Making history together

UNICEF’S ROLE IN ACCELERATING EQUITABLE ACCESS TO COVID-19 TOOLS

An investment opportunity for the private and public sectors
In Darchula District in Nepal’s remote far-west, Birma Devi Kunwar takes Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccines – donated by the US Government to Nepal through the COVAX Facility – from the district vaccine store to the Pipalchauri Health Post where she works as a support staff.
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. We can ensure that the world is an even better and more equitable place for children and their communities than it was before the pandemic. UNICEF has spent 75 years confronting crises to make childhoods brighter. We have made history before and – together with you – we can make history again.

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.

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. 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.

With the global pandemic far from over, timing is critical – our collective actions this year will help end this pandemic and set us on the path to recovery and building back better. To be part of this historic moment, **now is the time to invest.**

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.
The ACT-A response – what it is and who is involved

UNICEF is one of the co-convening partners of the ACT-Accelerator, along with the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI); FIND; Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance; The Global Fund; Unitaid, the Wellcome Trust; the World Health Organization (WHO); the World Bank; and The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. UNICEF’s expertise is being used across all four ACT-A pillars: 1) vaccines, 2) diagnostics, 3) treatments, and 4) the health systems and response connector.

COVAX, the vaccine pillar of ACT-A, is co-convened by CEPI, Gavi, UNICEF and the WHO. They are collectively responsible for sourcing, approving, procuring and distributing COVID-19 vaccines to participating low- and middle-income countries. UNICEF is the procurement coordinator for COVAX, as well as lead procurement agency, in collaboration with PAHO. The COVAX Facility raises funds for purchasing the vaccines for AMC 92 countries \(^1\) while self-financing participants need to pay for their supply of vaccines. This is the world’s largest and fastest ever supply and procurement of vaccines. UNICEF is also working to secure access to safe injection equipment and cold-chain equipment, and UNICEF country offices are supporting governments across the globe to deliver vaccines from the tarmac into people’s arms.

However, this effort is about more than vaccination. UNICEF plays an end-to-end role in procuring, shipping and helping countries to prepare for and roll out COVID-19 tests, treatments and PPE, through its programmes around the world. Critically, UNICEF’s community engagement and communication teams have been working with governments and partners to ensure that evidence-based and people-centred approaches are used to engage with communities to increase vaccine confidence and uptake and other preventive behaviours including development, testing and dissemination of public health messages about COVID-19.

Efforts are also continuing to ensure that primary health-care centres have adequate infection prevention and control to keep health workers and communities safe.

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\(^1\) The 92 low- and middle-income economies eligible for access to COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC).
Three opportunities enable UNICEF to meet its commitments:

**Humanitarian Action for Children**

The 2022 ACT-A Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal seeks to scale up the in-country delivery of COVID-19 vaccines, including in humanitarian settings; and to increase adoption of, and trust in, vaccines and other COVID-19 tools in low- and middle-income countries. Target: **US$933 million**.

**Supplies Financing Facility**

UNICEF’s Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator Supplies Financing Facility (ACT-A SFF) is a UNICEF-housed fund that has been established to receive funds dedicated to support low- and middle-income countries to access, purchase, and receive key COVID-19 supplies via UNICEF Procurement Services. Target: **US$2.465 billion**.

**Health sector support**

Providing additional health sector support to end the pandemic and drive a more effective response that helps build stronger, more resilient health care system. Target: **US$1.404 billion**.

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Table: UNICEF needs mapped against 2021–2022 ACT-A Strategy and Budget (US$ million, as of 25 January)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACT-A Pillar</th>
<th>UNICEF’s needs</th>
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The context

The COVID-19 pandemic threatens decades of hard-won gains to improve human progress across communities and has highlighted deep inequalities that existed before it began. The unprecedented loss of lives and livelihoods, challenges to the world’s health systems, disruptions to schooling, and increase in violence in the home affect everyone – children and adults alike – as countries have at times enforced strict regulations to limit the spread of the virus. The knock-on effect on families and households has been devastating, and health, education and social services have been curtailed as waves of COVID-19 affect different parts of the world.

The COVID-19 pandemic is an unprecedented crisis on an unprecedented scale. As of 6 January 2022, there have been 296.5 million confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 5.5 million confirmed deaths reported globally. Yet, these figures under-report the devastation, especially in low- and middle-income countries, where data availability, surveillance and testing capacity are limited. Moreover, new variants have emerged, which pose further risks to the gains made so far in the fight against the pandemic.

In fragile and humanitarian contexts, the situation is even worse and populations in need are still not being reached effectively. This inequality is not only unjust, but also prolonging the pandemic for everyone, as new variants emerge in settings where vaccine coverage is low and COVID-19 infections continue to spread unchecked. Urgent attention is needed to ensure that people affected by humanitarian crises and other marginalized and vulnerable populations have access to COVID-19 tools: vaccines, tests, treatments and PPE.

Many governments in low- and middle-income countries are struggling to implement public health and social measures to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. Further, they often lack sufficient capacity to deliver new COVID-19 tools through existing health systems at scale. Disruptions to essential health services, such as childhood immunizations, remain significant. Meanwhile, globally, 131 million students in pre-primary to upper secondary education in 11 countries fully missed at least three quarters of classroom instruction time from March 2020 to September 2021. The COVID-19 crisis is exacerbating the vulnerabilities of children and families everywhere, reversing the gains made for child rights – and fuelling inequalities.

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In January 2022, the billionth dose of COVID-19 vaccine supplied via COVAX was delivered to Rwanda.
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
• Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)
• Provision of therapeutics and technical assistance for their delivery and use
• Provision of diagnostic tools and technical assistance for their delivery and use
• Provision of PPE for front-line health care workers
• Maintaining essential health services and strengthening infection prevention and control in primary health-care settings

This phenomenal effort will protect and save lives of front-line workers, vulnerable groups, parents and community members in low- and middle-income countries, 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 by helping bring this pandemic under control is more important than ever before.

The world stands at a crossroads. We must decide to either protect and expand the gains made for child rights over years, or suffer the consequences of reversed progress and a lost decade for today’s children and young people, which will be felt by all of us, everywhere.

133 countries that are low- and middle-income will be supported by UNICEF with vaccinations

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. This work includes providing advice on vaccination strategies, budgeting and financing, training of health-care workers, procuring and installing cold chains, and strengthening transportation networks. A key priority for UNICEF is to engage communities through evidence-driven risk communication and community engagement efforts that focus on behaviour and uptake of COVID-19 vaccination. Addressing vaccine hesitancy requires evidence generation, social listening, promoting healthy behaviours and capacity building and the tackling of mis- and disinformation, including on social media.

- **Procuring vaccines through complementary channels:** UNICEF’s Supplies Financing Facility (SFF) intends to support the procurement and delivery of 50 million to 100 million doses of vaccines to low- and middle-income countries, including those that are self-financing or cost sharing.

- **Providing specialized support in humanitarian and fragile settings:** As a humanitarian agency, UNICEF’s well-established emergency response capacity allows for rapid deployment of additional technical and financial support to countries experiencing emergencies or other critical situations. Support for rolling out COVID-19 vaccines in humanitarian and fragile settings – and reaching the hardest to reach – will be critical for achieving equity. UNICEF’s ACT-A HAC is being used as the funding channel for the Inter Agency Standing Committee Humanitarian Buffer initiative.

**Uganda**

Vaccines from COVAX arrived in Uganda on 5 March 2021, with vaccinations starting just a few days later. By 17 June, 1,039,200 COVAX vaccines had been delivered to Uganda – and by the end of June, almost 900,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses had been administered to people. The challenge of getting vaccines to people in some of the most remote parts of the country, such as Bwama in Kabale District, delayed the start of the vaccine roll-out in these areas. Bwama Health Centre III is located on Bwama Island on Lake Bunyonyi and can only be accessed by boat. UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health by providing fuel for the boats to enable the launch of vaccinations on the island on 28 April 2021.
Risk communication and community engagement have played a vital role in slowing down transmission and mitigating the impact of the pandemic. As people’s behaviours and their willingness to adhere to public health and social measures continue to be the most effective way to limit the spread of the virus and its variants, this is a core component of the pandemic response.

UNICEF is supporting community-led engagement campaigns adapted to local contexts to increase trust and sustainability, and to promote the adoption of COVID-19 tools. UNICEF is building on local capacities of civil society, community health actors and the social service workforce in community engagement and interpersonal communication. UNICEF works with governments and partner organizations to ensure that responses to community and population needs are socially, culturally and context appropriate and that the most vulnerable populations – including migrants, refugees and people with disabilities – are actively engaged and empowered to generate and support local solutions.

Syrian Arab Republic
Ten years of conflict in Syria have left half of the country’s health facilities either completely or partially non-operational, jeopardizing children’s and families’ access to essential health care and putting pressure on the remaining functional facilities. The spread of COVID-19 has multiplied the load on the already burdened health sector, posing additional risks to the lives of people. Parallel to distributing the COVID-19 vaccine, UNICEF, in partnership with WHO and the Department of Health, is supporting COVID-19 vaccine demand generation through a risk communication and community engagement campaign. In Al-Hol camp – currently home to 60,000 displaced people – in north-east Syria, the first part of the RCCE campaign took place at the beginning of June 2021 and engaged community and influential leaders as well as health workers, including vaccinators, to collect information and receive their feedback regarding community concerns over the vaccine. The engagement aimed at identifying any misinformation and misconceptions people in the camp had about vaccine safety to better address them through awareness raising and accurate information sharing.
Provision and delivery of therapeutics

- Procuring novel and repurposed therapeutics, including oral antivirals and monoclonal antibody treatments: UNICEF is working with industry and partners to secure early access to COVID-19 therapeutics for low- and middle-income countries. Through the Supplies Financing Facility (SFF), UNICEF supports the procurement and deployment of repurposed and novel therapeutics and is working to ensure countries can have timely access to affordable and quality assured therapeutics.

- Accessing oxygen therapy: UNICEF has worked to expand oxygen systems during the pandemic, 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, to ensure long-term solutions. UNICEF procures oxygen equipment, and provides technical expertise in oxygen therapy and planning with governments to use the equipment effectively. Oxygen is also an essential treatment for a range of other conditions, including in sick newborn care, paediatric care, surgery and emergency care. Any investments made in oxygen systems as part of the COVID-19 pandemic response can strengthen health systems and improve health outcomes in the long term, and have a significant impact on child survival.

- Supporting country preparedness. As part of its efforts to support country preparedness, UNICEF works to ensure that national health systems and partners are prepared to manage and use these therapies safely and with maximum benefit.

Sierra Leone

When the pandemic first hit Sierra Leone, the country quickly ordered oxygen concentrators to prepare for a surge of COVID-19 cases. In parallel, UNICEF looked for more sustainable solutions to ramp up the country’s oxygen supply. In the town of Bo an oxygen plant was identified, but it was not yet installed. UNICEF deployed a biomedical engineer to transfer the equipment to the ‘34 Military Hospital’ in Freetown (a COVID-19 treatment hospital) and got it up and running. UNICEF is now installing three Pressure Swing Absorption oxygen plants across the country. This approach provides a sustainable supply of oxygen for Sierra Leone, not only as a response to COVID-19, but also for essential newborn care, maternal care and the management of childhood pneumonia.
Provision and delivery of diagnostic tools

To identify those who have COVID-19 and refer them for appropriate treatment, and to keep track of new variants, UNICEF is:

- **Procuring and distributing rapid diagnostic test kits** and point of care molecular diagnostics to low- and middle-income countries. Rapid diagnostic test kits are available, and point-of-care molecular diagnostics are available at $15 per test, with a promising prospect that investments in market-shaping efforts will drive prices down.

- **Providing technical assistance for distributing and using test kits in low-income countries**: UNICEF’s regional and in-country teams will provide hands-on support for the roll-out and rapid scale-up of novel testing technologies through expertise and engaging local technical partners.

- **Strengthening supply chains**: UNICEF uses its technical experts in supply chain, health and innovation to support the delivery, training, use and overall management of diagnostic supplies.
Provision of personal protective equipment

Delivering quality personal protective equipment: UNICEF is procuring and delivering quality PPE for essential health-care and other front-line workers in low- and middle-income countries. UNICEF has PPE stock pre-positioned across its global warehouses ready for immediate delivery to countries in need.

Yemen
Ahmed receives a COVID-19 vaccine provided through the COVAX Facility by a health professional wearing PPE at a UNICEF-supported health centre.
Support to maintain essential health-care services and to strengthen infection prevention and control in primary health-care settings

UNICEF is supporting national governments to maintain essential health services, promote integrated service delivery and engage communities to deliver COVID-19 tools and other services, with a special focus on high-risk populations. UNICEF is contributing to infection prevention and control by improving access to hand-washing and hygiene facilities at primary health centres. This requires water, sanitation and waste management services to be available to prevent or reduce the risk of infectious disease transmission to health-care workers, clients, patients and visitors. To do this, UNICEF is helping governments, partners and communities to install or improve infrastructure in all primary health-care facilities not yet meeting basic standards, including planning, construction and other activities. The support also covers costs of capacity building for risk communication activities in support of IPC objectives.

Combined, the six components that UNICEF is working on of ACT-A and the complementary health response require US$4.8 billion in investment.

Note: These costs reflect UNICEF’s distinct work and funding needs within the wider ACT-A and COVAX initiatives – as well as to complement these initiatives and in coordination with other partners’ efforts.

India
An oxygen concentrator procured through the ACT-A Supplies Financing Facility (SFF) is used to treat a child with complaints of breathing distress.
Projected results

The positive results that can be achieved with your investment at this critical stage are staggering. You can contribute to ensuring that families in 133 countries receive the COVID-19 vaccine and have access to needed tests, treatment, PPE, IPC and community readiness, regardless of where they live. This includes:

Overarching all of this is UNICEF’s global technical expertise. UNICEF is engaging in this massive effort with its trained staff around the world – in high-income countries and low- to middle-income countries across all regions and all continents. UNICEF experts in vaccines, supply chain, primary health care and community engagement are undertaking this extraordinary mission. Please see the indicative results below for each varying levels of investment.

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.

Projected ACT-A results

- Support countries’ national vaccination goals towards 70 per cent coverage.
- Save 120 million lives and protect 2.7 million health workers by closing gaps in equitable access to new and existing COVID-19 treatments, including medical oxygen, and PPE.
- Advance testing rates in countries to a minimum of 100 tests per 100,000 inhabitants per day.

Cambodia
Chea, a midwife in Cambodia, receives her COVID-19 vaccine booster. The dose she received was delivered in partnership with UNICEF.
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. Flexible funds are needed right now as UNICEF teams around the globe, in some of the harshest environments, continue to deliver comprehensively across all six components: vaccines, risk communication, diagnostics, therapeutics, PPE, and IPC. To date, UNICEF has had a very strong response from donors and partners around the world as part of the ACT-A/COVAX framework and beyond. But the need is still great, and your investment can make a substantial difference to assist in the roll-out of this once-in-a-lifetime campaign. Please join us.

UNICEF has three modalities to enable your investment.

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

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

Giving to the ACT-A HAC will help to ensure efficient and timely support for the last-mile delivery of COVID-19 vaccines, tests and treatments to those in need, and PPE to protect health workers. Contributions through this appeal will be critical to ensuring that the most vulnerable populations, particularly in humanitarian settings are reached with COVID-19 tools. Donors to the ACT-A HAC receive updates and an annual Consolidated Emergency Report on the ACT-A/COVAX response.

The investment approach that has achieved the greatest results over time is to contribute flexible funds. This means that UNICEF will distribute the funding to where it is most needed – a long-standing practice that has delivered the greatest results for children and their communities for the past 75 years. This funding will be directed to Other Resources Emergency (ORE). Target: US$933 million.
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 systems by removing critical bottlenecks. Our priorities will be to: maintain essential health-care 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.

Venezuela

Children meet fun characters as part of an event to promote handwashing. These activities are a key component of UNICEF’s COVID-19 infection prevention and control work to ensure people are practicing good habits to limit the spread of the virus.
Why partner with UNICEF?

UNICEF achieves the greatest impact: UNICEF’s priority is to ensure that approved and needed COVID-19 solutions are equitably made available in low- and middle-income countries. By the end of January 2022, UNICEF had delivered over 988 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines, 958 million syringes and 10.2 million safety boxes, 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 programming is designed for long-term solutions: UNICEF works with its partners to provide much-needed urgent support that also develops local capacity for transition from humanitarian action to regular service delivery.

UNICEF works at scale: Given UNICEF’s presence in 190 countries and territories, UNICEF is uniquely placed to take best practices to national, regional and global scale. UNICEF operates the largest humanitarian warehouse globally and is the world’s largest procurer of vaccines.

UNICEF leads and pioneers: Responding effectively to the COVID-19 pandemic requires UNICEF to continually pioneer new solutions that work in complex situations. Collaborating with key partners, UNICEF is working to support early access to innovative treatments for COVID-19. UNICEF is utilizing its expertise of working with communities to increase trust and sustainability, and to promote the adoption of COVID-19 tools.

UNICEF has procurement expertise: Making essential quality-assured supplies available, accessible and affordable is core to UNICEF’s mandate. UNICEF is the largest vaccine procurer in the world and annually manages the procurement and delivery of over 2 billion doses of routine immunization vaccines. UNICEF’s unparalleled expertise includes the coordination of thousands of shipments with various cold chain requirements, making UNICEF the leader in supply chain management of biological and temperature-controlled products – know-how that is especially needed during this historic undertaking.

Given UNICEF’s presence in 190 countries and territories, UNICEF is uniquely placed to take best practices to national, regional and global scale. UNICEF operates the largest humanitarian warehouse globally and is the world’s largest procurer of vaccines.

UNICEF is there before, during and after emergencies: UNICEF’s response to COVID-19 demonstrated its crucial role in the face of the pandemic. The response prioritizes the most vulnerable populations, particularly in humanitarian settings and low- and middle-income countries.
Ghana

Six-month-old Nyameba receives life-saving oxygen treatment for pneumonia at a children’s emergency ward. Strengthening oxygen treatments in response to COVID-19 will yield long-term benefits for children, as the systems and supplies can also be used to treat diseases such as pneumonia as well as complications due to premature birth.