

The background of the slide is a dense field of 3D-rendered coronavirus particles. These particles are spherical with a textured, greyish surface and are covered in numerous red, spike-like protrusions. The particles are scattered across the frame, with some appearing larger and more detailed than others, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall color palette is dominated by reds and oranges, with the grey of the virus particles providing a stark contrast.

ACT Accelerator: A Retrospective Look to harness insights for the future

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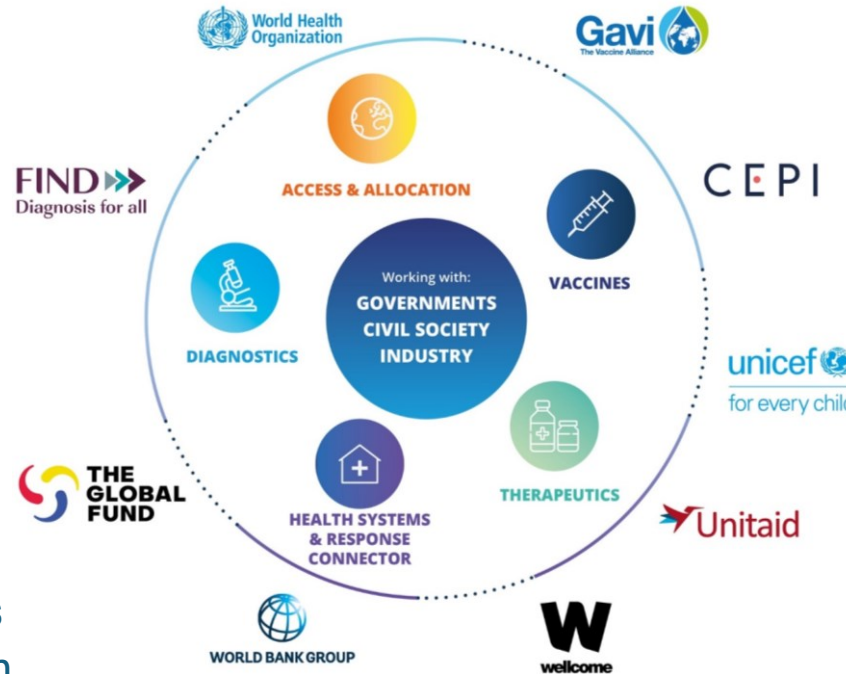
25th February, 2024

ACT Accelerator:

“No One is Safe until Everyone is Safe”

Intentions

- Launched at the end of April 2020
- Founding principles of Participation, Transparency and Accountability
- Four Pillars: Diagnostics, Therapeutics, Vaccines and Health Systems
- Set out to secure 2 billion vaccines, 245 million treatments and 500 million tests (120 million for LMICs)
- Co-ordinated by ACT-A Executive Hub, The Facilitation Council and the Principals Group



Realities

- No L/ LMIC's governments were involved in the creation or initial governance
- No global south representation via heads of agencies on the Principals Group
- Only 20.4% of COVID tests administered worldwide have been used in L/LMICs despite these countries comprising 50.6% of the global population. FIND Data
- Dr Alakija appointed as WHO Special Envoy to ACT-A in December 2021, some 20 months after ACT-A was established

Lessons Learnt from ACT-A

External Evaluation of the Access To COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) October 10, 2022

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1. Research & Development coordination

Increased R&D coordination and leadership are essential to develop MCMs for future pandemics. Based on ACT-A's vertical pillars, structures with clear lead agencies for R&D on diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines should be defined. In addition, a joint platform should be established to coordinate the work across the three product areas.



2. Contingent funding platform for Medical Countermeasures

Future pandemic response must enable immediate access to initial funding for at-risk development and procurement. A pandemic Advance Commitment Facility – with access to a credit line, inclusive and accountable governance structure, and a targeted scope – should be established to enable a fast, equitable global response in a future pandemic.



3. Global functions

At the global level, critical functions must be improved for pandemic preparedness and response, including political leadership, indemnification/no-fault compensation mechanisms, technology transfer, rapid prequalification, and data.



4. Regional manufacturing and health systems

Building regional manufacturing capacity in a sustainable manner is important for pandemic preparedness. In addition, the health systems of countries must also be strengthened in-between pandemics.

June 2020

July

Aug.

Sept.

Oct.

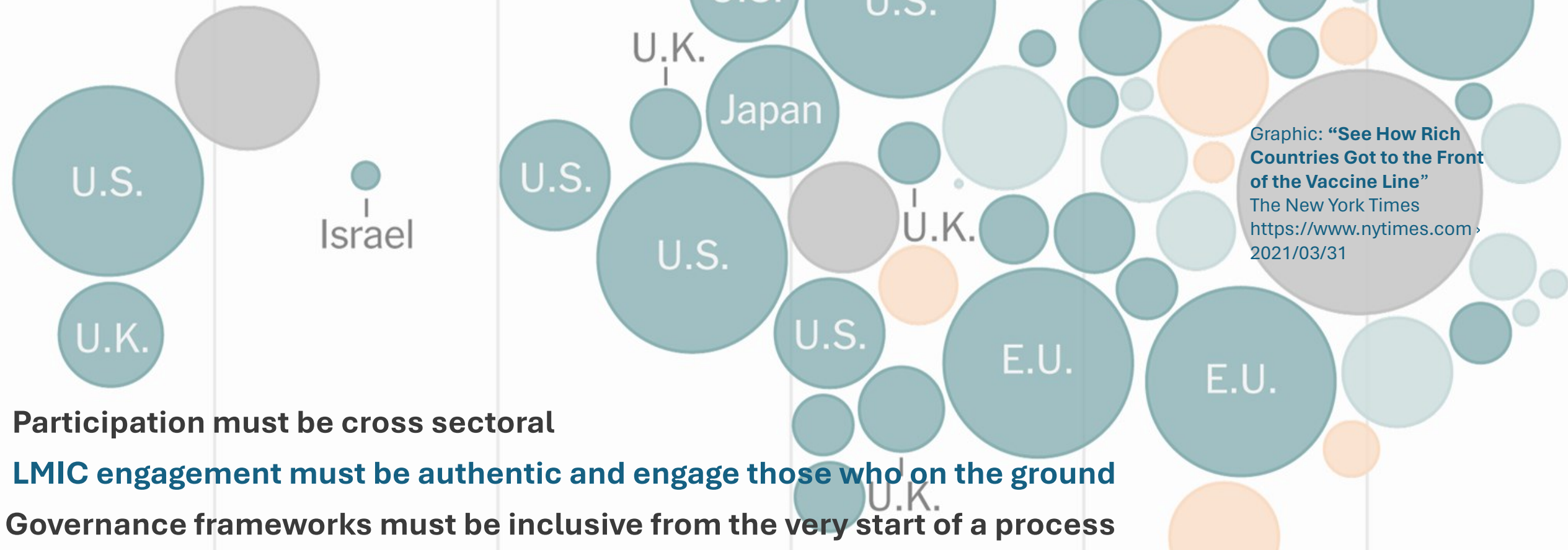
Too much of the focus was on COVAX

Access to therapeutics and diagnostics was limited: PPE and oxygen are critical

African Representatives' voices were not being heard

Top-Down with no meaningful engagement of LMICs

Too much influence afforded to Donors



Graphic: **“See How Rich Countries Got to the Front of the Vaccine Line”**
The New York Times
<https://www.nytimes.com>
2021/03/31

Participation must be cross sectoral

LMIC engagement must be authentic and engage those who on the ground

Governance frameworks must be inclusive from the very start of a process



Without the counterfactuals...

Without ACT-A, millions more people would have not been treated or vaccinated or would have died.

Image from ACT Accelerator Transition Report

It is critical that ACT-A continues as a platform for coordination, maintaining the relationships and network between those with institutional memory and experience so that the lessons from COVID-19 are appropriately addressed and recommendations are implemented; so that there is no gap in institutional or organizational realms and intelligence continues to be shared should the world need to respond swiftly to a health emergency before a final Pandemic Accord comes into effect

Critical concern that the world has already forgotten about COVID-19 and moved on despite these facts:

- **There is still an upward trend in covid cases**
- **The duration and full impact of long covid is still unknown; with greatest impact on the most vulnerable**
- **There is a lack of behavioural change in populations (i.e.: mask wearing)**
- **Political attention has already been lost**
- **Strengthening health systems in ‘peacetime’ was highlighted in the ACT-A evaluation**



WHO DG, Dr Tedros said at WHO EB on Monday that momentum behind reaching an International Accord has slowed down, putting the project at risk. He said that failure to strike an agreement would be
**“ a missed opportunity for which future generations may not forgive us.
We cannot allow this historic agreement, this milestone in global health to be sabotaged.”**

'A PACTT for Humanity'

Key elements of PACTT :

Prevention is better than cure, so a platform must focus on preparedness, not only for medical countermeasures but also for pandemic products and wider interventions for a One Health approach.

Access

All barriers to accessing pandemic products for preparedness must be removed, making equity the basis of all interactions between nations, pharmaceutical companies, and other institutions

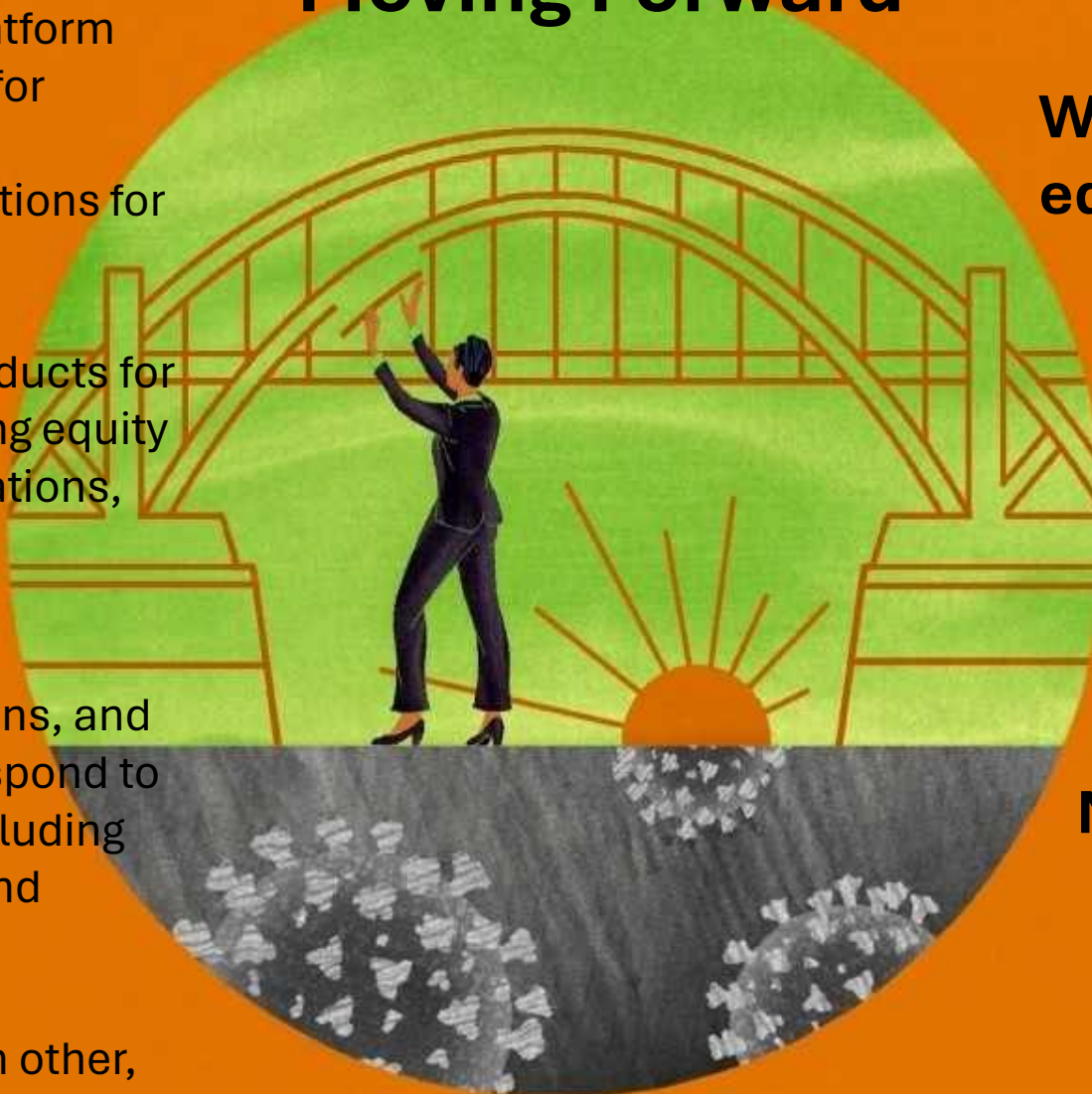
Countermeasures and Tools

These are the mechanisms, interventions, and instruments needed to prepare and respond to disease outbreaks and pandemics, including expertise, and these must be funded and accessible to all.

Trust

We must build and rebuild trust in each other, in our institutions, and in the possibility of change.

Moving Forward



We need inclusive, equitable frameworks

We need regional networks and expertise

More than anything, we Need Trust

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External Evaluation of the Access To COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) October 10, 2022 World Health Organization

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