

Annex A: Implications/Anticipated impact

- **Risk implication and mitigation, including information on the risks of inaction**

Any risk of the existence of the Humanitarian Buffer creating a perverse incentive for countries to not include Humanitarian Buffer target populations in their NDVPs is mitigated by: strong, coordinated and proactive advocacy at country, regional and global levels to mitigate the risk of high-risk groups being missed in relevant contexts; clear Humanitarian Buffer application criteria asking countries to demonstrate why target populations have not been included in national vaccination plans, and limited COVAX Buffer dose availability.

Inaction on the Humanitarian Buffer would lead to millions of high-risk individuals likely not receiving any COVID-19 vaccine in the foreseeable future.

The Humanitarian Buffer will fit within the overarching risk assessment and framework that was shared with the Board in December. Specific risks will be assessed and mitigated to the extent possible. It may also be needed to accept some risks, including fiduciary risks or the challenges of reaching target populations, as required by emergency needs.

- **Impact on countries**

The Humanitarian Buffer supports efforts to ensure global equitable access to all population groups by providing the possibility for countries to access additional COVID-19 vaccines for high-risk groups in humanitarian settings.

- **Impact on Alliance**

The Humanitarian Buffer has been co-designed with WHO with inputs from the broader humanitarian community and leverages Alliance expertise and resources.

The Humanitarian Buffer also supports the Alliance's objective to respond to gender inequities. Access to health services for vulnerable populations is often restricted, and disproportionately so for women and adolescent girls who face additional barriers to safely accessing healthcare

Lack of female representation in health leadership means that at the country level, COVID-19 responses have been developed largely based on a male perspective. The lack of women's voice and expertise in the COVID19 response has resulted in non-inclusive programmes that do not meet the needs of the full community, both in terms of planning and delivery. In addition, humanitarian settings bring additional challenges for women and girls, with these groups often being disproportionately represented in at-risk populations as well as facing higher risks (e.g. gender-based violence). These challenges strengthen the need for the Humanitarian Buffer as a responsive programme

- **Legal and governance implications**

Existing bodies will be leveraged as decision-making bodies for the Humanitarian Buffer, ultimate responsibility for oversight will lie with the Gavi Board, per COVAX arrangements.

As far as possible, Humanitarian Buffer use will leverage existing legal frameworks applicable to the AMC92, relating to indemnity & liability and No-Fault Compensation. Contracting humanitarian agencies may require a more bespoke approach.