

**COVID-19
TOOLBOX**

The logo for MEDBOX.ORG, featuring a horizontal bar with five colored squares (blue, red, yellow, green, purple) followed by the text 'MEDBOX.ORG' in a white, sans-serif font.

Issue Brief

The MEDBOX team publishes issue briefs on different topics around COVID-19. We would be pleased to receive feedback on this issue brief or topics you would like to see covered in future issues. Registered MEDBOX users can see the latest documents in the 'My News' section by selecting their personal preferences under 'My Profile'.

Fair global distribution of COVID-19 vaccines

by Reijer, P.

Controlling and drastically reducing the spread of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, has failed so far through non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs). Over 100 million people have been infected (confirmed) and well over 2 million people have been killed. Looking at the excess mortality (excess deaths) we know that the real numbers are considerably higher. Not surprising that governments and health organisations see vaccination as the best alternative to effectively control the spread of the virus and to end the pandemic.

Mass vaccination will have two purposes, i.e. increase the immunity of the community, so the transmission of the virus is blocked (and the epidemic is stopped) and secondly preventing the development of mutations (which might not be susceptible to the vaccine). This can only be achieved when all countries, regions and territories are included, preferable more or less at the same time. This requires global solidarity in the distribution and making the vaccines available on an equal basis. The current situation is far from this scenario and some countries or groups of countries have secured (more than) enough vaccines to cover their population, without considering the needs of others. "[Vaccine nationalism](#)" is characterised by:

- The richest nations have secured billions of doses of COVID-19 vaccines while developing economies struggle to access supplies
- Countries push to get first access – could slow the global economic recovery, costing high-income countries \$119 billion per year
- The cost of supplying low-income countries with vaccines has been estimated at \$25 billion.

Several initiatives exist to ensure that vaccines are fairly and equitably distributed around the globe. The most prominent is the COVAX initiative, led by the WHO, The Vaccine Alliance GAVI and Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI). COVAX's main target is to acquire and deliver 2 billion vaccination doses until the end of 2021. These 2 billion doses will be for the most vulnerable in society and frontline health workers. It is unclear whether COVAX will succeed in obtaining the 2 billion doses.

Despite all good intentions and words of support by the leaders of the high-income countries, by the end of 2021, we could have a situation where 60 to 80% of the population in the more affluent countries have been vaccinated, while this percentage might not exceed 20% in the poorer parts of the world. This means that the epidemics in the richer countries are controlled and these countries can rebuild their economies, while the epidemic continues in the poor countries, further destroy the already weak and weakened health care sector and the overall economy. New mutations can come to the surface, to which the existing vaccines are less or not at all effective and thus forming the basis of a new pandemic. Only global solidarity can prevent such a scenario.

Useful resources in MEDBOX

MEDBOX has collated numerous documents and resources on this topic in the category “[Fair allocation & Ethical Aspects](#)”. The most important documents are presented in this issue brief. Further documents, dashboards, resource platforms, educational material, training videos can be found in the category “[Vaccination & Strategy](#)”.

[Issue Brief no. 8](#) has already dealt with the topic “Covid-19 & Vaccination”.

COVAX Initiative

COVAX is one of three pillars of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, which was launched in April by the World Health Organization (WHO), the European Commission and France in response to this pandemic. Bringing together governments, global health organisations, manufacturers, scientists, private sector, civil society and philanthropy, with the aim of providing innovative and equitable access to COVID-19 diagnostics, treatments and vaccines. The COVAX pillar is focussed on the latter. It is the only truly global solution to this pandemic because it is the only effort to ensure that people in all corners of the world will get access to COVID-19 vaccines once they are available, regardless of their wealth.

<https://www.who.int/initiatives/act-accelerator/covax>

Vaccinations Dashboards & Maps

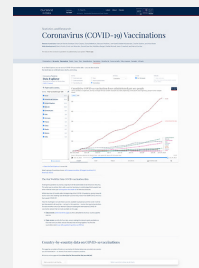
Coronavirus (COVID-19) Vaccinations

Ritchie, H.; et al. (2021)

In the Data Explorer you can see our COVID-19 vaccination data — you can also visualize the latest data on confirmed cases, deaths, and testing.

<https://medbox.org/document/coronavirus-covid-19-vaccinations>

<https://ourworldindata.org/covid-vaccinations>



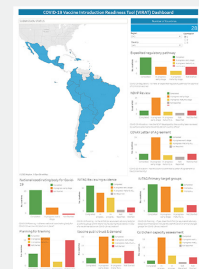
COVID-19 Vaccine Introduction Readiness Tool (VIRAT) Dashboard

Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO)

The VIRAT dashboard helps countries highlight the critical activities and technical areas that should be initiated, continued, or strengthened. Also, it allows PAHO and partners to identify areas where support may be needed and identify alternative forms to mobilize resources.

<https://medbox.org/document/covid-19-vaccine-introduction-readiness-tool-virat-dashboard>

https://ais.paho.org/imm/IM_VIRAT.asp



India COVID-19 Dashboard

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India (2021)

<https://medbox.org/document/india-covid-19-dashboard>

<https://www.mohfw.gov.in/>



Strategy Framework

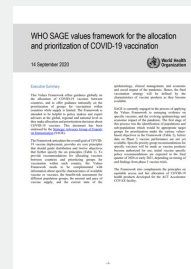
WHO SAGE values framework for the allocation and prioritization of COVID-19 vaccination

World Health Organization (WHO) 2020

14 Sept. 2020. The WHO SAGE values framework for the allocation and prioritization of COVID-19 vaccination is intended to offer guidance on the prioritization of groups for vaccination when vaccine supply is limited. It provides a values foundation for the objectives of COVID-19 vaccination programmes and links those to target groups for vaccination. This information is valuable to countries and globally while specific policies will be developed once vaccines become available.

This document is available in Arabic, Chinese English, French, Portuguese and Russian.

<https://medbox.org/document/who-sage-values-framework-for-the-allocation-and-prioritization-of-covid-19-vaccination>

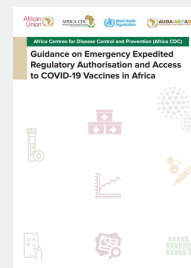


Guidance on Emergency Expedited Regulatory Authorisation and Access to COVID-19 Vaccines in Africa

African Union; Africa CDC Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (2021)

Multiple stakeholders and partners have helped to shape and drive the continent's strategic response to the COVID-19 pandemic and have offered support to ensure the continent receives a fair and equitable share of the COVID-19 vaccine without delay.

<https://medbox.org/document/guidance-on-emergency-expedited-regulatory-authorisation-and-access-to-covid-19-vaccines-in-africa>



Fair Allocation & Equitable Access

What are the challenges to distribute COVID-19 vaccines globally in an equitable manner? Which solutions should we debate?

Rüppel, T. (25 January 2021)

<https://medbox.org/document/what-are-the-challenges-to-distribute-covid-19-vaccines-globally-in-an-equitable-manner-which-solutions-should-we-debate>



Access and allocation: how will there be fair and equitable allocation of limited supplies?

World Health Organization WHO (2021)

This article is part five in a series of explainers on vaccine development and distribution. This document outlines the next part of the vaccine journey: fair and equitable distribution of eventual COVID-19 vaccines.

<https://medbox.org/document/access-and-allocation-how-will-there-be-fair-and-equitable-allocation-of-limited-supplies>



An ethical framework for global vaccine allocation

Emanuel, E.J.; et al. (2020)

Science . 2020 Sep 11;369(6509):1309-1312. doi: 10.1126/science.abe2803. Epub 2020 Sep 3. The Fair Priority Model offers a practical way to fulfill pledges to distribute vaccines fairly and equitably

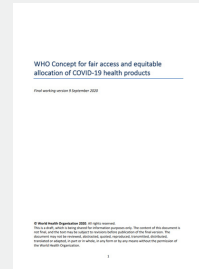
<https://medbox.org/document/an-ethical-framework-for-global-vaccine-allocation>



WHO Concept for fair access and equitable allocation of COVID-19 health products *World Health Organization WHO (2020)*

Final working version 9 September 2020

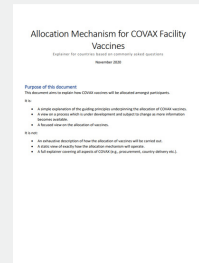
<https://medbox.org/document/who-concept-for-fair-access-and-equitable-allocation-of-covid-19-health-products>



Allocation Mechanism for COVAX Facility Vaccines *World Health Organization WHO (2020)*

12 November 2020. Explainer for countries based on commonly asked questions. This document aims to explain how COVAX vaccines will be allocated amongst participants

<https://medbox.org/document/allocation-mechanism-for-covax-facility-vaccines>



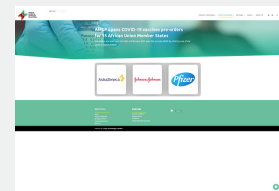
Logistics & Supply

Africa Medical Supply Platform

African Union; Africa CDC Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (2021)

19 January 2021. The AU has secured a provisional 270 million COVID-19 vaccine doses for Africa through its COVID-19 African Vaccine Acquisition Task Team (AVATT), the Africa Medical Supplies Platform (AMSP), on behalf of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), today commenced the COVID-19 vaccines pre-order programme for all African Union Member States. The African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) will facilitate payments by providing advance procurement commitment guarantees of up to US\$2 billion to the manufacturers on behalf of the Member States.

<https://medbox.org/document/africa-medical-supply-platform>



WHO PQS Devices Catalogue. Pre-qualified equipment for the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI)

World Health Organization WHO (2012)

The PQS on-line catalogue includes details of all immunization-related products currently pre-qualified by WHO for procurement by United Nations agencies. The catalogue is produced and maintained by the Quality, Safety and Standards group in the Immunization, Vaccine and Biologicals Department of WHO, Geneva. It replaces the old WHO/UNICEF Product Information Sheets (PIS), the last edition of which was published in 2000. Only products included in the PQS catalogue are now recommended to be purchased by UN agencies. Large File: 120 MB 20 January 2021

<https://medbox.org/document/who-pqs-devices-catalogue-pre-qualified-equipment-for-the-expanded-programme-on-immunization-epi>

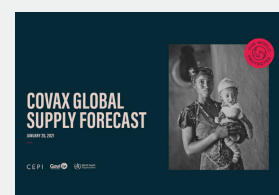


COVAX Global supply forecast

World Health Organization WHO, CEPI, GAVI (2021)

20 January 2021

<https://medbox.org/document/covax-global-supply-forecast>

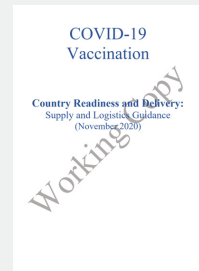


COVID-19 Vaccination, Country Readiness and Delivery: Supply and Logistics Guidance

World Health Organization (2020)

Working Document Nov. 2020. Countries might find this Guide useful when developing and strengthening their supply chain strategies to receive, store, distribute and manage the COVID-19 vaccines and their ancillary products, in line with their national deployment and vaccination plan (NDVP). The document also provides links to the different tools and resources to aid countries in performing assessment, planning and capacity-building activities.

<https://medbox.org/document/covid-19-vaccination-country-readiness-and-delivery-supply-and-logistics-guidance>



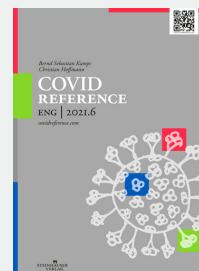
Resource Platforms

Vaccines

Kamradt, T.; and B.S. Kamps (2021)

Regularly updated chapter of the COVID Reference

<https://medbox.org/document/vaccines>
<https://covidreference.com/Vaccines>

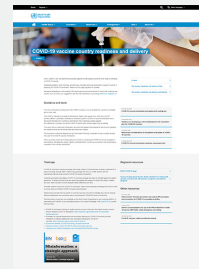


COVID-19 vaccine country readiness and delivery

World Health Organization WHO (2021)

Adaptable guidance, tools, trainings, and advocacy materials are being developed to support countries in preparing for COVID-19 vaccination. Please visit this page regularly for updates.

<https://medbox.org/document/covid-19-vaccine-country-readiness-and-delivery>

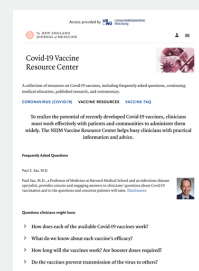


COVID-19 Vaccine Resource Center

New England Journal of Medicine (2021)

A collection of resources on Covid-19 vaccines, including frequently asked questions, continuing medical education, published research, and commentary.

<https://medbox.org/document/covid-19-vaccine-resource-center>



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