

Current major event

COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) Facility

COVAX is an unprecedented global effort, co-led by Gavi, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and WHO. Its aim is to accelerate the development and manufacture of COVID-19 vaccines, and to guarantee each country in the world has equitable access to it as quickly as possible. The goal is to reduce the impact of the pandemic on people's lives and economies.

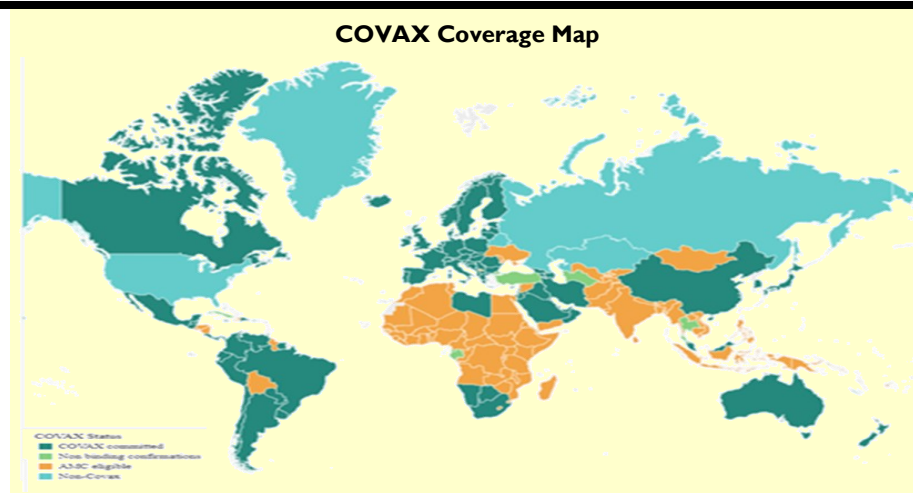
Editorial note

COVAX, the vaccines pillar of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, is co-led by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and the World Health Organization (WHO) – working in partnership with developed and developing country vaccine manufacturers. It is the only global initiative that is working with governments and manufacturers to ensure COVID-19 vaccines are available worldwide to both higher-income, middle-income and lower-income countries.

In order to be able to secure enough doses of vaccines to protect the most vulnerable populations, such as health workers and the elderly, the next step for the partnership was to confirm potential self-financing participants' intent to participate by 31 August 2020 and to turn these into binding commitments to join the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility (COVAX Facility) by 18 September, with first upfront payments to follow thereafter, and no later than 9 October 2020.

The COVAX Facility is a Gavi-coordinated pooled procurement mechanism for new COVID-19 vaccines, through which COVAX will ensure fair and equitable access to vaccines for each participating economy, using an allocation framework currently being formulated by WHO. The COVAX Facility will do this by pooling buying power from participating economies and providing volume guarantees across a range of promising vaccine candidates, allowing those vaccine manufacturers whose expertise is essential to large scale production of the new vaccines, to make early, at-risk investments in manufacturing capacity – providing participating countries and economies with the best chance at rapid access to doses of a successful COVID-19 vaccine.

CEPI is leading COVAX vaccine research and development work, which aims to develop three safe and effective vaccines which can be made available to countries participating in the COVAX Facility. Nine candidate vaccines are currently being



List of CEPI-supported candidate vaccines

Inovio, United States of America (Phase I/II)

Moderna, United States of America (Phase III)

CureVac, Germany (Phase I)

Institut Pasteur/Merck/Themis, France/ United States of America /Austria (Preclinical)

AstraZeneca/University of Oxford, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Phase III)

University of Hong Kong, China (Preclinical)

Novavax, United States of America (Phase I/II)

Clover Biopharmaceuticals, China (Phase I)

University of Queensland/CSL, Australia (Phase I)

supported by CEPI (*see the box*). Governments, vaccine manufacturers (in addition to their own R&D), organizations and individuals have committed US\$ 1.4 billion towards vaccine R&D so far, but an additional US\$1 billion is urgently needed to continue to move the portfolio forward

COVAX announced agreements in place to access nearly two billion doses of vaccine candidates, and laid the groundwork for further doses to be secured through contributions from donors.

These agreements mean that all COVAX's 190 participating countries and eligible economies will be able to access doses to protect vulnerable groups in the first half of 2021. At least 1.3 billion donor-funded doses will be made available to 92 countries eligible for the Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC), targeting up to 20% population coverage by the end of the year (*see the map*).

Once any of the COVAX portfolio vaccines have successfully undergone clinical trials and proved themselves to be both safe and effective, and have received regulatory approval, available doses will be allocated to all participating countries at the same rate, proportional to their total population size.

Update on outbreaks

in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

COVID-19 in 22 EMR countries;

Current public health events of concern

[cumulative N° of cases (deaths), CFR %]

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19): 2019-2020

Afghanistan	[44 706 (1687), 3.8%]
Bahrain	[85 591 (338), 0.4%]
Djibouti	[5661 (61), 1.1%]
Egypt	[112 676 (6535), 5.8%]
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	[841 308 (44 327), 5.3%]
Iraq	[533 555 (11 925), 2.2%]
Jordan	[178 161 (2172), 1.2%]
Kuwait	[139 734 (863), 0.6%]
Lebanon	[115 242 (894), 0.8%]
Libya	[77 823 (1089), 1.4%]
Morocco	[320 962 (5256), 1.6%]
occupied Palestinian territory (oPt)	[82 780 (698), 0.8%]
Oman	[121 360 (1365), 1.1%]
Pakistan	[374 173 (7662), 2%]
Qatar	[137 062 (235), 0.2%]
Saudi Arabia	[355 034 (5761), 1.6%]
Somalia	[4382 (108), 2.5%]
Sudan	[16 187 (1199), 7.4%]
Syrian Arab Republic	[7154 (372), 5.2%]
Tunisia	[88 711 (2821), 3.2%]
United Arab Emirates	[157 785 (548), 0.3%]
Yemen	[2073 (605), 29.2%]