



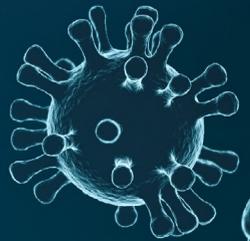
UK Collaborative on
Development Research

GL  PID-R

Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness

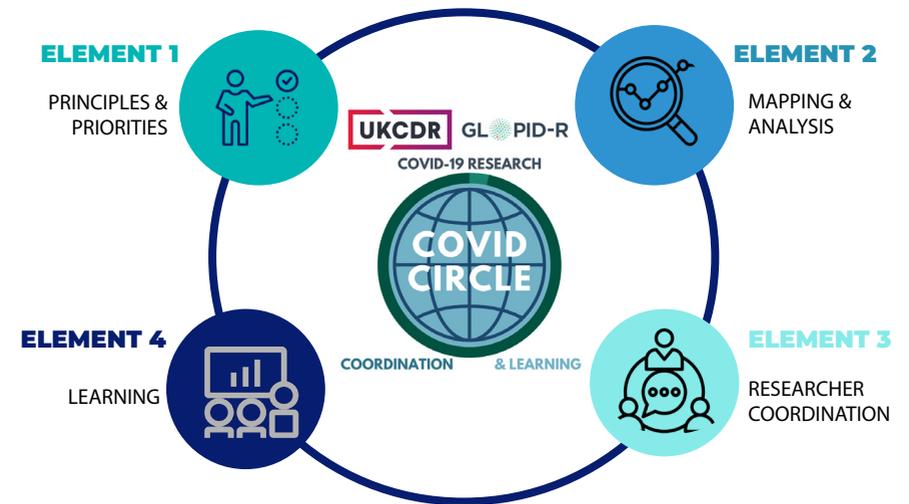
COVID CIRCLE

COVID-19 RESEARCH
COORDINATION & LEARNING



ABOUT COVID CIRCLE

COVID CIRCLE is a partnership between the **UK Collaborative for Development Research (UKCDR)** and the **Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness (GloPID-R)** that enables the alignment of research funders towards a coherent effort for supporting COVID-19 research in, for and with low- and middle-income countries. COVID CIRCLE coordinates funding efforts, connects networks of researchers, and will collate learnings to inform future epidemic and pandemic responses with a focus on lower-resource settings to improve responses within this outbreak and for future outbreaks.



“GloPID-R considers COVID-CIRCLE an important initiative which is very much aligned with our priority to increase collaboration and coordination among global funders to advance research and science focused on pandemic preparedness and response in geographical areas of greatest need and low resource settings.”

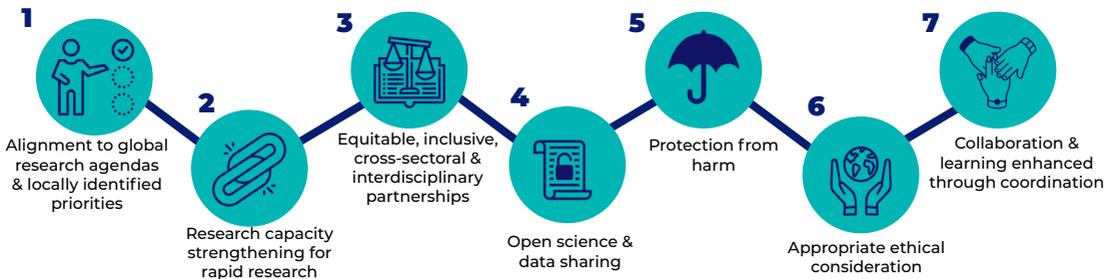
- Charu Kaushic, Chair of GloPID-R

ELEMENT 1

FUNDER PRINCIPLES

UKCDR and GloPID-R have agreed **seven principles** (launched in [The LANCET](#) in July 2020), to align research funders towards a coordinated effort for supporting high-quality research for the most pressing global needs in epidemics and pandemics, especially in low resource settings.

We encourage research funders across the globe to join with us and commit to these principles.



RESEARCH PRIORITIES

Funding decisions need to be supported by a good understanding of past, current and planned research investment to ensure that investment is targeted where most needed and avoid overlap or duplication of research activity.

Supporting Principle 1: Alignment to global research agendas and locally identified priorities, COVID CIRCLE has supported the development of the [WHO COVID-19 Research Roadmap](#) and [COVID-19 Research Priorities for Africa](#) (led by AAS with AUDA- NEPAD, TGHN & UKCDR). As well as updated [global health research priorities for COVID-19 in LMICs](#) based on a report by UKCDR in collaboration with The Global Health Network (TGHN) and the African Academy of Sciences. Our joint survey received 1,528 responses from 117 countries and an open workshop expanded the findings.

ELEMENT 2

MAPPING & ANALYSIS

The UKCDR/GloPID-R [COVID-19 Research Tracker](#) is a live database with thousands of funded research projects across the world related to the current COVID-19 pandemic. By providing an overview of research projects mapped against the priorities identified in the [WHO Coordinated Global Research Roadmap: 2019 Novel Coronavirus](#), we aim to support funders and researchers deliver a more effective and coherent global research response.

Research funders recognise that there is a need to coordinate COVID-19 research funding at all levels to prevent duplication and improve impact, and we are actively engaging global funders to secure further data sets for incorporation. This coordination should not be limited to the COVID-19 pandemic, but instead needs to facilitate ongoing improved coordination for future infectious disease epidemics and pandemics.

A comprehensive cross-cutting analysis of the COVID 19 Research Project tracker data has been established in the form of a [living mapping review](#) published on the Wellcome Open Research platform. This is updated on a quarterly basis and supplemented with additional specific analyses where relevant to inform both funders and researchers.



ELEMENT 3

RESEARCHER COORDINATION

Researcher collaboration and coordination is a pivotal element of impactful and effective preparedness and response during epidemics and pandemics.

Through COVID CIRCLE, UKCDR and GloPID-R will create a community of practice to support funded researchers to connect and collaborate, share resources and identify research synergies and opportunities for multidisciplinary and international collaboration. This effort will support researchers to meet the funder requirements outlined in the seven funder principles.

We will also enable researchers to access relevant resources, guidance, news and events, and engage with broader networks to maximise the impact of research on COVID-19 in low resource settings.

ELEMENT 4

LEARNING

It is essential that the global research community learns from the process of funding and undertaking research in the COVID-19 pandemic to inform future responses. We will shape our learning framework based on the cross-cutting opportunity to learn from the research response across funders and researchers.

Key components will include:

- Learning how to overcome barriers to researchers undertaking effective research in epidemics
- Learning how to overcome barriers to funders, funding effective research in epidemics
- Understanding the reach of funding

“Research is crucial to helping the world overcome the covid-19 pandemic.”

The work of COVID CIRCLE provides critical coherence for funding research to tackle COVID-19 now, as well as help for epidemics and pandemics for the future”

- Prof. Peter Peter, Chair of **Strategic Coherence** for ODA Research (SCOR) Board and UKCDR

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Please email us at covid19@ukcdr.org.uk

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