The opportunity

Right now – today, and for the next year – we can, and must, continue to make history together by helping to end the COVID-19 pandemic everywhere. Since COVID-19 vaccines became available, UNICEF has been engaging to promote vaccine uptake and infection prevention and control behaviours, together with governments and communities, and with support from donors and partners around the world. By the end of January 2022, UNICEF had delivered over 988 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to 109 countries, across multiple supply sources. Further, in relation to COVAX, UNICEF has delivered 958 million syringes and 10.2 million safety boxes to 102 countries. Since the start of the pandemic, UNICEF has shipped more than 418 million surgical masks, more than 41,000 oxygen concentrators and 8.7 million molecular diagnostics in support of 144 countries as they respond to the pandemic.

UNICEF operates the largest vaccine procurement, storage, shipping, cold chain and distribution network in the world – reaching nearly half the world’s children with over 2 billion life-saving vaccines in any given year and saving tens of millions of lives. Therefore, UNICEF has been called upon by the international community to play a leading role in the procurement and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, tests, treatments and personal protective equipment (PPE), as well as to make sure that health systems and communities are ready, to reach those who need them the most.

Key messages

1. UNICEF’s response goes beyond the acute emergency response and also includes pandemic preparedness and building stronger, more resilient health systems.

2. UNICEF’s end-to-end response supports procurement, shipping, in-country delivery and health systems strengthening in more than 130 countries.

3. UNICEF is one of the lead procurement, delivery and implementation agencies across the ACT-A partnership.

4. In 2022, UNICEF is calling on both the private and public sectors for a total of $4.8 billion, to support its efforts related to access to COVID-19 tools.

5. Now is the time to invest. Your contribution now helps us to strengthen systems and to coordinate a timely and effective response.

ACT-A - How it works

UNICEF’s COVID-19 response contributes to the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A), a global collaboration bringing together governments, scientists, businesses, civil society, philanthropists and global health organizations. ACT-A will contribute to accelerating progress towards global targets in low- and middle-income countries and key upper middle-income countries, including vaccination goals towards 70 percent coverage by September 2022; treatment of 120 million new cases of COVID-19 and personal protective equipment for 2.7 million health workers. For 2022, collectively the ACT-A partners are seeking US$23.4 billion for this response. UNICEF’s role to support ACT-A requires $4.8 billion.
Key challenges

1. Insufficient access to vaccination
   As of 17 January 2022, only 9.4 per cent of people in low-income countries were fully vaccinated against COVID-19, compared with 71.2 per cent of people in high-income countries. Certain high-risk, hard-to-reach groups, including humanitarian populations, face particular challenges in accessing vaccination.

2. Insufficient capacity and lack of long-term efforts for risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)
   Many countries require additional support to work alongside their communities to generate behavioural evidence to address misinformation and build trust in vaccines. Ensuring the most marginalized – including women, adolescents, refugees, internally displaced populations and other vulnerable people – are reached with evidence-driven and behaviour-focused community engagement is important for maintaining public trust in vaccination. It also leads to improved uptake of both vaccines and other behaviours, such as mask use, hand washing and seeking health care as needed.

3. Insufficient access to diagnostic tools
   The identification of the new, highly mutated variants underlines just how perilous and precarious the situation is. There are acute gaps around the world in COVID-19 testing.

4. Insufficient access to treatments
   One of the best treatments available to save the lives of patients with critical and severe COVID-19 is oxygen therapy, but many countries face an oxygen supply gap. Further, it is critical to ensure that low- and middle-income countries with demand for novel treatments for COVID-19 gain timely access to these products as they become available.

5. Insufficient access to quality PPE
   Access to quality-assured PPE for essential health care workers is crucial for enabling them to safely deliver care and to protect themselves. Health workers in low- and middle-income countries do not always have the PPE they need when testing, treating and vaccinating patients.

6. Poor infection prevention and control in primary health-care centres
   Transmission of viruses such as COVID-19 continues to highlight deficiencies in infection prevention and control in health facilities worldwide. To work safely, health workers must have basic water, sanitation and hygiene facilities at health centres, in addition to PPE.

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UNICEF’s end-to-end response

UNICEF’s work with its global partners towards achieving the ACT-A targets has six interrelated components for which it needs to raise funds to support its global commitment to help to end the pandemic.

• Supply and delivery of vaccines and related ancillaries
  - Supporting countries to deliver vaccines from the tarmac to arms: UNICEF, through its country and field offices, is supporting governments to ensure vaccines can be adequately stored, transported and delivered to all communities and priority populations.
  - Procuring vaccines through complementary channels, including for countries that are self-financing or cost sharing.
  - Providing specialized support for rolling out vaccines in humanitarian and fragile settings.

• Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)
  - Supporting community-led engagement campaigns adapted to local contexts to increase trust and sustainability, and to promote the adoption of COVID-19 tools.
  - Building on local capacities of civil society, community health actors and the social service workforce in community engagement and interpersonal communication.
  - Working with governments and partner organizations to ensure that most vulnerable populations – including migrants, refugees and people with disabilities – are actively engaged and empowered to generate and support local solutions.

• Provision of therapeutics and technical assistance for their delivery and use
  - Procuring novel and repurposed therapeutics, including oral antivirals and monoclonal antibody treatments.
  - Working to expand oxygen systems, through installing oxygen plants, purchasing and distributing oxygen concentrators and other equipment, and training engineers and health staff on diagnosing respiratory illnesses and safely administering oxygen.
  - Working on preparedness of health and other government systems to manage and use these therapies safely and with maximum benefit.

UNICEF’s COVID-19 response contributes to ACT-A’s global collaboration and its broader goals to control the pandemic.

UNICEF’s projected results

Procurement of up to **70 million vaccine doses** for countries that are self-financing or cost sharing, and delivery of approximately **500 million vaccine doses** in the countries with highest need for in-country logistics support and technical assistance

**255 million health workers** in low and middle-income countries protected with quality PPE

Up to **480 million diagnostic tests** procured and delivered in up to 133 low- and middle-income countries

Between **15 and 45 million COVID-19 therapeutics courses** procured and delivered to low- and middle-income countries

**Millions of people** in 133 low- and middle-income countries being reached with COVID-19 messaging, with the expectation that 90 per cent of individuals surveyed report they would get vaccinated once a vaccine is available and recommended

United Arab Emirates
A UNICEF worker helps to organize a shipment of auto-disable syringes from UNICEF’s supply warehouse in Dubai.
• **Provision of diagnostic tools and technical assistance for their delivery and use**
  - Procuring and distributing rapid diagnostic test kits and point of care molecular diagnostics to low- and middle-income countries.
  - Providing technical assistance for distributing and using test kits in low-income countries.
  - Strengthening supply chains to support the delivery, training, use and overall management of diagnostic supplies.

• **Provision of PPE for front-line health care workers**
  - Procuring and delivering quality PPE for essential health-care and other front-line workers.
  - Utilizing pre-positioned PPE stock across its global warehouses for immediate delivery to countries in need.

• **Support to maintain essential health services and strengthen infection prevention and control in primary health-care settings**
  - Improving access to hand-washing and hygiene facilities at primary health centres.
  - Helping install or improve infrastructure in all primary health-care facilities not yet meeting basic standards, including planning, construction and other activities.
  - Maintaining essential health services, with a special focus on promoting integrated service delivery for high-risk and vulnerable populations.
  - Covering costs to operate, maintain and provide hygiene supplies in the facilities.

This phenomenal effort will protect and save lives of front-line workers, vulnerable groups, parents and community members, and help ensure that the children in these countries both survive and thrive to fulfil their potential.

The efforts already underway are at a scale and speed never seen prior to this pandemic, and UNICEF’s role is critical. This is in addition to UNICEF’s day-to-day work on emergencies, primary health-care services, routine immunization, water and sanitation, education, child protection, provision of essential supplies and more. The pandemic is already estimated to have lost children a decade in progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), so retaining the commitment to children is more important than ever before.

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A health worker displays a COVID-19 rapid test at the community awareness events organized with UNICEF support.
How the private and public sectors can invest

UNICEF is calling upon donors from the private and public sectors – philanthropists, corporations, foundations, governments, and bilateral and multilateral development partners – to contribute to UNICEF for the ACT-A and COVAX response. UNICEF will distribute the funding to where it is needed – a long-standing practice that has delivered the greatest results for children and their communities for the past 75 years.

The options for investment provide unique opportunities for potential private-sector and public-sector donors and investors, based on critical needs.

Funding by UNICEF’s response components

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Total Global Need</th>
<th>Funding Opportunity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Therapeutics</td>
<td>US$1,030</td>
<td>US$510</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vaccination</td>
<td>US$1,175</td>
<td>US$2,465</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diagnostics</td>
<td>US$1,605</td>
<td>US$1,404</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintaining essential health services/IPC</td>
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<tr>
<td>RCCE</td>
<td>US$200</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Resources Emergency (ORE)</td>
<td></td>
<td>US$933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total global need</td>
<td>US$4.8 billion</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The ACT-A Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal

Contributions through this appeal will be critical to ensuring that the most vulnerable populations, particularly in humanitarian settings, are reached with COVID-19 tools, and that progress towards global ACT-A targets is accelerated. This funding will be directed to Other Resources Emergency (ORE). Target: US$933 million.

Rwanda

In January 2022, the billionth dose of COVID-19 vaccine supplied via COVAX was delivered to Rwanda.
Supplies Financing Facility

UNICEF’s Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator Supplies Financing Facility (ACT-A SFF) will directly assist efforts to secure equitable access to the necessary COVID-19 supplies and health products, bringing low- and middle-income countries closer to accessing their needed tests, treatment courses and doses of vaccines. Given the unique procurement mechanism of SFF, these contributions make an enormous difference to populations around the world. This funding will be directed to the SFF trust fund managed by UNICEF Supply Division. Target: US$2.465 billion.

Health sector support

UNICEF will support countries to roll out COVID-19 tools through national health-care systems. Our priorities will be to: maintain essential health services, including for diagnosis, care and treatment of respiratory illnesses, with a special focus on high-risk populations; promote integrated service delivery, including to boost vaccine uptake, testing and care seeking; engage communities through multiple platforms for RCCE; strengthen community health, data, digital health solutions, supply chains, quality of care and management capacity to support primary health care; provide infection prevention and control supplies such as soap, hand sanitizer and cleaning materials for primary health-care centres; and ensure that water, sanitation and waste management infrastructure are in place and operational. Through provision of quality PPE, UNICEF will help to ensure the safety of health and other front-line workers. This funding will be directed to Other Resources (OR). Target: US$1.404 billion.

For more information, contact
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Private Fundraising and Partnerships Division (PFP)
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