit to similar transparency.
- **Acting as a catalyst**, understanding that the actions CEPI takes during the development process should result in downstream changes to the vaccine ecosystem that will challenge stakeholders to re-evaluate remaining barriers to access for epidemic vaccines. Additionally, CEPI will continually innovate, help develop creative solutions to outstanding challenges, and lend its voice as a thought leader to the discourse exploring ways to achieve equitable access for epidemic vaccines.

- **Anticipating challenges** to equitable access and taking proactive steps to prevent them from becoming barriers. To the greatest extent possible, CEPI will seek to mitigate these challenges, at each stage of the vaccine development process, during execution of funding agreements, and through other actions that might be needed in the face of an outbreak.
- **Acting as a learning organisation**, by embracing the idea of continuous learning, including from experience and stakeholder feedback; monitoring, assessing and reporting progress toward equitable access; and, as warranted, revising actions or policies to integrate learning and improve its processes and performance.

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