

Financial Advisory Strategy Taskforce (FAST)

Democratic Republic of the Congo



A sharp reduction in external health funding—including an estimated 83 percent decrease in US government support—is putting cost-effective health programs at risk across low- and middle-income countries. These shifts jeopardize hard-won progress in malaria, HIV, tuberculosis, maternal and child health, and immunization. At the same time, declining support from major donors, including Gavi, The Global Fund, the World Bank, and European partners, is creating significant financing and technical gaps, limiting governments' ability to rapidly prioritize and allocate health resources for maximum impact.

What is FAST?

The **Financial Advisory Strategy Taskforce (FAST)**, led by PATH with funding from Coefficient Giving and GiveWell, is a multi-country initiative to provide targeted technical assistance to ministries of health to respond to funding disruptions. The program aims to equip countries with data-driven insights to optimize existing funding and commodity flows for maximum impact, along with providing strategic planning tools and technical support to respond to the acute funding crisis.

FAST helps countries to:

- Assess the **impact of funding reductions**
- Identify **cost efficiencies and system improvements**
- Prioritize **high-impact investments using data**
- Mobilize **additional and sustainable financing**

FAST in the DRC

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) continues to face a high burden of disease, with malaria, lower respiratory infections, tuberculosis, and neonatal disorders ranking among the top causes of deaths in 2023.¹

With nearly half of health funding coming from various development assistance sources and compounded by further estimates of cutbacks from major donors by 2030, the country is highly exposed to funding

disruptions. Limited fiscal space and competitive needs further underscore the need for data-driven prioritization and efficiency gains.

Goal: Support the DRC Ministry of Health (MOH) to understand and respond to funding reductions through evidence-based planning and resource allocation.

Core objectives: 1) Generate real-time insights on the impact of funding reductions to guide MOH decision-making, 2) optimize the use of limited resources through efficiency identification and cost-effectiveness analysis, and 3) catalyze additional financing from external and domestic sources.

Partners: PATH, DRC MOH

Duration: May 2025–December 2026



Judith Suminwa Tuluka, DRC Prime Minister (center); Dr. Samuel Roger Kamba, DRC Minister of Health (left); and Trad Hatton, former PATH DRC Country Director (right) at the launch of the Coordination and Monitoring of Results UnitPhoto: PATH/Glody Tabenge Gloire.

Key priority areas

PATH's FAST provides the MOH with rapid and flexible capacity to carry out critical tasks related to improving health financing efficiency through the FAST Taskforce Support Unit (TSU). The TSU provides a small, dedicated team to generate insights, conduct targeted

analyses, and support taskforce coordination and decision-making.

Key areas of support include:

- **Data and analytics.** Integrate and analyze data to assess the impact of funding reductions across programs and systems
- **Efficiency identification.** Identify opportunities to streamline programs and reduce costs while maintaining impact
- **Resource prioritization.** Support the MOH to allocate limited resources in line with national priorities
- **Learning and knowledge sharing.** Facilitate a light-touch learning agenda, including sharing insights, case studies, and best practices with partners, countries, and donors

PATH's support is aligned with MOH priorities, embedded within existing structures, and co-designed with the government.

Project highlights

1. Institutionalizing FAST within the MOH.

Co-designed and launched, with the Prime Minister's Office and MOH, a permanent government structure for health coordination and accountability—the Coordination and Monitoring of Results Unit (CCSR, or "Delivery Unit")—with FAST embedded as its analytical engine.

2. Enabling evidence-based decision-making through integrated dashboards.

Developed financing and cost-effectiveness dashboards that synthesize donor funding data and program-level efficiency insights to support decision-makers with identifying funding gaps and prioritizing health investments across key programs.

3. Supporting national prioritization and donor planning.

Generated cost-effectiveness and prioritization insights to inform decision-making on priority funding areas,

including for the Global Fund Grant Cycle 8 and Gavi 6.0 applications.

4. Informing universal health coverage (UHC) financing design.

Conducted a comparative review of UHC financing models across four sub-Saharan African countries to inform the national financing approach.

5. Strengthening financial model assumptions.

Supported the Health Solidarity Fund with a financial and operational assessment of DRC's national health insurance system through improved revenue projections from a proposed payroll tax to finance UHC.

Contact

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