

SCALING HIGH IMPACT HEALTH SOLUTIONS TO ACCELERATE INDIA'S RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS

The Context



Catastrophic second wave of COVID-19 in India

first country in the world to report over 4 lakh new cases in a day, and logs over 2 lakh fatalities by the viral disease since 2020



Acute shortage of basic and life saving facilities

such as oxygen, ICU beds, medicines, vaccines and healthcare staff



Urgent need to scale up production and supply of healthcare solutions

to tackle the sudden exponential rise in COVID-19 cases that need medical support



Crucial to prepare for any subsequent waves of COVID-19

by building rapid surge capacity for prevention, detection and treatment, including treatment of critical cases in institutional or home-based settings

USAID's COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND

To fast-track India's response to its second, devastating wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, **SAMRIDH Healthcare Blended Financing Facility**, an initiative supported by U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), announces a new funding opportunity - **USAID's COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund**. Through this initiative, SAMRIDH, in technical collaboration with premier institutions such as the **Indian Institute of Technology – Delhi, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India, the National Health Authority and NATHEALTH**, is mobilizing financial assistance to healthcare enterprises and innovators to support scaling up of market-based health solutions that can address the emergency needs of the pandemic.

Given the severity of the crisis and the urgency to act, the initiative is able to offer emergency funding to healthcare enterprises, augmenting their capacity for production and supply of high impact health solutions for COVID-19. This will be complemented with a strong technical assistance and capacity building component, enabling enterprises to receive commercial investments through blended financing solutions, for **long-term sustainability, expansion, and to build surge capacity for any subsequent waves**.

FOCUS AREAS ALIGNED TO CURRENT NATIONAL HEALTHCARE PRIORITIES

- Oxygen supply
- Healthcare infrastructure
- Vaccine supply and delivery systems
- Diagnostic products and services
- Pharmaceutical production and supply chain management
- Medical devices
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Training and capacity building of health workers
- Information, Education, and Communication for behavior change

Key Objectives

#1

Bridge supply-side gaps in life saving healthcare facilities to respond to COVID-19 in the immediate, medium and long term

#2

Accelerate scale up and adoption of high impact health solutions

#3

Mobilize resources for health solutions to build sustainable healthcare systems

#4

Promote local and comprehensive solutions at community and facility level for vulnerable population

Approach

▪ Identify high impact healthcare solutions

We will tap into a diverse set of organisations and programs such as healthcare trade bodies, government-led and autonomous incubators/accelerators, VC funds, to identify high impact health solutions that can strengthen India's response to the COVID-19 crisis. The initiative will also seek direct applications through open calls and Grand Challenge competitions.

▪ Facilitate access to affordable capital for healthcare enterprises

The initiative will provide emergency funding and facilitate commercial investments to meet unique capital needs of healthcare enterprises, including working capital, capacity expansion and other operational needs for scale-up. In doing so, it will mobilise financial resources from diverse partners;

Emergency funding: We will drive partnerships with bilateral and multilateral Donors, corporates, foundations, high net-worth Individuals, to generate a pool of \$50 million, that will be deployed to support targeted COVID-19 solutions.

Blended financing: Through strategic partnerships, with public & private banks, non-banking financial corporations, development finance institutions, the initiative will facilitate blending of grants with commercial investments - to finance health solutions for long-term sustainability.

▪ Monitor and evaluate for impact at scale

The initiative will define clear performance indicators to measure impact of solutions at program, enterprise, and end user level.

Apply for funding

We are currently calling for applications from healthcare enterprises and innovators, offering scalable market solutions that can meet the emergency needs of the pandemic. We are here to learn about your immediate requirements and offer customized financial support, including emergency funding and other financing options.

Eligibility Criteria for Healthcare Enterprises

- Can be for-profit or not-for-profit
- Must be legally registered in India, with financial statements for at least one fiscal year on the date of submission of application
- The solution should have a business model, reflecting commercial viability in the long run
- The proposal must indicate fund utilization for operational expenditures in the project
- Should be willing to channelize most of the solutions funded by the USAID funds, to priority geographies of tier-2 and tier-3 cities and priority population segments like rural population, urban poor and low middle income segments and tribal populations
- Should not be sourcing goods and services using USAID funds from restricted geographies

Timelines

- **Application Timeline:** 1st August, 2021
- **Duration of Project:** 3 months to 1 year
- **Decision on Funding:** 15 to 30 days post receipt of application

To know more, contact:

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