The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us that no one is safe until everyone is safe. Until the last person in the remotest location has affordable access to rapid diagnostic tools, effective treatments, and safe vaccines, the disease continues to spread. The pandemic has drive for every infectious disease whether it is COVID-19, tuberculosis or malaria. So, if we are to tackle these killers, we must ensure that we reach everyone in need through strong primary care services.

Science- and technology-led innovations have proven their potential in strengthening primary healthcare and transforming lives with a speed, scale, and cost unmatchable for conventional methods. Harnessing the power of these innovations and making them fit-for-purpose so that they can reach the hardest-to-reach has been at the heart of all our projects.

As the India Health Fund turned five years old, we looked back at how far we have come -- from evaluating over 800 potential innovations to funding the development of 10 innovations out of which 5 have been adopted by the public health system; from identifying 15 key partnerships to helping our innovations get co-funding commitments.

In our Annual Report 2021-2022, themed “Enabling Science And Technology To Strengthen Primary Healthcare”, we welcome you to join us on a journey where we not only recollect these successes, but also gather the valuable lessons we have learnt, and also acknowledge the power of partnerships and plan for the road ahead.

Partnerships are key to what we do. We work closely with our partners to co-create solutions. Our partnerships help build an ecosystem that supports the development, adoption and funding of innovations so that they reach the last mile. Our latest collaboration in digital technology-based innovations that could help tuberculosis patients is a testament to the significant impact we can bring together.

From funding the validation of a battery-powered rapid PCR test for TB, to the development of a $1 one-minute test for spotting malaria, from the deployment of artificial intelligence (AI)-based X-ray screening solution for TB by using AI for predicting mosquito-borne disease outbreaks — equitable access to game-changing innovations has been at the core of all our projects. Check out this section of our report to dig deeper into each of the ten innovations we have funded so far and what impact they have brought.

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Early diagnosis is key to saving lives. With the shared purpose, FIND and the India Health Fund are aligned to ensure that no one is left behind when it comes to screening and diagnosing critical public health diseases. Our partnership on expanding access to dual testing for TB and COVID-19 through an integrated approach using the game-changing innovative multiplex diagnostic platform ‘Truenat’ has been a reference in upholding the use of limited healthcare resources. The intervention has capitalized to transform our healthcare system and strengthen primary care services.

The Central TB Division, Government of India has been glad to see the India Health Fund in sourcing for technologibased innovations that could help tuberculosis care continue and also through this exemplary conversations that ensure R&D-funded innovations reach the farthest impacted and improve public health outcomes in the near future.

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