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Call to Action: Vaccine Equity Declaration

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"The world is on the brink of a catastrophic moral failure – and the price of this failure will be paid with lives and livelihoods in the world's poorest countries."

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, 18 January 2021

In January 2021, WHO issued a call to all countries to work together in solidarity – and in each of their best interests – to ensure that within the first 100 days of the year, vaccination of health workers and older people was underway in all countries.

This call to action is at the heart of WHO's campaign for **#VaccinEquity**.

Join the campaign to call on countries and companies to ensure that by the time World Health Day arrives on 7 April, COVID-19 vaccines are being administered in every country, as a symbol of hope for overcoming both the pandemic and the inequalities that lie at the root of so many global health challenges.

This call to action can be fulfilled through supporting [COVAX](#) and the [ACT Accelerator](#) to equitably distribute vaccines, treatments and diagnostics globally.

Let's #ACTogether for #VaccinEquity

and protect those who protect us

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Featured logos represent a snapshot of declaration supporters. Additional organizations will be added in the coming weeks.

Declaration

We must accelerate vaccine equity for all health workers – now

Health and care workers have been at the forefront of the pandemic response: often under protected and over exposed.

Women make up the vast majority of health and care workers and it is thanks to their professionalism, bravery and dedication, often in the toughest of circumstances, that the global mortality rate from the virus is not higher. It is thanks also to their compassion and humanity that those we have lost have been treated with dignity in their final moments.

Due to unprecedented scientific efforts, vaccines are now being distributed in more than 70 countries across the world, with health workers in those places rightly among the first groups to receive them. In the majority of low- and middle-income countries, vaccination has not even started which is a catastrophe as hospitals fill up.

We must act swiftly to correct this injustice. Multiple variants are showing increased transmissibility and even resistance to the health tools needed to tackle this virus. The best way to end this pandemic, stop future variants and

save lives is to limit the spread of the virus by vaccinating quickly and equitably, starting with health workers.

This is why the Director-General of the World Health Organization, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, has called all countries to start vaccinating health workers and those people at highest risk of COVID-19 in the first 100 days of 2021.

This is possible if leaders make it a priority. Through the COVAX Facility and the COVID-19 technology access pool (C-TAP) international mechanisms already exist to share know-how, scale up manufacturing and rollout of vaccines quickly and equitably. COVAX, made up of more than 190 countries and economies, has secured 2 billion doses of vaccines in 2021, which will start to be rolled out this month.

To this end, we, the undersigned organizations and individuals, call on global, national and local leaders to accelerate the equitable rollout of vaccines in every country, starting with health workers and those at highest risk for COVID-19. This includes scaling up vaccine manufacturing and rejecting vaccine nationalism at every turn.

We call specifically for:

- **World leaders to increase contributions to the COVAX facility and to share doses with COVAX in parallel with national vaccine rollout.**
- **Vaccine manufacturers to share know-how with C-TAP to scale up vaccine manufacturing and dramatically increase the global supply of vaccines for the coming years. Furthermore, we ask for leaders to prioritize supplying to COVAX over new bilateral deals.**
- **Regulatory bodies to accelerate approval processes in a safe and deliberate way.**
- **Ministries of Health to work with WHO and others to invest in and prepare their primary health care systems for distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to their health workers and to develop data systems on vaccine supply, distribution and uptake, including sex- and age-disaggregated sub-national data, to drive delivery, equality and impact.**
- **All governments to ensure that COVID-19 vaccines are distributed free at the point of care and without risk of financial hardship, starting with health workers and those people at greatest risk of COVID-19, to prioritize affected communities and the voices of essential workers in decision-making and ensure gender equality is central to all actions.**

Distributing COVID-19 vaccines quickly and equitably is essential to end this pandemic, restart our economies and begin to tackle the other great challenges of our time, like food insecurity, inequality and the climate crisis.

Health must be foundational to all development in the post-COVID world and investing in primary health care systems will be key to ending this pandemic, preparing for the next one and delivering on the vision of health for all.

People around the world—including the health workers who have carried us through this crisis on their backs—are counting on leaders to do what is right and smart at this pivotal moment. History will judge us harshly if we fail.

In the Year of the Health and Care Workers, we must come together to protect and invest in the people who protect us all, no matter where they live.

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[Infographic](#)

[#VaccinEquity - Sign the Declaration](#)

[Infographic](#)

#VaccinEquity for health workers (Rebecca)

Infographic

#VaccinEquity for health workers (Tahawur)