COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery Partnership

Ted Chaiban
Global Lead Coordinator for COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery

UNICEF Executive Board – 2022 second regular session (6–8 September 2022)

Item 6: Update on the progress achieved through the COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery Partnership
Global coverage of COVID-19 vaccination is rising, but inequities persist

- As of early August 2022, **12.6 billion doses** of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered worldwide.
- There continue to be strong equity gaps – 63% of the global population is fully vaccinated but only 18% in low-income countries and 13% in countries dealing with humanitarian emergencies.
- While equity is still a concern, many countries have made strong progress over the past months.

Data as at 31 August 2022
Progress in 2022

Share of population with completed primary series in 92 Advanced Market Commitment (AMC) entities

Share of population with completed COVID-19 primary series in 34 countries for concerted support

Number of countries with less than 10% coverage

1.8x coverage increase across all AMC92 entities

5x coverage increase across all 34 countries with lowest coverage rates

Number of countries with less than 10% coverage down to 10

AMC92 entities covering largely low- and lower-middle-income economies eligible to access COVID-19 vaccines through the Gavi COVAX AMC mechanism; data as of the beginning of each month; coverage data for 34 countries covering the entities with coverage less than or equal to 10% according to 15 January 2022 data. Source: COVID-19 Vaccine Implementation Analysis and Insights Report and CoVDP analysis.

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Feb | Jan | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug
Progress since the last update to the Executive Board

Political Advocacy

11 countries where CoVDP helped resolve policy and political engagement bottlenecks, up from 5 countries in our June update

Delivery Funding

$79.7 million disbursed in total to support countries' immediate needs as of early August, up from $38 million in our June update

$36.8 million in funding requests under discussion or in the process of being disbursed, down from $63 million

40 funding requests approved and disbursed to date, up from 17

As little as 5 days lead time between funding request and disbursement

$200 million for vaccine delivery, demand and production announced by Canada during the COVID-19 Vaccine Demand Global Event in June

Technical assistance and public goods

A compendium of best practices on relevant strategic issues is under development

Our learning collective provides a platform for country exchange and learning, now with smaller, country-to-country knowledge-sharing lessons

Partnerships with humanitarian partners to reach displaced and migrant populations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nigeria, with $13.3 million to be provided to IOM, IFRC and the Nigerian Red Cross through UNICEF

Information as at 31 August 2022
Examples of countries where CoVDP provided tailored support since our update in June

**Sierra Leone**
Technical assistance to develop One Plan and One Budget as a basis for comprehensive planning and partner coordination.

**Democratic Republic of the Congo**
Support to strengthen coordination between the central and provincial level. $8.3 million funding provided to IFRC and IOM to reach displaced and migrant populations.

**Sudan**
Agreement to support the country’s planned monthly vaccination campaigns to reach 20% in coming months and a nationwide campaign to reach 52% by the end of the year. Disbursement of $11.6 million to support COVID-19 efforts. Additional AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson doses secured.

**Malawi**
Mobilization of $2.7 million to accelerate July vaccination campaign. Support to community health workers (Health Surveillance Assistants) to conduct house-to-house vaccination.

**United Republic of Tanzania**
Alignment with the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to support a whole-of-government approach and reaching migrant populations in nationwide campaigns by December 2022.
Stretched health systems and vaccine delivery in humanitarian settings are two of the main challenges right now

Health systems challenges often undermine COVID-19 vaccination and routine immunization.
- Unpaid/insufficiently paid health workers
- Need for more trained health-care workers
- Data and health management information systems often do not capture data on key target populations

There are solutions:
- Incentives during campaigns provide some financial support but need payment for routine activities.
- Use of COVID-19 funds to retain health worker surge capacity
- Bundle or alternate COVID-19 with routine immunization campaigns
- Leverage joint vaccination teams for COVID-19 and routine immunization

Countries with humanitarian emergencies still lag behind.
- Difficult access to remote areas
- Challenging last-mile delivery
- Urgent humanitarian priorities to address

There are solutions:
- Leverage partnerships to integrate COVID-19 vaccination in humanitarian activities
- Disburse funding ($13.3 million to date) to agencies and NGOs that reach displaced/vulnerable populations
Challenges and next steps over the coming months

- Take advantage of the period after the rains to continue with acceleration of COVID-19 vaccination in the Sahelian belt and the Horn of Africa
  - Continue the support to those countries with vaccination campaigns planned for Q4.
- Countries still have very low booster coverage levels or have not introduced boosters yet
  - Focus on the introduction of boosters for high-priority groups where appropriate on the way to achieving national targets
- Recent data show the largest decline in childhood vaccinations in approximately 30 years within and across countries
  - Be efficient in how we support COVID-19 vaccination so that health resources are there for other priorities as well
  - Amplify the various ways through which COVID-19 vaccination has helped strengthen immunization infrastructure
  - Learn from Iraq and other experiences where integrated teams run COVID-19 campaigns while identifying and providing vaccination to zero dose children
- Monitor the development and roll-out of Omicron-adapted boosters and determine impact on demand while mitigating against new inequity lines
- Advocate for more support for integration of COVID-19 vaccinations with primary health-care services, including routine immunization, which will be critical to ensure people can continue to get vaccinated as immunity wanes.

Support required

- Support COVID-19 vaccination campaigns through the end of the year.
- Support integration of COVID-19 vaccination with primary health care to ensure efficient use of resources, as well as the introduction of boosters for high-priority groups.
- Support efforts to leverage COVID-19 vaccination to strengthen health systems and address some of the structural issues, including remuneration of health workers.