

COVID-19 RESEARCH



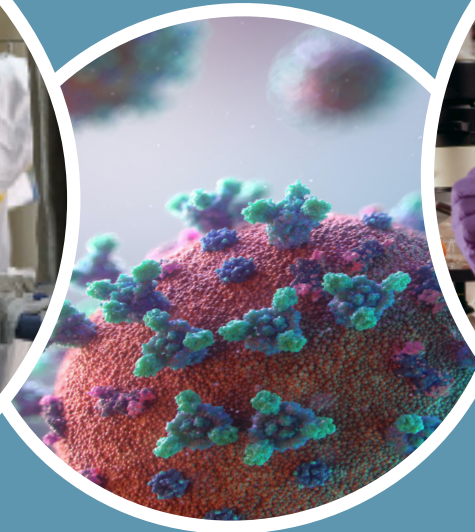
COORDINATION & LEARNING



COVID CIRCLE

COVID-19 RESEARCH COORDINATION & LEARNING

A UKCDR & GLOPID-R PARTNERSHIP



ABOUT COVID CIRCLE

COVID-19 Research Coordination and Learning (**COVID CIRCLE**) is a partnership between the UK Collaborative for Development Research (**UKCDR**) and the Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness (**GloPID-R**). Launched in April 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, COVID CIRCLE helps align research funders to build a coherent effort for supporting **COVID-19 research in, for, and with low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)**. To date, COVID CIRCLE has:

- Aligned funders to a set of [principles](#) for effective funding in epidemics and pandemics;
- Established a world-class [tracker](#) for funded COVID-19 research projects;
- Produced quarterly [Living Mapping Reviews](#);
- Established a COVID CIRCLE Researcher Community;
- Published a [report](#) capturing key learnings for COVID-19 research funders

Thanks to these achievements, COVID CIRCLE is coordinating funding efforts, connecting networks of researchers, and collating learnings to inform future epidemic and pandemic responses, particularly in lower-resource settings.

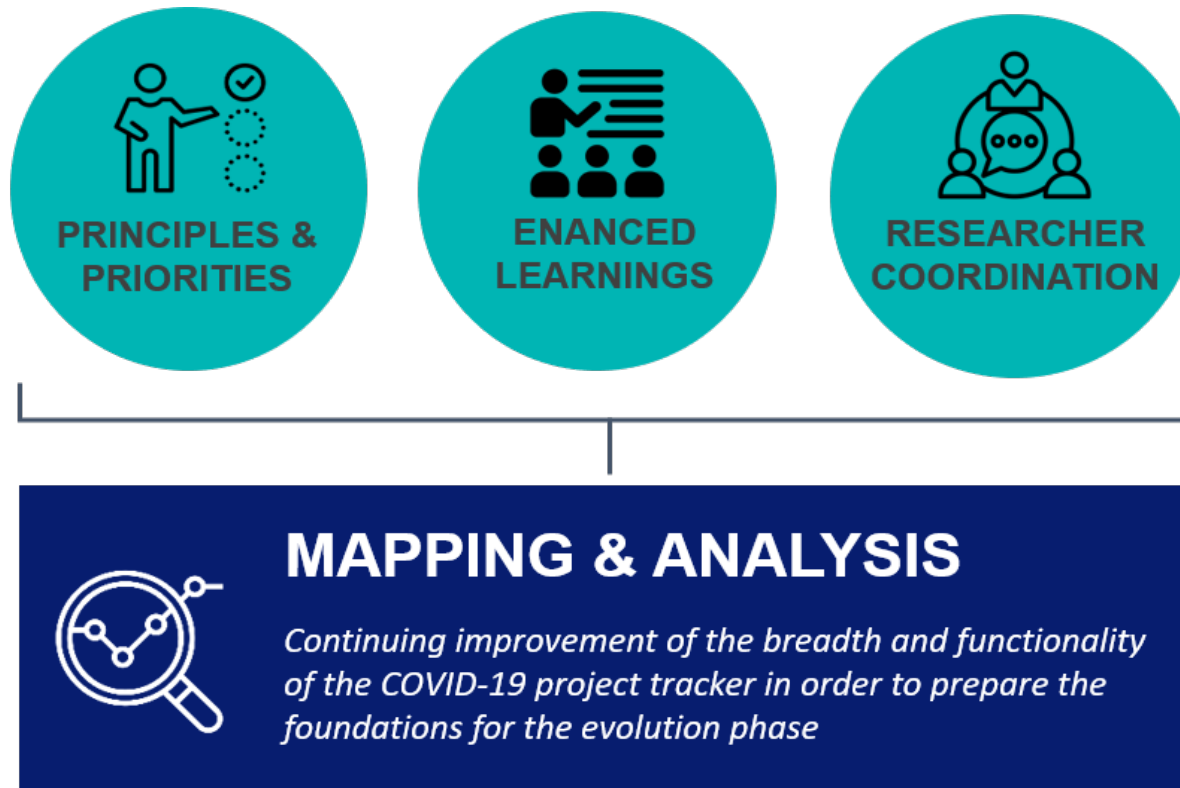


“During this pandemic, coordinating the urgent and global research response to meet the scale of research needs has been a real challenge. At UKCDR and GloPID-R, we quickly understood that if we pulled together to track research, we could achieve more.”

Marie Staunton, CBE
Chair of Strategic Coherence for ODA Research (SCOR) Board and UKCDR

COVID CIRCLE: THE FOUR ELEMENTS

COVID CIRCLE focuses on four elements: **Mapping and Analysis**; **Principles and Priorities**; **Researcher Coordination**; and **Enhanced Learnings**. While each element is integral to the initiative's overall impact, Mapping and Analysis forms the basis of COVID CIRCLE activities, underpinning the other three elements.



MAPPING & ANALYSIS



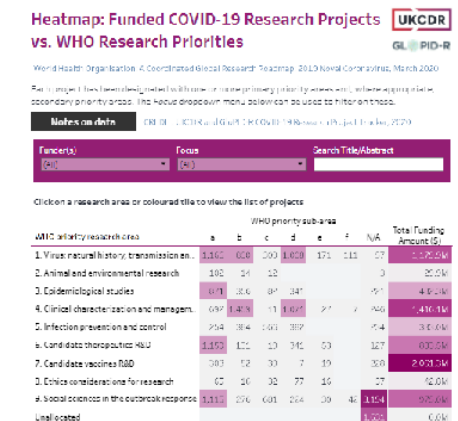
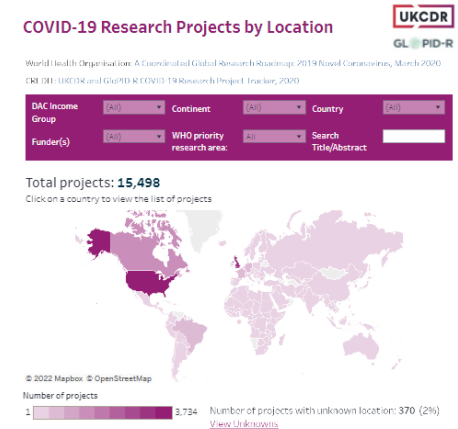
The COVID-19 Research Project Tracker

The COVID-19 Research Project Tracker ([the Tracker](#)) is a live database of funded research projects across the world related to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is one of the most comprehensive databases of its kind, covering a wide range of research disciplines. The Tracker, which is updated fortnightly, has been viewed over 36,000 times and now contains over 16,000 projects, worth at least 6 billion USD. With research projects being conducted in 158 countries, the Tracker provides a comprehensive view of the global distribution of COVID-19 research.

COVID CIRCLE supports funders and researchers to deliver a coherent global research response by encouraging **alignment to international research priorities**. This is achieved by mapping projects against two sets of COVID-19 research priorities: those outlined in the [WHO Coordinated Global Research Roadmap: 2019 Novel Coronavirus \(2019\)](#) and those in the [UN Research Roadmap for COVID-19 Recovery \(2020\)](#).

The Living Mapping Review

Since August 2020, COVID CIRCLE has produced a quarterly Living Mapping Review ([LMR](#)) of COVID-19 funded research projects. The LMR facilitates strategic collaboration by analyzing and summarizing the expansive Tracker data, helping funders and researchers to prioritize the **channeling of resources to underfunded areas where there is greatest research need**. This open-access, peer-reviewed tool strengthens strategic collaboration amongst funders by providing a high-level view of the current funding landscape and a detailed analysis of funding breadth and patterns, as well as highlighting existing research gaps and opportunities.





MAPPING & ANALYSIS

Tracker Highlights

In addition to mapping against WHO and UN COVID-19 research priorities, the Tracker enables analyses of pressing COVID-19 research-related issues, based on interest in the research community. These analyses are referred to as 'Tracker Highlights'. To date, Tracker Highlights have been conducted on the following topics: [indirect health impacts](#); [research capacity strengthening](#); and [Long COVID](#). By mapping and summarizing research on each of these topics, COVID CIRCLE identifies current research gaps and opportunities, supporting improved distribution of funding for future research.

COVID-19 FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS IN FOCUS

UKCDR GL PID-R COVID CIRCLE

Issue date: July 2021

Key Findings: Indirect health impacts

To date, the COVID-19 pandemic has claimed over a million lives and devastated health systems across the globe (1)(2). However, the true scale of the impact of this pandemic remains underestimated as a result of limited evidence on the indirect health impacts secondary to the global pandemic response.

COVID-19 FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS IN FOCUS

UKCDR GL PID-R COVID CIRCLE

Issue date: December 2020

Key Findings: Research capacity strengthening

The coronavirus pandemic has triggered an unprecedented global research response across multiple disciplines to gain insights into this novel infection and its impacts. To date, thousands of research activities have been announced or with a commencement

COVID-19 FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS IN FOCUS

UKCDR GL PID-R COVID CIRCLE

Issue date: July 2021

Key Findings: Long Covid

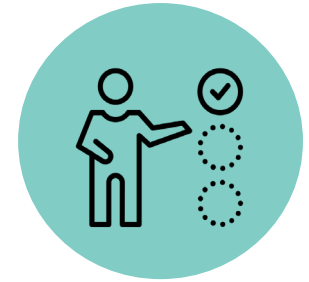
Other terms: Post-acute COVID, Post-COVID Syndrome, Chronic COVID and Long haul/COVID, Post-Acute Sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 Infection (PASC)

As the coronavirus pandemic evolves, there is increased interest in the emerging phenomenon, now

Looking Forward

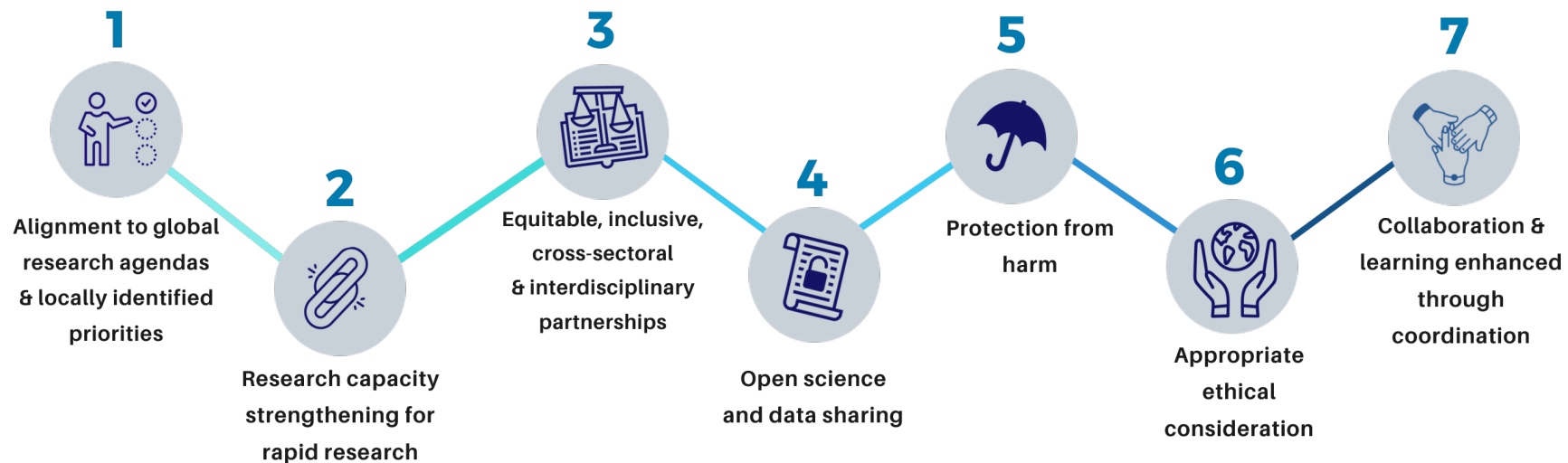
COVID CIRCLE will continue to expand data sources and improve overall data quality for the Tracker, ensuring that it remains one of the most comprehensive databases of its kind. Tracker Highlights will continue to be produced as new topics of interest emerge.

PRINCIPLES & PRIORITIES



Funder Principles

In July 2020, UKCDR and GloPID-R launched our **seven principles for a stronger research response to epidemics and pandemics (Funder Principles)**, published in [The Lancet](#). These principles encourage high-quality research for the **most pressing global needs in epidemics and pandemics, particularly in low-resource settings**. COVID CIRCLE encourages all research funders to join us in committing to these principles.



Looking Forward

COVID CIRCLE will continue to support a coherent funders' response by incorporating evolving priorities into the international development funding landscape through COVID CIRCLE outputs.



RESEARCHER COORDINATION

Researcher Coordination

Strong collaboration amongst researchers is vital for epidemic and pandemic preparedness in the long-term. UKCDR and GloPID-R have established a **COVID CIRCLE Researcher Community (CCRC)** to help researchers supported by COVID CIRCLE funders to **share resources, identify research synergies, and learn about opportunities for interdisciplinary and international collaboration.**

By providing resources, guidance, and news, COVID CIRCLE helps members of the community engage with and learn from broader COVID-19 research networks with a focus on LMICs. COVID CIRCLE also convenes quarterly events for members to present their research, including to funders, and conducts quarterly feedback surveys to capture members' needs. Since April 2022, **Research Advisors** from the CCRC regularly consult on how COVID CIRCLE can best serve its researcher community.

A [public website](#) was launched in February 2021 to provide access to useful resources for researchers and funders working on COVID-19.

Looking Forward

Current COVID CIRCLE Researcher Community activities will continue and the programme will continue to adapt to feedback from CCRC members.



ENHANCED LEARNINGS



Enhanced Learnings

Learnings from the experience of funding and undertaking COVID-19 research should inform future epidemic and pandemic responses. As part of our commitment to helping the international research community improve its preparedness, COVID CIRCLE published a report, [‘Funding and undertaking research during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic’](#), in November 2021. In line with UKCDR’s sustained focus on [equitable partnerships](#), this report identifies **enablers and barriers to enacting our Funder Principles** commonly experienced by researchers and funders across LMICs. These findings provide learning opportunities not only for our funders, but for the global research community at large.

Looking Forward

COVID CIRCLE will continue to draw attention to learnings from the COVID-19 research response by providing a one-year update for the report, including additional insights from LMIC-based funders.

“Now, global funders and researchers need to take stock on what we have all learnt during COVID. LMICs must remain a top priority. Harmonized, fast-moving funding is what we need going forward and coordinating research funding is our real raison d’être at GloPID-R.”

Dr Charu Kaushic
Chair of GloPID-R



GET IN TOUCH

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 [@UKCDR](https://twitter.com/UKCDR) [@GloPID_R](https://twitter.com/GloPID_R)

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covidcircle.org

COVID-19 RESEARCH



COORDINATION & LEARNING



UK Collaborative on
Development Research

