

TECH ACCESS PARTNERSHIP

A COVID-19 technology sharing platform

The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed that a disease outbreak anywhere can be a threat everywhere. We must stand together to ensure that all countries around the world have access to the health technologies and equipment they need to protect their people.

THE CHALLENGE

The global response to the pandemic has been hindered by shortages of essential health technologies and equipment including:



**personal protective
equipment**



**medical devices
such as ventilators**



**diagnostics and
testing materials**

For developing countries, these shortages are especially severe. As demand for personal protective equipment, medical devices and diagnostics increases exponentially amid the global pandemic, countries with limited resources are often unable to purchase or produce the tools they need to protect themselves.

These countries are also less likely to have the resources needed to develop products that meet quality and safety standards while still ensuring affordability. Local production of health technologies and equipment is limited by lack of access to technical expertise, training and regulatory frameworks. Without access to these health tools, the world's poorest countries may be left without the resources they need to protect themselves and respond to the pandemic.

TECH ACCESS PARTNERSHIP

Tech Access Partnership (TAP) is a new initiative to facilitate connections between manufacturers with critical expertise and emerging manufacturers in developing countries to share technology, information and support through a coordinated network.

The TAP Platform



Product Information – a digital warehouse of manufacturing and design specifications, technical knowledge and information required to increase capacity.



Technical Guidance – a lifeline of technical support to help manufacturers troubleshoot issues they may encounter as they seek to ramp up production, including information on market dynamics and regulatory hurdles.



Partnerships – a platform to match companies based on expertise, needs and capacity.

Several countries have called on the international community for help accessing lifesaving technologies related to COVID-19. To prepare and support countries for surges in COVID-19 cases, governments, the private sector, civil society and development partners must unite to address critical shortages of supplies and equipment. Public and private sector actors have an unprecedented opportunity to form new partnerships, lend crucial expertise and play a key role in the fight against COVID-19.

**In times of crisis, we must all stand together.
Ensuring equitable access to health technologies is a
critical component of the larger global COVID-19 response.**

PARTNERS

Established by the United Nations General Assembly to assist governments with the development and adaptation of new technologies, the UN Technology Bank – with support from UNDP, UNCTAD and WHO – is well-placed to lead this new knowledge-sharing platform to scale up local production of needed health technologies and equipment to respond to the COVID-19 crisis.

TAP is centered in the UN Development System's overall approach to countering the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which includes strengthening health systems, protecting the most vulnerable and making countries resilient to future pandemics.



Sharing technology to save lives.
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