Accelerator Discussion Frame

Accelerator 5. R&D, Innovation and Access

Achieving the goal of healthy lives and well-being for all can be accelerated through investments in research and innovation, made accessible on an equitable basis. Today, there is a vibrant community of researchers and innovators across the academic and private sector working to develop solutions for health problems, from basic, fundamental science, to new medical products and devices, to system-level and social sciences research.

Many potential solutions that could have significant positive impact on realizing SDG 3 have been successfully tested in the pilot phase. Yet there are often barriers and delays to the adoption of these solutions, sustainably and at scale, in the countries that need them most.

This working paper is intended to frame the discussion on accelerator 5 and begin the process of consultation at country, regional and global levels.

Objective:

The research accelerator will, through a time-bound process, establish a sustainable roadmap for global health research, development, innovation and access to 2030 and beyond.

In addition to the overarching aim of realigning (international and domestic) research investments with country needs to achieve universal health coverage (UHC), healthier populations and protection from health emergencies, the roadmap will include the following four elements:

- Sustaining investment in new ideas: the accelerator will identify best practices for research and pipeline coordination, innovation hubs and other routes for generating new knowledge and propositions for health-improving innovation.
- Ensuring that promising innovations reach those who need them: organizations will work together to identify promising innovations ready to transition to scale, and participate in partnerships with governments, funders and the private sector to help innovations translate to impact.
- Optimising the path to scale-up: the accelerator will look at existing routes to scale (including the role of tools such as technical guidance and innovation marketplaces) and recommend improvements to ensure that barriers are quickly removed.
- Enabling sustainable scale-up at the country level: the accelerator will explore how to shift priorities for research and innovation to the country level (particularly in LMICs), with assistance provided to countries to establish local priorities and modalities for bringing innovations to scale and ensuring equitable access.

Disclaimer: The accelerator discussion frames are preliminary documents and have been prepared to stimulate multi-stakeholder engagement and discussion toward identifying collectively-shaped, country-relevant, concrete actions at global, regional and country level. They are unedited, unofficial documents and should not be interpreted as final. The publication does not constitute official endorsement by the agencies signatory to the Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All.
Content:

The accelerator will address three areas to deliver on these themes:

1. **Optimising the global research system:** identifying international systems-level improvements which require coordination and alignment across the sector.

   **Output** – a discussion amongst international research organisations about how to shift the centre of gravity of research investments to countries

2. **Scaling up innovation:** identifying catalytic actions for national and international organisations to work together to achieve scale up and impact.

   **Output** - country case studies that will serve as examples of how systems and investment improvements can accelerate scaling of innovation and access, delivering impact

   **Output** – a curated long list of innovations as a support tool to assist country decision-making

3. **Elevating country priorities:** consulting directly with countries to create better alignment between national needs and internationally-commissioned research and innovations.

   **Output** – a clear set of country priorities for research and a platform to share information on research needs and gaps

Delivery:

Given the short timeframe, the accelerator will need to ensure the parameters remain manageable. If the accelerator is to set and recommend specific areas for action, a strong evidence base will need to be developed, such as analyses of product pipelines and funders’ portfolios to identify gaps and areas of action.

We anticipate that the accelerator will provide shorter-term wins before September as well as identifying much larger areas for collaboration and future mobilisation of the global health research community post-UNGA 2019.

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