

The Pivotal Role of Innovative Diagnostics in Pandemic Preparedness & Response and Health System Strengthening

A WORLD HEALTH SUMMIT SIDE-EVENT

**SUNDAY, 16th OCTOBER 2022, 11 AM – 1.30 PM, 1ST FLOOR, ROOM BRAZZAVILLE,
HOTEL BERLIN CENTRAL DISTRICT, STAUFFENBERGSTRASSE 26, 10785 BERLIN**

Diagnostics and testing play a key role at every stage of a pandemic – from outbreak detection and containment to the development and deployment of treatments and vaccines. Testing, in particular, has been a critical part of the comprehensive approach to defeat Covid-19, as the early detection of the virus helped to mitigate the spread and magnitude of the pandemic. Without testing, we cannot track or contain the spread of the virus, address urgent clinical needs, test the efficacy of vaccines, or detect the emergence of new variants. As such, the Covid-19 pandemic has exposed the pivotal role of innovative diagnostics for global pandemic preparedness and response.

While innovative diagnostics were largely neglected in the debates around health systems strengthening and delivering health outcomes in the pre-pandemic era, it has since proven useful time and again - as demonstrated during the rise in Monkeypox infections. After all, the earlier diseases are diagnosed, data analysed, collected, and ideally shared, the faster countermeasures can be taken.

FIND, the global alliance for diagnostics advocates for the development, evaluation and implementation of diagnostic tests, making it a key pillar for the ACT Accelerator's critical work towards enabling equitable access to Covid-19 tests. Launched in April 2020, the ACT-Accelerator brought together several Geneva-based actors (and beyond) in a concerted effort - to accelerate the development, production and distribution of tests, treatments, and vaccines - to end the pandemic as quickly as possible.

As the pandemic is far from over and other global health threats (AMR, HIV/AIDS, NTDs) remain relevant and urgent, it could certainly be helpful to extend the mandate of the ACT-A to continue its work improving health systems at a global level, while placing research in innovative diagnostics at the centre of future pandemic response and prevention.

Working jointly on a WHS side-event, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, the GHA - German Health Alliance and FIND seek to explore some of these debates and discuss the following issues:

- lessons in diagnostic development and uptake from the HIV/AIDS, Ebola and Covid-19 pandemics;
- raising awareness on the importance of testing at community level; and
- finding ways to integrate diagnostics as part of an overall crisis response system and means of implementation in national systems and global frameworks.

Programme

- 10:45 Registration
Please register via the provided link (upon registration with KAS)
- 11:00 Welcome Note
Hermann Gröhe, Deputy Chairman of the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation and CDU/CSU parliamentary group, MP
- 11:10 Moderated Discussion
Diagnostic Innovation and Testing: Long-neglected but now pivotal for pandemic response
Dr. Bill Rodriguez, CEO, FIND
in discussion with
Roland Göhde, GHA - German Health Alliance & CEO Virchow-Foundation
- 11:45 Lessons learned & Best Practices
*Why and how should diagnostics be placed at the centre of future pandemic response and preparedness?
Lessons and insights from ACT-Accelerator: which measures linked to diagnostics have worked well in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic? What can be improved going forward?*
 - **Dr. Ayoade Alakija, WHO Special Envoy for the ACT-Accelerator:**
coordination and leadership
 - **Dianne Stewart, Deputy Director External Relations, Global Fund:**
financing & implementation
 - **Dr. Pradeep Kakkattil, Lead Health Innovation Exchange (HIEX/UNAIDS):**
community involvement & last mile, inter-sectoral cooperation for innovation
 - **Sanjay Sarin, Vice President Access, FIND:**
access to diagnostics
 - **NGO:**
logistics, networks, demand & distribution**Moderator:** Prof. Ilona Kickbusch, Graduate Institute Geneva
followed by
- 12:45 Discussion & Wrap-Up
- 13:00 Closing Remarks and informal get-together
- 13:30 End of the event