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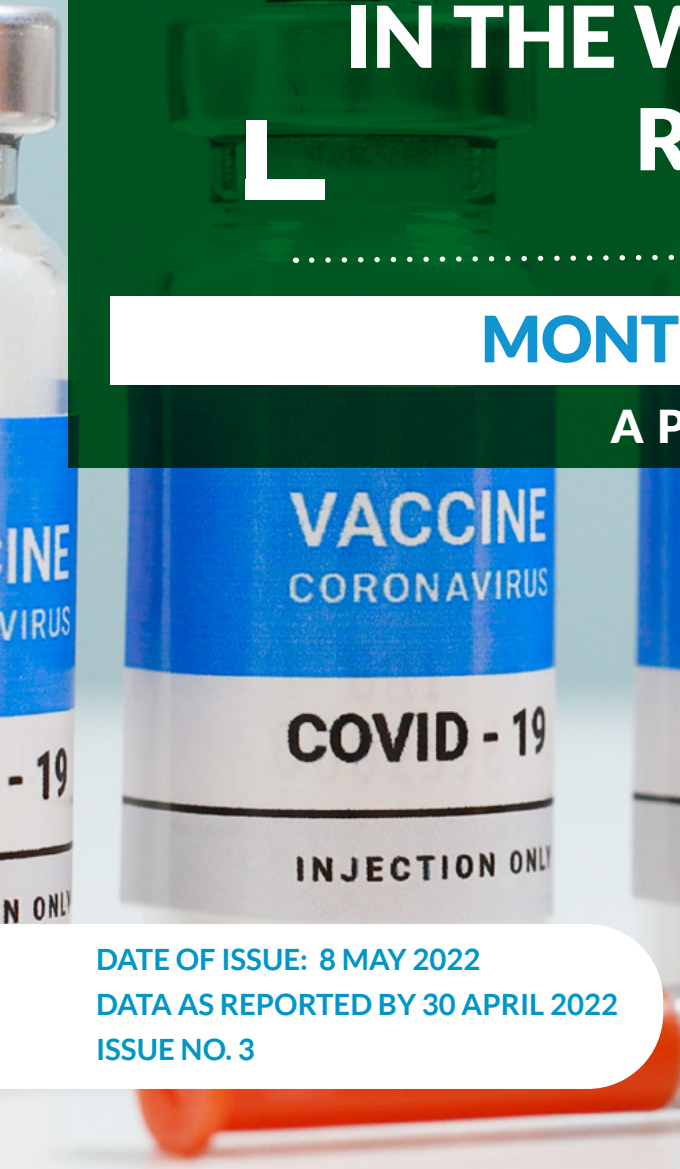
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR  
Africa



# COVID-19 VACCINATION IN THE WHO AFRICAN REGION

MONTHLY BULLETIN

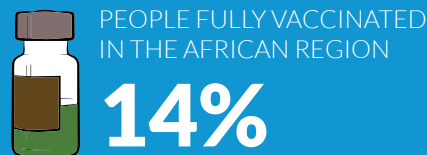
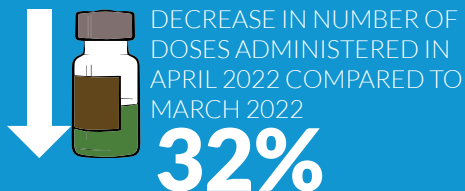
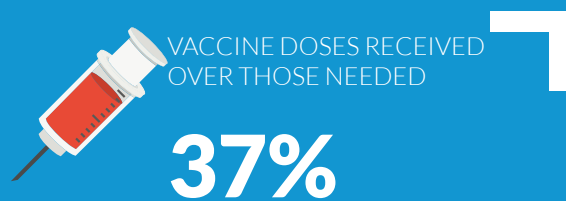
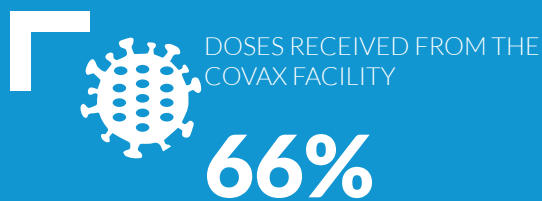
APRIL 2022



DATE OF ISSUE: 8 MAY 2022  
DATA AS REPORTED BY 30 APRIL 2022  
ISSUE NO. 3



# DATA AT A GLANCE







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## SUMMARY

The percentage of people fully vaccinated in the African Region increased from 13% at the end of March 2022 to 14.3% as of 30 April 2022. Six out of the 20 countries that had less than 10% of their population fully vaccinated in January 2022 have moved upward, surpassing 15% of their population fully vaccinated. These countries are Uganda, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Ethiopia, Kenya and Sierra Leone. The highest increase in the percentage of people fully vaccinated in the past three months was seen in Uganda, Ethiopia, Côte d'Ivoire, Chad and Sierra Leone. These countries are among the priority countries for the multi-partner country support team initiative (Uganda, Ethiopia, Côte d'Ivoire and Chad) or for the global COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery Partnership (Sierra Leone).

Mauritius (75.8%) and Seychelles (81.8%) are still the only two countries in the WHO African Region that have surpassed 70% of people fully vaccinated. Four countries have fully vaccinated between 40% and 70% of their population: Mozambique (44.4%), Cabo Verde (55.2%), Botswana (56.7%) and Rwanda (64.7%). Twenty-eight countries have vaccinated between 10% and 40% of their population (up from 27 countries at the end March of 2022; Chad being the new country in this group) while 12 others are yet to surpass 10% of people fully vaccinated, including two of the most populous in the Region (Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo).

Sixteen countries out of 46 (35%) recorded an increase in doses administered in April 2022 compared to March 2022, including eight priority countries for the WHO Regional Office for Africa (Chad, Madagascar, Burkina Faso, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria and Zambia). All these countries except Zambia implemented mass vaccination

campaigns or intensification of routine immunization interventions in March and/or April 2022. Despite the progress made, there is a need to intensify efforts in accelerating uptake, given the 32% decrease in doses administered observed in April compared to March 2022.

The WHO Regional Office for Africa (WHO/AFRO) has continued to field multi-partner country support teams (MP-CS T) in 19 out of 20 priority countries, in coordination with the global COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery Partnership (CoVDP). In April 2022, CoVDP conducted country engagement missions in Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Following the CoVDP mission in Ethiopia, funding was identified to cover COVID-19 vaccination operational costs in Tigray (US\$ 4.2 million under review) and to bundle COVID-19 vaccination with the upcoming childhood vaccination campaign scheduled in May 2022. In the DRC, the Government and partners have agreed on strategies and funding mechanisms to scale up COVID-19 vaccination. The aim is to achieve the set target of vaccinating 11 million people by

July 2022, in line with the recommendations from the WHO SAGE road map for priority-use groups.

This bulletin shares lessons from Uganda in implementing a successful mass vaccination campaign. As a result of the second round of accelerated mass vaccination campaign which was launched on 10 March 2022 and is still ongoing, the percentage of the fully vaccinated population in Uganda increased from 4.4% at the end of January 2022 to 22.4% at the end of April 2022, a fivefold increase.

The International Organization for Migration's (IOM) experience in integrating vaccination services at points of entry in North-Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo, is also discussed.

The COVID-19 vaccination roll-out in the first four months of 2022 has shown that most countries in the African Region will miss the target of vaccinating 70% of their population by the end of June 2022, highlighting the need to focus on achieving set targets in high priority-use groups in all countries of the Region.





# 1. COVID-19 vaccination situation update

## 1.1. VACCINES RECEIVED

As of 30 April 2022, a cumulative total of 576 064 590 doses of COVID-19 vaccines had been received in 46 of the 47 countries of the WHO African Region. Eritrea is still the only country that has not introduced COVID-19 vaccination in its national response to the pandemic. Of the doses received, 382 million (66%) were from COVAX, 137 million (24%) from bilateral cooperation arrangements, 45 million (8%) from the African Vaccine Acquisition Task Team (AVATT), seven million (1%) purchased by governments, and five million (1%) from unspecified sources (Figure 1).

Johnson & Johnson and AstraZeneca (Oxford and Covishield) account for 25.2% and 17.8% of vaccines received in the Region. Table 1 presents the distribution of doses received in the WHO African Region as of 27 March 2022 by type of vaccine.

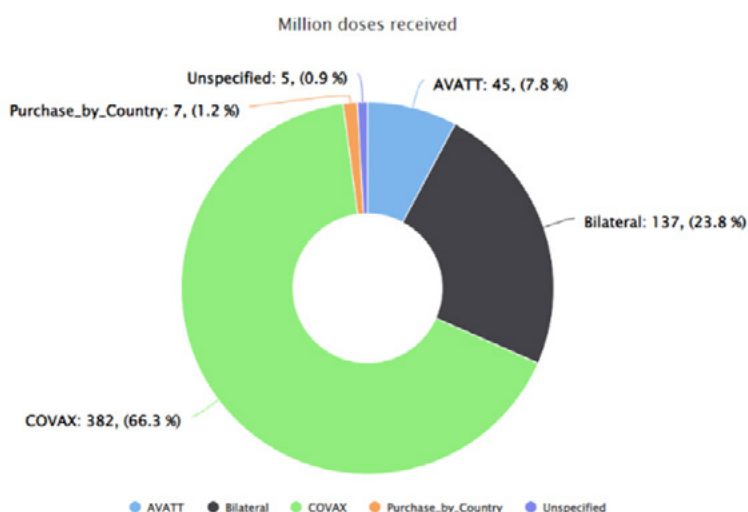


Figure 1: Doses of COVID-19 vaccines received in the African Region by source, as of 30 April 2022

**“ Of the doses received, 382 million (66%) were from COVAX, 137 million (24%) from bilateral cooperation arrangements, 45 million (8%) from the African Vaccine Acquisition Task Team (AVATT), seven million (1%) purchased by governments, and five million (1%) from unspecified sources ”**

Table 1: Cumulative doses of vaccines received as of 30 April 2022 by type of vaccine

Vaccines	Doses received	% doses received
Janssen	145 403 030	25.2
Pfizer BioNtech	102 483 473	17.8
Oxford AstraZeneca	100 480 830	17.4
Sinopharm	84 728 230	14.7
Sinovac	44 724 714	7.8
Moderna	36 976 480	6.4
Covishield	5 966 200	1.0
Sputnik V	2 314 440	0.4
Covaxin	235 000	0.0
Unknown name	52 752 193	9.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>576 064 590</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**“The number of doses received in the African Region accounts for 37% of doses needed to vaccinate 70% of the population in all countries (34% at the end of March 2022).”**

The number of doses received in the African Region accounts for 37% of doses needed to vaccinate 70% of the population in all countries (34% at the end of March 2022). On average, 51 doses have been received per 100 population (48 at the end of March 2022). Only seven countries have received over 140 doses per 100 population (two doses for 70% of the population): Comoros, Sao Tome and Principe, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Zimbabwe and Cabo Verde.

## 1.2. EXPIRED DOSES

The cumulative number of expired doses had increased from 4 688 029 by the end of March 2022 to 6 658 805 by the end of April 2022 (42% increase). Thirty-one countries out of 46 have reported expiry of vaccines. The number of expired doses accounts for 1.9% of doses received in the 31 countries and 1.2% of doses received in the African Region. Figure 2 presents the percentage of expired vaccine doses over those received in 31 countries.

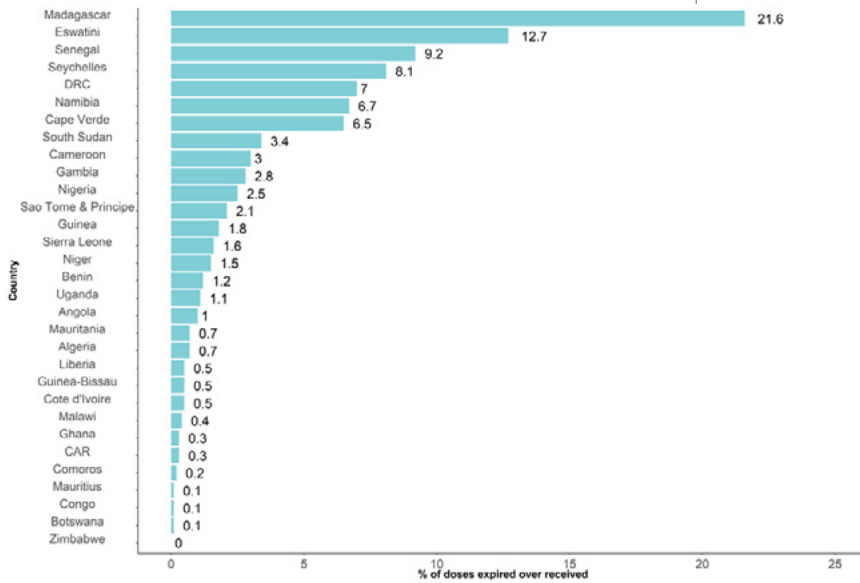
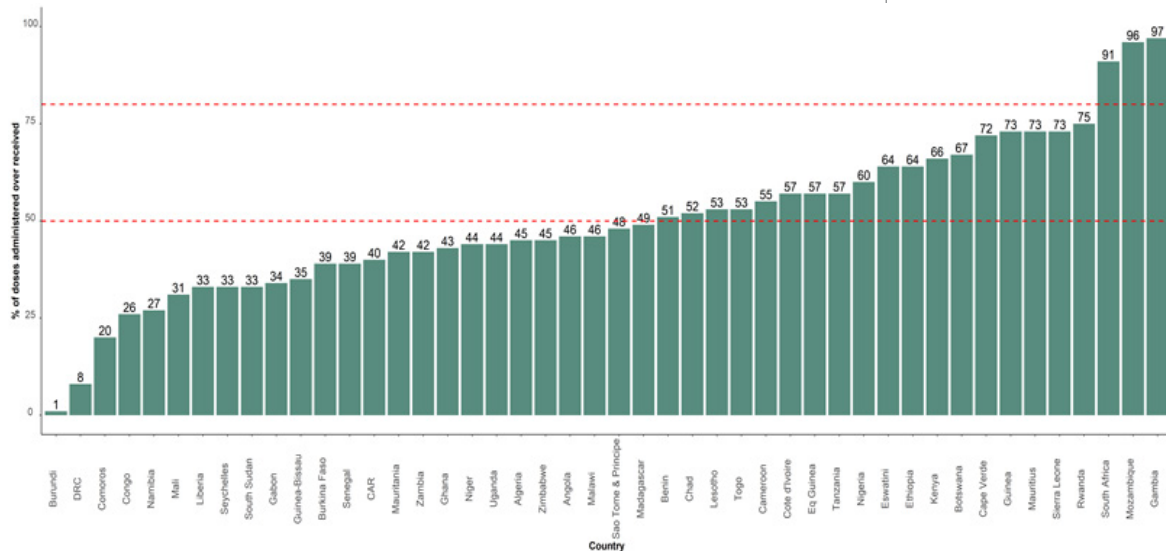


Figure 2: Percentage of COVID-19 expired vaccine doses over those received by country in the African Region (data as of 30 April 2022)

## 1.3. COVID-19 vaccines administered

Of the 576 million doses received, 325 009 816 have been administered, representing 56.4% of doses received. The percentage of doses administered over those received ranged from 1.3% in Burundi to 96.7% in the Gambia. Twenty-five countries out of 46 (54%) have administered fewer than 50% of doses received. Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) have administered fewer than 10% of doses of vaccines received (figure 3).

Figure 3: Percentage of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered over received by country in the African Region (data as of 30 April 2022)





**“In the DRC, 17 provinces out of 26 are rolling out COVID-19 vaccination with only Kinshasa having over 50 vaccination sites per million population. Kinshasa is the only province that has implemented a mass vaccination campaign in April 2022.”**

Despite having approved its National Deployment and Vaccination Plan for COVID-19 vaccines (NDVP) in early March 2022, Burundi did not record any improvement in the percentage of doses administered over received. There are still only four health-facility fixed vaccination sites operational, all located in the capital city.

In the DRC, 17 provinces out of 26 are rolling out COVID-19 vaccination with only Kinshasa having over 50 vaccination sites per million population. Kinshasa is the only province that has implemented a mass vaccination campaign in April 2022. This campaign, carried out from 14–22 April 2022, involved mobile teams in addition to the four “vaccinodromes” (mass vaccination sites) erected in Kinshasa.

Figure 4 presents the distribution of the number of doses administered in the African Region by month of reporting. The number of doses administered increased by 23% in February 2022, compared to January 2022, decreased by 36% in March 2022 and decreased again by 32% in April 2022. On average, 5.4 million doses were administered per week in April 2022, compared to 8.1 million in March and 12.7 million in February 2022. To reach 70% of people fully vaccinated by the end of June 2022, 992 million doses need to be administered in May and June 2022, which translates into 124 million doses per week (22 times the number of doses administered per week in April 2022).

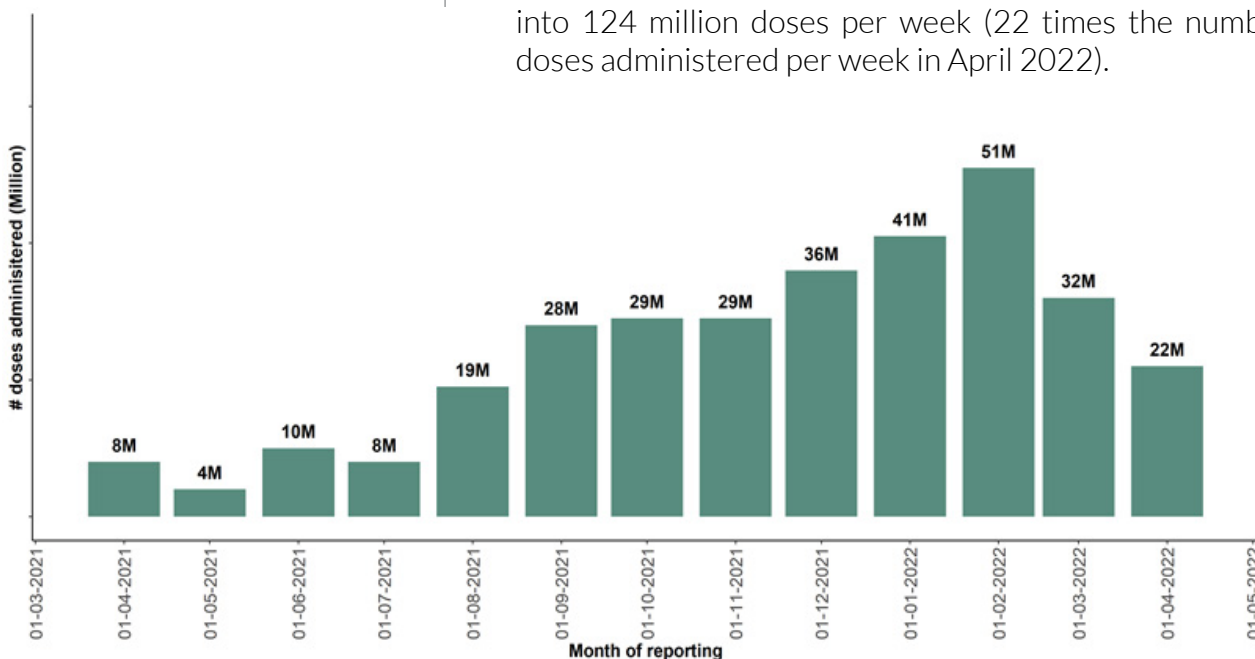


Figure 4: Number of COVID-19 doses of vaccines administered by month in the African Region (data as of 30 April 2022)

Although the overall number of doses administered in the African Region decreased in April, 16 countries out of 46 (35%) recorded an increase in doses administered in April 2022 compared to March 2022 (Table 2). This included eight priority countries (Chad, Madagascar, Burkina Faso, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Côte d’Ivoire, Nigeria and Zambia). All these countries except Zambia implemented mass vaccination campaigns or intensification of routine immunization interventions in March and/or April 2022.

**Table 2: COVID-19 vaccine doses administered from March to April 2022 in 16 selected countries (data as of 30 April 2022)**

Country	Doses administered in February	Doses administered in March	% change in March	Doses administered in April	% change in April
Gambia	12 204	1 274	-90	286 235	22367
Chad	29 040	15 477	-47	1 927 699	12355
Madagascar	259 287	76 249	-71	930 269	1120
Zimbabwe	233 774	524 718	124	1 616 948	208
Congo	55 432	4 608	-92	11 448	148
Burkina Faso	1 061 206	187 679	-82	420 854	124
Tanzania	1 846 904	752 397	-59	1 668 595	122
Uganda	3 761 251	933 002	-75	2 037 863	118
Côte d'Ivoire	1 967 872	805 507	-59	1 617 698	101
Gabon	46 395	4 400	-91	6 615	50
Mauritius	316 671	140 750	-56	203 798	45
Eswatini	30 769	18 525	-40	25 969	40
Nigeria	5 898 938	4 875 206	-17	6 142 917	26
Eq. Guinea	11 795	3 137	-73	3 502	12
Zambia	1 780 568	442 483	-75	485 925	10
DRC	338 650	169 138	-50	178 238	5

#### 1.4. GENERAL POPULATION COVERAGE

As of 30 April 2022, a total of 216 million people had received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, representing 19.3% of the African Region's population (17.3% by the end of March 2022); while 160 million people had received the required number of vaccine doses in the primary series (fully vaccinated), representing 14.3% of the African Region's targeted population (13.0% by the end of March 2022). Globally, 59.2% of people had been fully vaccinated as of 30 April 2022.

Figure 5 shows the evolution of the percentage of people vaccinated with at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine and fully vaccinated by month in the African Region.

**"160 million people had received the required number of vaccine doses in the primary series (fully vaccinated), representing 14.3% of the African Region's targeted population (13.0% by the end of March 2022)."**

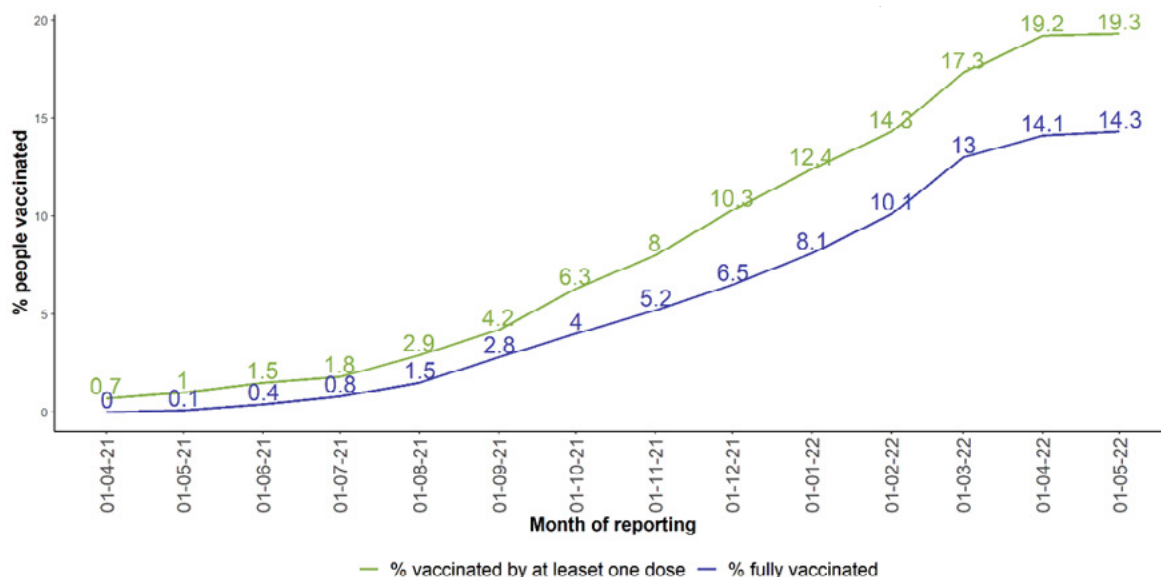


Figure 5: Percentage of people vaccinated with at least one dose of vaccine and fully vaccinated for COVID-19 by month in the African Region (data as of 30 April 2022).

Figure 6 presents the percentage of people fully vaccinated by country. There are still only two countries that have surpassed 70% of the population fully vaccinated: Mauritius (75.8%) and Seychelles (81.8%). Four countries have fully vaccinated between 40% and 70% of their population: Mozambique (44.4%), Cabo Verde (55.2%), Botswana (56.7%) and Rwanda (64.7%).

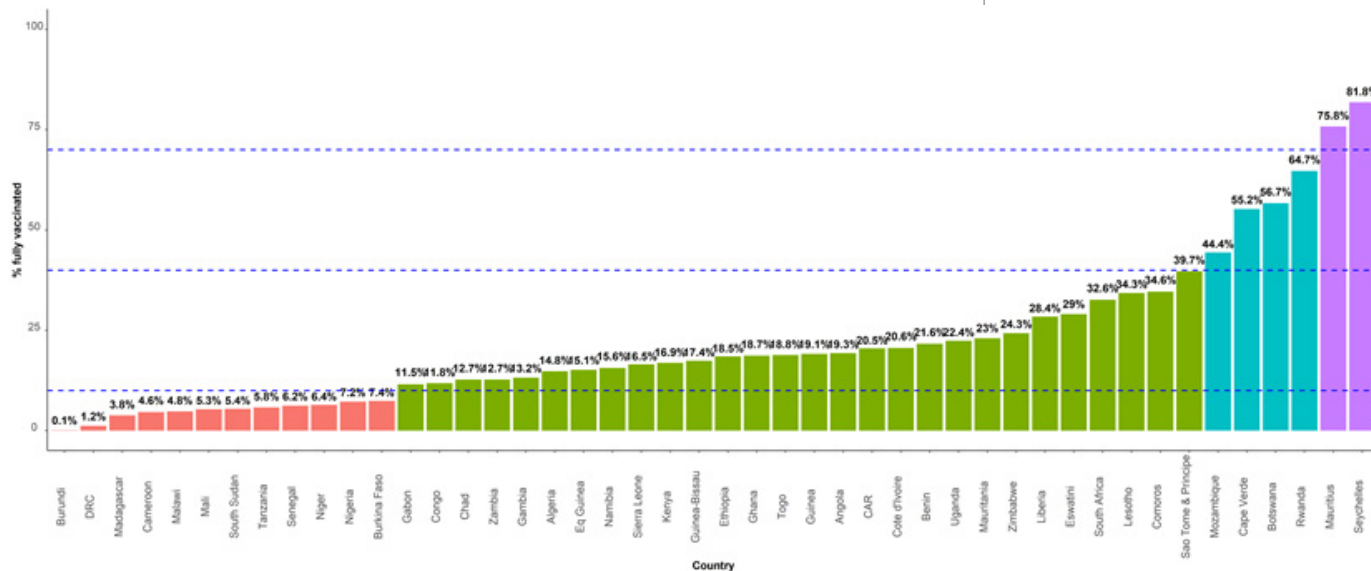


Figure 6: Proportion of people vaccinated for COVID-19 by country in the African Region (data as of 30 April 2022)

Twenty-eight countries have vaccinated between 10% and 40% of their population (27 countries at the end of March 2022; Chad being the new country in this group) while 12 countries are yet to surpass 10% of people fully vaccinated, including two of the most populous in the Region (Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo).

Figure 7 shows the geographical distribution of the percentage of the population fully vaccinated by country in the African Region.



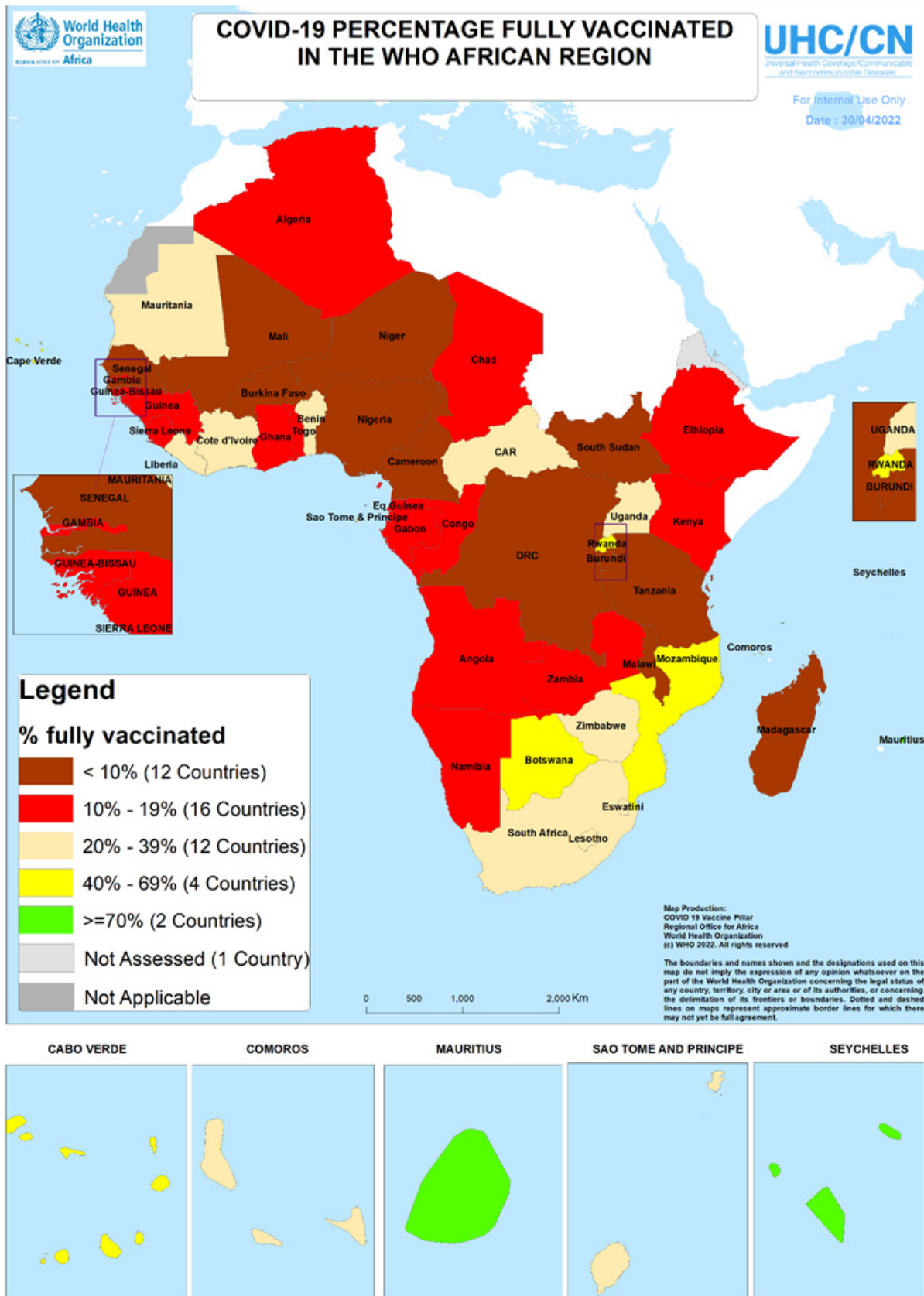


Figure 7: Proportion of people fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by country in the African Region (data as of 30 April 2022)

Figure 8 shows the percentage of people fully vaccinated at the end of January 2022 and in the past three months (February, March and April) in the 20 countries that were underperforming in January (less than 10% of coverage by the end of January 2022).

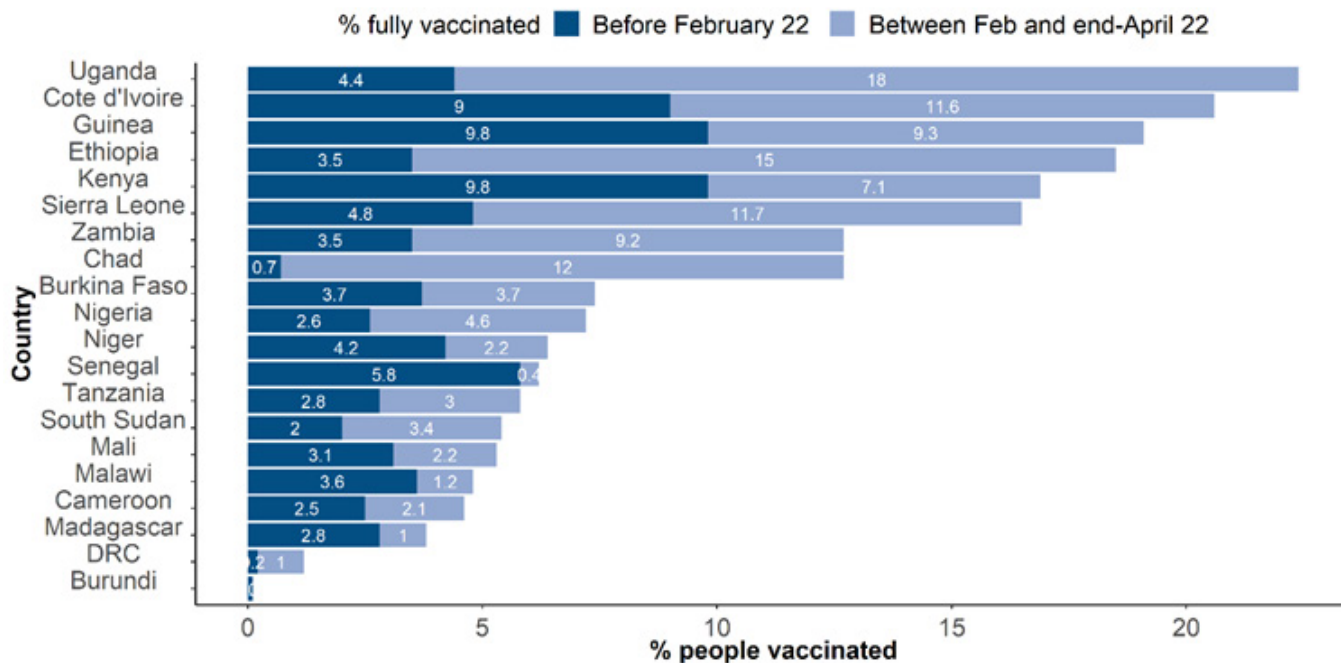
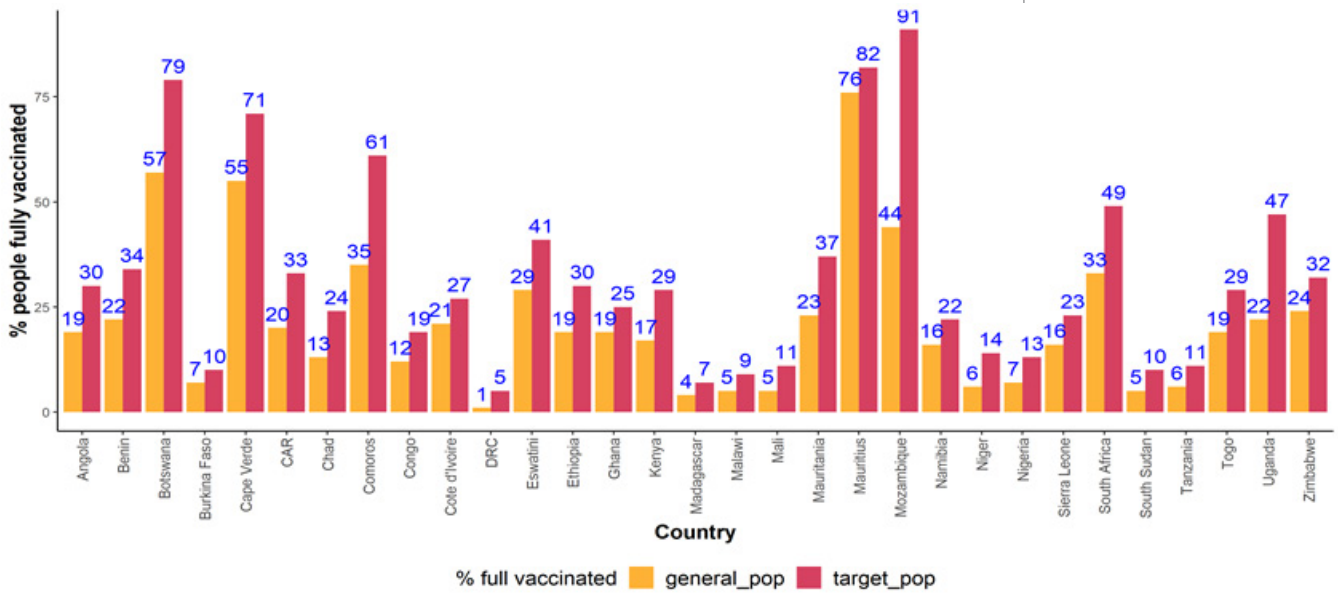


Figure 8: Percentage of people fully vaccinated before and after February 2022 in selected countries that did not surpass 10% of full coverage by late January 2022 (data as of 30 April 2022).

Among the 20 countries that had less than 10% of people fully vaccinated at the end of January 2022, six have now surpassed 15% of people fully vaccinated (Uganda, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Ethiopia, Kenya and Sierra Leone). The highest increase in the percentage of people fully vaccinated in the past three months was seen in Uganda, Ethiopia, Côte d'Ivoire, Chad and Sierra Leone. These countries are among the priority countries for the multi-partners' country support team initiative (Uganda, Ethiopia, Côte d'Ivoire, Chad) or for the global COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery partnership (Sierra Leone).

Figure 9 shows a comparison of the percentage of people fully vaccinated over the general population and the target population as set out in the NDVP for 31 countries with available data on target populations. The median percentage of people fully vaccinated over target population was 29% [range: 5%; 91%] compared to 18% [range: 0.0%; 82%] over the general population.

Figure 9: Percentage of people fully vaccinated by general population and target population in 31 selected countries (data as of 30 April 2022).



Mozambique, Cabo Verde and Botswana have surpassed 70% of the target population while their coverage by general population is still between 40% and 70%. The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar and Malawi still have less than 10% of the target population fully vaccinated.





## 2. WHO/AFRO OPERATIONS UPDATE

In April 2022, the WHO African Region continued to implement the multi-partner country support teams initiative (MP-CST) in 19 out of 20 priority countries. There are still no experts deployed in Mali.

During April 2022, the MP-CSTs have (i) supported operational planning exercises to scale up vaccination efforts until June 2022 in Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania; (ii) conducted joint supportive supervision with ministries of health to vaccination sites in identified priority areas (Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, the United Republic of Tanzania) and to communities along international borders (Ghana, the United Republic of Tanzania) and provided feedback to the coordination team of the respective districts and provinces; (iii) monitored the quality of service delivery at vaccination sites along international borders, schools, high density and peri-urban communities (Ghana, Nigeria and the United Republic of Tanzania) using the rapid convenient approach and provided feedback to the local and national health authorities; (iv) participated in advocacy missions aimed at promoting demand creation of COVID-19 vaccines and documenting the involvement of political leaders, civil society, churches, mosques, and traditional leaders (Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, South Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania); (v) participated in advocacy meetings for the integration of COVID-19 vaccination

and immunization response to vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks (Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Mozambique, South Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia); and (vi) supported the development of a training module on how to systematically engage administrative authorities at all levels to enhance ownership, commitment and oversight functions in COVID-19 vaccination scale-up as part of risk communication and community engagement interventions.

WHO/AFRO participated in country engagement missions of the global COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery Partnership (CoVDP) in Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Ethiopia recorded a five-fold increase in the percentage of its population fully vaccinated in 2022 despite having to deal with a protracted humanitarian crisis in some parts of the country. In Ethiopia, funding was identified as part of the CoVDP mission to cover COVID-19 vaccination operational costs in Tigray (US\$ 4.2 million under review) and to bundle COVID-19 vaccination with the upcoming childhood vaccination campaign in May. The Democratic Republic of the Congo remains the country with the lowest percentage of people fully vaccinated among the five most populous countries in the African Region. The CoVDP's mission in the country was an opportunity for the government and partners

to agree on strategies and funding mechanisms to scale up COVID-19 vaccination and achieve the set target of vaccinating 11 million people by July 2022, focusing on high priority-use groups as per the WHO SAGE roadmap for prioritizing uses of COVID-19 vaccines.

### 3. COUNTRY FOCUS: IMPLEMENTING A SUCCESSFUL MASS COVID-19 VACCINATION CAMPAIGN: LESSONS FROM UGANDA

Uganda started to roll out COVID-19 vaccination in March 2021, targeting 22 million people (48% of its population) aged 18 years and above by the end of December 2021. The country fell short of this target and missed the targets of vaccinating 10% and 40% of its population by the end of September 2021, respectively, set by the WHO. From the risk assessment of the slow vaccination roll-out conducted by WHO/AFRO in January 2022, Uganda was one of the 13 “very high-risk” countries in the African Region that were likely not to achieve the June 2022 target of having 70% of their populations fully vaccinated. With only 3% of its population fully vaccinated at the end of 2021, 37% of doses received administered and a dropout rate of 63.3%, the June 2022 target seemed out of reach.

As vaccines became more available in the last quarter of 2021, the Ministry of Health moved from a health facility-based routine static vaccination approach to accelerated mass vaccination campaigns (AMVC). The AMVCs were conducted in all 15 regions of the country in phases. The first round was conducted from November 2021 to February 2022, for 7 days by district in each of the 15 regions. The second round of AMVC was launched on 10 March 2022 and is still ongoing. Focus for the second round was to intensify efforts in regions that did not perform well in the first round (low coverage districts/regions).

**“The AMVCs were conducted in all 15 regions of the country in phases. The first round was conducted from November 2021 to February 2022, for 7 days by district in each of the 15 regions.”**

The goal of the AMVC was to fully vaccinate all adults above 18 years, children aged 11 to 18 years with Pfizer and administer authorized booster doses to the eligible high-risk population fully vaccinated in order to put the country on track towards 70% population coverage by the end of 2022. This was to be achieved through intensified demand generation and service delivery strategies tailored to each region’s context. At the regional level, one-day technical and planning meetings were held with representation from all districts within the region to review regional performance from round 1 of the campaign and identify poor performing districts for more targeted support. This was followed by district-level planning meetings, where subnational microplans were developed. Additional health workers and mobilizers were also identified and trained





Hon. Cabinet Minister of Health Dr. Jane Ruth Aceng at the launch of AMVC in Karamoja Region

ahead of the campaigns in each district, with support from regional partners. The Ministry of Health further collaborated with private sector companies such as banks, soda and beer companies to raise awareness through their social media outreach, and mobilize resources and people in the private sector space to get vaccinated. The district political leaders who lead the district COVID-19 task forces took the lead in the preparation and coordination of all AMVC activities in each district.

Each AMVC round was officially launched at strategic locations in each region with the aim of creating awareness and sensitizing the communities about vaccination. During and in preparation for the launch, a number of demand generation activities were conducted, such as radio talk shows by local leaders, announcements in churches and other gatherings, mobilization using village health teams and mobile vans mounted with megaphones. Different target groups were also mobilized through close collaboration with different departments within the districts. For instance, teachers and eligible school children were mobilized through the Ministry of Education structures such as involving head teachers in the line-listing of teachers and students for vaccination. The Minister of Health, the Director General for Health Services, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, the Director for Public

Health and partners participated in various phased regional launches to boost the morale of district task forces and rally people to get vaccinated.

Vaccination was conducted at over 800 vaccination sites across the country including 685 fixed sites (public and private facilities), and 115 outreach sites. The outreach sites were set up in highly populated areas in urban centres and other selected areas in communities with high traffic or close to different target populations such as schools, churches and sports grounds. Different regional partners provided funding and technical support to campaigns in their regions. These included USAID, CDC, JICA, WHO, UNICEF, MSF and AMREF.

The AMVCs did not come without challenges, especially un-entered data in EPIVAC, the electronic database for COVID-19 vaccination. As of 17 February 2022, a total of 7.8 million individual entries (47.5% of the people vaccinated) remained on the paper-based COVID-19 vaccination registers. This birthed the smart paper technology that was later introduced to address the challenge of accumulated un-entered data or “backlog”. Smart paper technology involves scanning the paper based individual entries, which are then automatically

captured in EPIVAC after scanning without requiring manual entry of the data. In the three districts where this was piloted, the backlog was reduced by more than 50% in two weeks. This is expected to reduce further. The smart paper technology is now being rolled out across the entire country.

As of 22 April 2022, a total of 19 643 808 vaccine doses (43% of doses received) had been administered, 10 150 627 individuals (21% of the population) were fully vaccinated,

15 069 825 (33%) had received at least one dose and 44 137 individuals had received booster doses. Most regions (12 out of 15) have vaccinated more than 50% of their target populations i.e., adults above 18 years (Table 3).

**Table 3: COVID-19 vaccination uptake by region in Uganda (Data as of 22 April 2022)**

Region	Target population (Adults above 18 years)	# of people vaccinated by at least one dose	% target population vaccinated by at least one dose	# of people fully vaccinated	% of target population fully vaccinated
Acholi	916 062	551 624	61	224 086	25
Ankole	1 674 545	1 353 846	74	940 083	43
Bugisu	1 085 595	679 093	70	510 467	49
Bukedi	1 155 481	697 336	69	626 311	55
Bunyoro	1 368 949	982 167	69	684 513	65
Busoga	2 154 376	1 611 646	70	1 424 777	66
Kampala	848 110	910 897	107	560 110	66
Karamoja	598 725	294 257	68	248 394	63
Kigezi	747 522	658 886	70	342 780	61
Lango	1 246 796	1 012 675	70	518 142	59
North Central	2 229 271	1 509 980	69	847 629	56
South Central	2 851 107	1 593 376	70	1 001 802	55
Teso	1 142 287	831 934	70	418 214	54
Tooro	1 614 629	1 116 611	70	703 650	53
West Nile	1 837 421	1 265 497	70	1 099 669	53
<b>Total</b>	<b>21 470 876</b>	<b>15 069 825</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>10 150 627</b>	<b>55</b>

As result of the second round of AMVC, the general population's full coverage in Uganda increased from 4.4% at the end of January to 22.4% in at the end of April 2022, representing a five-fold increase (figure 10).

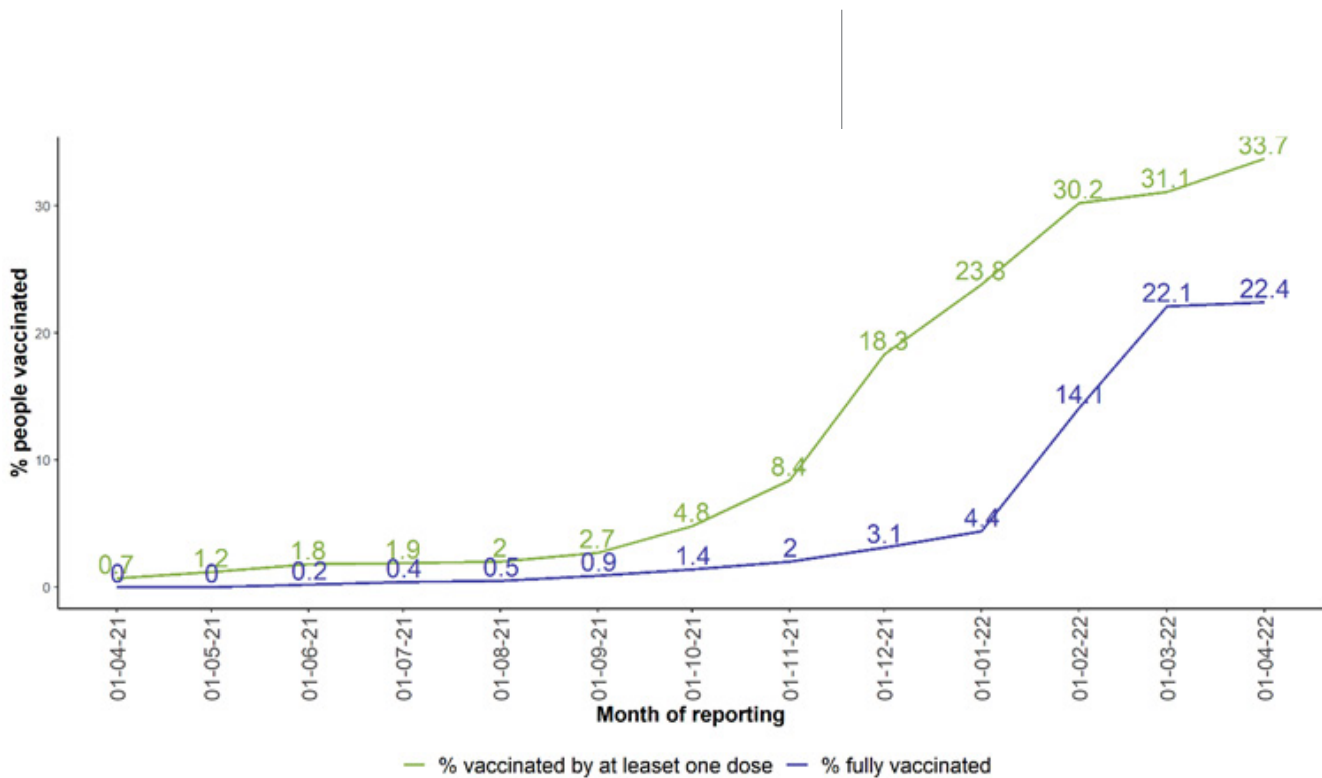


Figure 10: Percentage of the population vaccinated with at least one dose of vaccine and fully vaccinated for COVID-19 by month in Uganda (data as of 30 April 2022).

Key lessons learned from Uganda’s accelerated mass vaccination campaigns include:

- The utility of harnessing innovation and technology to address some of the emerging challenges during mass vaccination campaigns such as large volume of data generated in a short time and reducing the data entry backlog;
- Tailoring risk communication and demand creation strategies to regions/districts to address context-specific fears, myths and misconceptions increases demand;
- Successful mass vaccination campaigns require good preparation, availability of adequate supply of vaccines and operational funds and strong coordination of all the different players at all levels;
- Participation of all stakeholders like political, religious and local leaders is critical in rallying the population to get vaccinated.

Uganda continues to scale up COVID-19 vaccination to fully vaccinate 70% of the population by the end of 2022. Round 2 of AMVCs is still ongoing in some regions and this is anticipated to further boost COVID-19 vaccine uptake. More focus will be on the three districts that have fully vaccinated less than 50% of their target populations.





COVID-19 vaccination post at at the Grand-Barriere point of entry

## 4. PARTNER FOCUS: INTEGRATING COVID-19 VACCINATION SERVICES AT POINTS OF ENTRY: EXPERIENCE OF THE IOM IN NORTH-KIVU, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

North-Kivu is one of the 26 provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) with 34 health zones and 10.6 million inhabitants. North-Kivu shares a border with Rwanda and Uganda. Its nine points of entry (PoEs) include six land borders, one river border and two airports. On average, 95 000 travellers use the points of entry in North-Kivu daily, Grande-Barriere being the busiest land border, with approximately 15 000 daily crossings.

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with recurrent Ebola outbreaks, disease surveillance measures have been put in place at points of entry in North-Kivu under the leadership of the National Programme for Border Hygiene (PNHF) and with the support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to prevent, detect and control the international spread of COVID-19 and the outbreak of other infectious diseases. These include temperature screening, handwashing, verification of COVID-19 tests results per national requirements, enhanced data collection and events-based surveillance in border communities.

The roll-out of COVID-19 vaccination in North-Kivu started on 2 May 2021 targeting health care workers and all adults aged 18 years or above. Of the 170 COVID-19 vaccination sites planned by government authorities in North-Kivu, only 137 were operational, all of them are health facility

fixed sites. As of 15 February 2022, there was no vaccination site at any of the points of entry in North-Kivu.

During the last quarter of 2021, the IOM held bilateral meetings with the head of the COVID-19 coordination body within the Ministry of Health to advocate for the effective inclusion of migrants, other travellers and vulnerable communities on the list of target populations eligible for COVID-19 vaccination. As result, IOM and the national and provincial authorities agreed to pilot an intervention aimed at integrating COVID-19 vaccination at the PoE of Grande-Barriere in North-Kivu. Accordingly, with the technical support of IOM, the Ministry of Health erected, in February 2022, a COVID-19 vaccination site at Grande-Barriere, in a room of approximately 20 m<sup>2</sup>, located on the first level of the building housing the border post. The vaccination site is composed of four areas: waiting and registration area, pre-vaccination consultation area, vaccine administration area and post-vaccination observation area. The vaccination site is run by a team composed of six frontline workers, including one medical doctor, one supervisor, two nurses and two data managers, all from PNHF and Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI).

The IOM provided technical and logistical support to the established vaccination site including personal protection equipment (surgical masks, gloves and fluid resistant isolation gowns), medical supplies and equipment as well as risk communication materials, tablets, laptops and access to internet. The IOM also helped to build the capacity of frontline health workers and other staff from EPI, PNHF and the Goma health zone on the management of COVID-19 vaccination sites at PoEs. This included training on vaccine safety, monitoring and management of adverse events following immunization (AEFI), and risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) techniques related to COVID-19 vaccination.

The vaccination site at Grande-Barriere has been operational since 17 February 2022 and plans are underway to extend similar services at PoEs across the province. The target populations for the Grande-Barriere vaccination site are migrants, international travellers, border users as well as small-scale traders at risk of COVID-19 infection due to high cross-border mobility contacts with potentially infected people. To increase vaccine demand, the IOM sponsored an awareness campaign on the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination through dialogue with target communities and populations. From 17 February 2022 to 19 April 2022, a total of 1376 travellers have been vaccinated against COVID-19 at the Grand-Barriere PoE vaccination site, using mainly the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

A recent survey conducted by IOM and the Ministry of Health showed that about 66% of travellers passing through the Grande-Barriere PoE have received at least one shot of the COVID-19 vaccine while 51% of unvaccinated travellers were willing to get vaccinated.

IOM's pilot interventions at PoEs are funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). As next steps, the IOM will extend the provision of COVID-19 vaccination to the communities living in the health area of Grande-Barriere as well at the Goma international airport where a similar vaccination site has been set up.

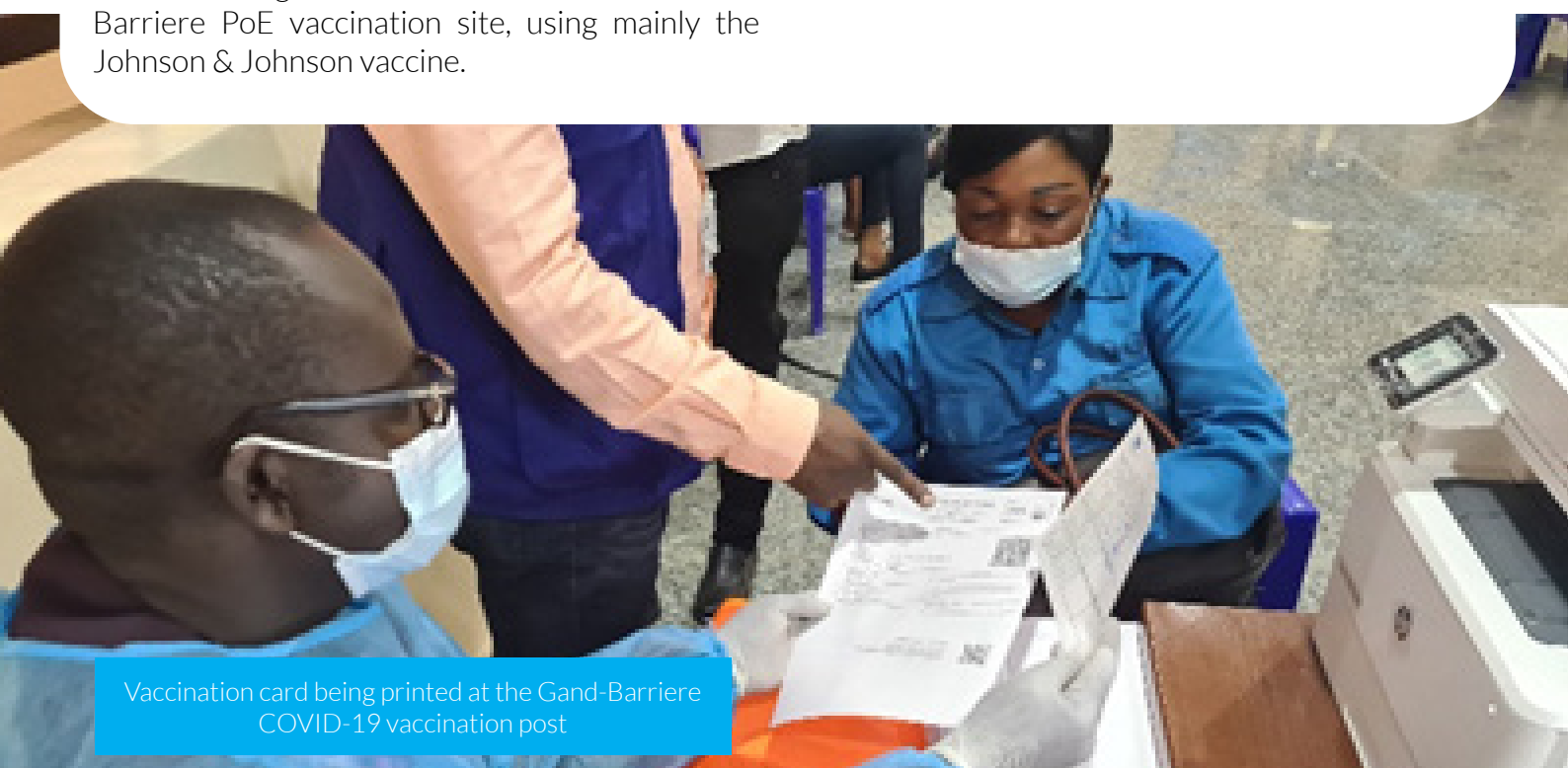
This pilot project has demonstrated the importance of joint efforts between health services and programmes (PNFH, EPI and RCCE commission) and the need for a multisectoral approach to increasing vaccination coverage and reducing the mismatch between demand and supply of COVID-19 vaccination services.

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Vaccination card being printed at the Gand-Barriere COVID-19 vaccination post



## 5. TECHNICAL/SCIENTIFIC UPDATE: COVID-19 BOOSTER DOSES IN AFRICA

### SAGE recommendations on booster doses

**Definition:** Throughout WHO's policy recommendation on COVID-19 vaccination, booster doses are defined as doses administered to a population that has completed a primary vaccination series (including additional doses in an extended primary series) to restore vaccine effectiveness when, with time, the immunity and clinical protection of a primary vaccination series has fallen below a rate that is considered sufficient for a population.

**Order of implementation:** According to [the revised SAGE prioritization roadmap](#) countries should first achieve moderate-to-high rates of primary series coverage in higher priority-use groups<sup>1</sup>. Countries should then prioritize available resources to achieve high booster dose coverage rates in higher priority-use groups before offering vaccine doses to lower priority-use groups.

**Schedule:** As a general principle, an interval of 4–6 months since completion of the primary series could be considered for countries with an impending or ongoing surge of cases or a longer

interval for countries currently not experiencing, or which are at low risk of an increasing incidence of cases. Either homologous or heterologous vaccination schedules could be used for booster doses.

**More data needed:** Booster doses in children below the age of 12 years have not yet been assessed. There is currently no SAGE recommendation made on additional booster doses after the first one.

### Status of booster doses in Africa (as of 30 April 2022)

In the African Region, 29 out of 47 countries have reported administration of booster doses to fully vaccinated people (Table 4). The percentage of people that have received booster doses among those fully vaccinated in the 29 countries was 8.4%, ranging from 0.007% in Benin to 63.1% in Mauritius.

<sup>1</sup>**Highest priority-use group:** older adults, health workers, immunocompromised persons

**High priority-use group:** adults with comorbidities, pregnant women, teachers and other essential workers, disadvantaged sociodemographic subpopulations at higher risk of severe COVID-19

**Medium priority-use group:** remaining adults, children and adolescents with comorbidities

**Lowest priority-use group:** healthy children and adolescents

**Table 4. People vaccinated with booster doses in 29 countries in the African Region (data as of 30 April 2022)**

Country	# of people vaccinated with booster doses	# of people fully vaccinated	% of the population vaccinated with booster doses over fully vaccinated
Mauritius	607 749	963 452	63.1
Rwanda	4 075 023	8 380 667	48.6
Seychelles	37 303	80 457	46.4
Botswana	311 490	1 333 463	23.4
Zimbabwe	567 948	3 616 013	15.7
South Africa	2 735 589	19 354 014	14.1
Namibia	50 937	395 625	12.9
Algeria	514 063	6 481 186	7.9
Nigeria	942 369	14 905 142	6.3
Ghana	360 201	5 807 263	6.2
Angola	369 899	6 327 907	5.8
Mauritania	47 137	1 068 149	4.4
Cameroon	52 011	1 209 108	4.3
Zambia	92 529	2 333 446	4.0
Kenya	296 768	9 079 472	3.3
Sao Tome & Principe	2 685	86 914	3.1
Madagascar	27 380	1 051 811	2.6
Togo	40 962	1 557 538	2.6
Mozambique	335 314	13 891 137	2.4
Côte d'Ivoire	87 290	5 437 294	1.6
Ethiopia	346 411	21 291 403	1.6
Eq. Guinea	2 403	212 359	1.1
Gabon	2 126	255 200	0.8
Senegal	7 027	1 045 680	0.7
Uganda	54 546	10 250 742	0.5
Sierra Leone	5 359	1 315 830	0.4
Liberia	1 912	1 438 154	0.1
Malawi	740	908 688	0.1
Benin	200	2 621 821	0.007
Total	11 975 371	142 699 935	8.4





## 6. USEFUL LINKS

- ▶ AFRO COVID-19 Vaccination dashboard:  
<https://rebrand.ly/AFROCovid-19Dashboard>
- ▶ AFRO microsite on lessons learned in rolling out COVID-19 vaccination  
<https://covid-19vaccineslessonslearned.afro.who.int/>
- ▶ AFRO COVID-19 dashboard:  
<https://who.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/0c9b3a8b68d0437a8cf28581e9c063a9>

**APPENDIX: DOSES ADMINISTERED AND VACCINATION COVERAGE BY COUNTRY IN THE WHO AFRICAN REGION (DATA AS OF 30 April 2022)**

Country	# of doses received	# of doses administered	# of persons vaccinated by at least one dose	# of persons fully vaccinated	% vaccine doses administered	% of the population vaccinated by at least one dose	% of the population fully vaccinated
Algeria	33 876 400	15 205 854	7 840 131	6 481 186	44.9	17.9	14.8
Angola	38 848 267	17 896 626	12 059 919	6 327 907	46.1	36.7	19.3
Benin	6 541 590	3 333 450	3 154 360	2 621 821	51.0	26.0	21.6
Botswana	2 854 400	1 919 965	1 475 516	1 333 463	67.3	62.7	56.7
Burkina Faso	7 586 910	2 928 989	2 434 140	1 539 151	38.6	11.6	7.4
Burundi	953 600	12 464	12 154	11 582	1.3	0.1	0.1
Cameroon	3 344 550	1 828 882	1 552 320	1 209 108	54.7	5.8	4.6
Cabo Verde	1 045 840	752 194	354 802	307 019	71.9	63.8	55.2
Central African Republic	2 568 280	1 037 580	1 023 144	988 591	40.4	21.2	20.5
Chad	4 537 890	2 347 168	2 212 530	2 087 559	51.7	13.5	12.7
Comoros	3 159 996	642 320	341 302	301 218	20.3	39.2	34.6
Congo	3 236 630	831 318	693 902	652 422	25.7	12.6	11.8
Côte d'Ivoire	21 012 120	11 982 186	7 952 458	5 437 294	57.0	30.1	20.6
DRC	14 394 340	1 143 186	1 771 324	1 064 851	7.9	2.0	1.2
Eq. Guinea	820 000	471 006	264 393	212 359	57.4	18.8	15.1
Eritrea							
Eswatini	830 880	535 393	387 468	336 066	64.4	33.4	29.0
Ethiopia	46 251 810	29 373 478	24 769 870	21 291 403	63.5	21.5	18.5
Gabon	1 630 600	556 657	300 871	255 200	34.1	13.5	11.5
Gambia	671 600	649 588	331 260	318 328	96.7	13.7	13.2
Ghana	30 378 478	13 047 826	9 491 108	5 807 263	43.0	30.5	18.7
Guinea	8 390 040	6 111 743	4 477 033	2 510 700	72.8	34.1	19.1
Guinea-Bissau	1 618 870	562 620	519 455	341 495	34.8	26.4	17.4
Kenya	27 087 630	17 871 145	12 507 476	9 079 472	66.0	23.3	16.9
Lesotho	1 776 610	933 825	933 825	735 610	52.6	43.6	34.3

Country	# of doses received	# of doses administered	# of persons vaccinated by at least one dose	# of persons fully vaccinated	% vaccine doses administered	% of the population vaccinated by at least one dose	% of the population fully vaccinated
Liberia	5 624 030	1 837 296	1 751 520	1 438 154	32.7	34.6	28.4
Madagascar	4 646 660	2 264 611	1 185 420	1 051 811	48.7	4.3	3.8
Malawi	4 469 720	2 054 585	1 596 607	908 688	46.0	8.3	4.8
Mali	6 490 400	1 993 965	1 427 227	1 063 605	30.7	7.0	5.3
Mauritania	6 279 311	2 650 797	1 567 041	1 068 149	42.2	33.7	23.0
Mauritius	3 703 980	2 698 115	1 000 474	963 452	72.8	78.7	75.8
Mozambique	32 989 920	31 616 078	14 816 217	13 891 137	95.8	47.4	44.4
Namibia	3 047 220	834 756	453 540	395 625	27.4	17.8	15.6
Niger	6 077 570	2 692 524	2 190 790	1 549 279	44.3	9.1	6.4
Nigeria	64 113 760	38 399 067	25 654 988	14 905 142	59.9	12.4	7.2
Rwanda	26 963 370	20 141 669	8 995 787	8 380 667	74.7	69.5	64.7
Sao Tome & Principe	431 020	208 657	113 708	86 914	48.4	51.9	39.7
Senegal	6 381 752	2 469 499	1 465 788	1 045 680	38.7	8.8	6.2
Seychelles	612 000	201 121	84 679	80 457	32.9	86.1	81.8
Sierra Leone	3 920 960	2 868 978	1 987 563	1 315 830	73.2	24.9	16.5
South Africa	38 199 682	34 881 319	21 674 770	19 354 014	91.3	36.5	32.6
South Sudan	2 121 370	692 015	643 273	599 766	32.6	5.7	5.4
United Republic of Tanzania	12 820 424	7 280 582	6 483 895	3 467 885	56.8	10.9	5.8
Togo	6 268 140	3 290 821	2 037 429	1 557 538	52.5	24.6	18.8
Uganda	46 147 430	20 223 978	15 409 049	10 250 742	43.8	33.7	22.4
Zambia	8 940 740	3 750 417	3 192 372	2 333 446	41.9	17.4	12.7
Zimbabwe	22 397 800	9 983 503	5 799 542	3 616 013	44.6	39.0	24.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>576 064 590</b>	<b>325 009 816</b>	<b>216 392 440</b>	<b>160 575 062</b>	<b>56.4</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>14.3</b>

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### **Acknowledgements**

WHO staff from the COVID-19 vaccination IMST,  
IST and WCOs.



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