

COVID-19 Crisis Underscores Urgency for Nations to Sign the Global Pandemic Accord

Triggering the most significant global health crisis in over a century, with a disproportionate impact on low- and middle-income countries, the COVID-19 pandemic has upended the health, security, financial stability, and wellbeing of the entire world.

- **Mortality:** WHO estimates approximately 14.9 million deaths were associated directly or indirectly with the COVID-19 pandemic (between Jan 2020 - Dec 2021).
- **Health Systems:** [Health service delivery was seriously impacted](#), posing challenges on health human resource management, facility utilization, and medical supply management.
- **Economy:** The International Monetary Fund expects the COVID-19 pandemic will [cost the global economy \\$12.5 trillion](#) through 2024.
- **Jobs:** The COVID-19 pandemic [erased the equivalent of 255 million jobs in 2020](#), losses were particularly high in Latin America and the Caribbean, Southern Europe and Southern Asia.
- **Poverty:** An expected [44 million people will be pushed into extreme poverty by 2030](#) due to COVID-19.
- **Education:** [1.2 billion students have been affected](#), as education was hampered in ways that will have lasting impacts on children's health and development.

The COVID-19 pandemic's impact has transcended borders, disrupting production, impeding connectivity, halting educational systems, impairing trade, and overwhelming healthcare infrastructure for every country. Globally, nations have serially fallen short at preventing, detecting, and responding to past public health emergencies – as we saw with the Ebola virus, SARS CoV-1, MERS, Influenza A (H1N1) and other deadly diseases. Every government has a responsibility to protect their citizens from serious threats to their lives and thus are obligated to prevent and prepare for future pandemics.

Nations need to adopt the [WHO Pandemic Accord](#)

The proposed WHO Pandemic Accord represents a unified global commitment to create lasting action to prevent the recurrence of these crises, uphold global health, and protect economic security and human rights for generations to come.

Yet, we are in a critical phase in the final development of the Accord. It is imperative for national governments to collaborate proactively in adopting this international legal standard, ensuring global solidarity to effectively prevent and respond to future pandemics. **We call on global health practitioners, members of their networks, colleagues, and the public to ask their president, prime minister, and minister of health to adopt the Pandemic Accord at this year's World Health Assembly. Political pressure throughout the world is urgently needed to secure enough signatories for the Accord to pass.**

For additional information, explore the below resources:

- [WHO Q&A: Pandemic prevention, preparedness and response accord](#)
- [COVID-19 Pandemic Impact on SDGs](#)
- [Call from 100+ Pantheon of Global Leaders for Urgent Agreement on Governments to Reach Ambitious & Equitable International Deal to Prepare for and Prevent Future Pandemics](#)
- [Religious Leaders and Faith-Based Organization Letter Supporting Pandemic Treaty](#)
- [Delivering the Pandemic Accord the World Needs](#)