

i-MCM-Net

Interim Medical Countermeasures Network

What is the i-MCM-Net?

The interim Medical Countermeasures Network (i-MCM-Net) serves as a global coordination mechanism until the WHO Pandemic Agreement enters into force. Endorsed by Member States and established in 2023, the network builds on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic to enhance the timely and equitable access to quality, safe, effective, and affordable medical countermeasures (MCMs) during public health emergencies.

The i-MCM-Net brings together a diverse range of stakeholders (Figure 1), including global health institutions, regional entities, academia, industry associations and civil society organizations to facilitate global and regional coordination as well as technical collaboration. Through this inclusive approach, the network promotes synergies among partners and capitalizes on their respective strengths to facilitate coordinated action and accelerate the delivery of MCMs when and where they are most needed.



Figure 1: Non-exhaustive overview of i-MCM-Net partners

How the i-MCM-Net works

The i-MCM-Net operates through a “network of networks” model that enables more efficient coordination, reduces duplication of efforts, and enhances collective impact by leveraging the capabilities of its partners across the MCM value chain:

- Fast-tracked research and development
- Scalable manufacturing
- End-to-end health emergency supply chains
- Integrated delivery
- Sustainable financing

To operationalize its work, the i-MCM-Net is structured around the capabilities of the MCM value-chain and in addition, three product-specific workstreams:

- Vaccines workstream
- Diagnostics workstream
- Therapeutics workstream

Mandates by Member States and alignment with global frameworks

Member States have mandated WHO to convene an inclusive consultative process for the development of an interim MCM coordination mechanism to keep the world safe in the transitional period prior to entry into force of the WHO Pandemic Agreement:

- WHA74.7 Resolution on Strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies, article 19 (2021)¹
- Political Declaration of the United Nations General Assembly High-level Meeting on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response, article 31 (2023)²
- G20 Health Ministers Meeting, article 14 (2023)³

To date, seven Member States consultations have been held to conceptualize and guide the operations of the i-MCM-Net.

The i-MCM-Net also contributes to the achievement of the “Protect Health” goal of the Fourteenth General Programme of Work aiming for seven billion people being better protected from health emergencies by 2028⁴. The network further strategically supports the implementation of the “Access to countermeasures” component of the global architecture

1 Strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies

2 “Urge the sustainable, affordable, fair, equitable, effective, efficient and timely access to medical countermeasures, including vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other health products and call on the World Health Organization to coordinate this with relevant partners, ensuring coherence with the ongoing discussions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body and the Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) in Geneva” Political Declaration of the United Nations General Assembly High-level Meeting on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response

3 “We recall the relevant recommendations made by numerous panels and evaluations including the informal Johannesburg process to improve coordination in the end-to-end medical countermeasures ecosystem during health emergencies including focus on LMICs. We welcome the role of G20 members (i) in WHO-convened INB and WGIHR processes to ensure linkages between existing networks and partnerships at national, regional and global level; (ii) WHO-convened process to establish the interim mechanism enabling the relevant functions of research & development, manufacturing, procurement, and delivery to the last mile. This will facilitate equitable inclusive, accountable and timely access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable medical countermeasures during health emergencies.” G20 Health Ministers Chair’s Statement and Outcome Document

4 GPW 14, Strategic objective 5: Prevent, mitigate and prepare for risks to health from all hazards

for health emergency prevention, preparedness, response and resilience⁵ (Figure 2). It further aligns with the commitments outlined in the amended International Health Regulations (IHR), particularly those focused on removing barriers to equitable access to MCMs during public health emergencies of international concern and pandemic emergencies⁶.

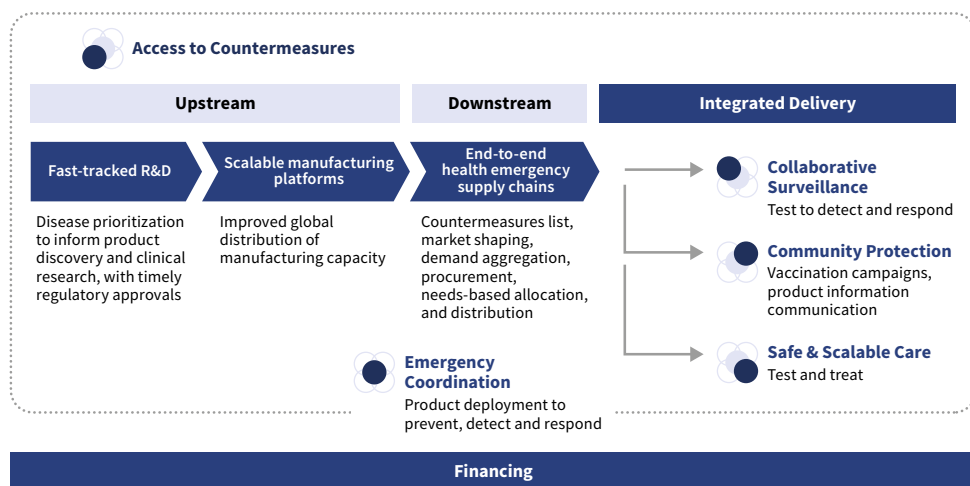


Figure 2: Access to countermeasures as part of the broader health emergency prevention, preparedness, response and resilience framework

Guiding principles

The i-MCM-Net is grounded in five core principles that shape its design and operations:

- **Equity:** prioritizing fair access to MCMs for everyone, everywhere.
- **Transparency:** promoting open exchange of information and plausible decision-making processes.
- **Solidarity:** encouraging collective action and shared responsibility.
- **Inclusiveness:** ensuring diverse and comprehensive stakeholder engagement, including civil society and industry representatives.
- **Accountability:** upholding clear roles, responsibilities, and performance tracking.

The network's ways of working emphasize:

- **Coordination:** aligning efforts across stakeholders and sectors to make efficient use of available resources.
- **Collaboration:** building partnerships to leverage expertise and resources.
- **Communication:** facilitating transparent, inclusive and timely information exchange.

5 Strengthening the global architecture for health emergency prevention, preparedness, response and resilience

6 Strengthening preparedness for and response to public health emergencies through targeted amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005)

Key achievements to date

- Member States engagement: regular structured consultations and participation in global forums (e.g. UNGA, G7, G20, Johannesburg Process).
- Global Partners Forum: WHO-hosted multistakeholder group with 50+ organizations and 20+ structured engagements:
 - 15+ virtual meetings focused on technical updates, knowledge exchange, and best practice sharing,
 - An in-person meeting of regional entities in March 2024⁷ that focused on the role of these organizations in the regional implementation of the i-MCM-Net,
 - Annual global in-person partners meetings that enable discussions across the MCM value chain and coordinated action on priority areas.
- Technical outputs: MCM landscape report “Defining Access to Countermeasures”⁸ (2024).
- Operational impact: Delivered over 1.6 million vaccine doses to 13 countries through the mpox Access and Allocation Mechanism in 2024-2025.

What’s next?

- Continue as a global interim MCM coordination mechanism until the WHO Pandemic Agreement has entered into force.
- Transition from high-level dialogue to technical and operational implementation, including:
 - Finalizing an operational framework and high-level implementation plan for the network,
 - Establishing health product-specific workstreams for vaccines, diagnostics & therapeutics.
- Support the regional implementation of the i-MCM-Net through collaboration across the three levels of WHO⁹ and with regional partners.
- Integrate evidence-informed perspectives to guide prioritization and sustainability.

⁷ Interim medical countermeasures network regional entities: meeting report, Geneva, Switzerland, 12–13 March 2024

⁸ Defining access to countermeasures: landscape report 2024

⁹ Engagement at the global, regional and country levels

Contact us

To learn more or express interest in joining the i-MCM-Net

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