

COVAX Buffer for high-risk groups in humanitarian settings

BOARD MEETING

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In December 2020, the Gavi Board approved the creation of the COVAX Buffer

Board decision in December

Up to 5% of COVAX Facility doses as a **revolving Buffer of 'last resort'** for:

1. High-risk populations in **humanitarian settings**
2. **Contingency provision** to meet public health needs

Six organising principles

Equitable access	Targeted deployment	Alignment to COVAX principles
Contextual parity	Measure of last resort	Adherence to humanitarian principles

Progress since December

- **Advanced the design** of the Humanitarian Buffer with partners
- **PPC review** and input on the proposals over 2 sessions
- **Resolution by the UNSC** for ceasefires in conflict zones to allow the delivery of vaccines
- **Deferment of the Contingency Provision** until all COVAX Facility participants have been allocated a minimum of doses

Scope of the Humanitarian Buffer

Eligible Applicants

- **All COVAX Facility participants** (SFPs and AMC)
- **Humanitarian Agencies** with access to target population and demonstrated competence

Target populations

- **At-risk populations in humanitarian settings**
- Target populations as defined in the **Global Humanitarian Overview**
- Prioritised according to the **SAGE Roadmap**

First resort

National plans cover all high-risk groups



If unavoidable gaps, applicants to demonstrate:

- *why target populations not included in NDVPs*
- *that target populations are 'new' or 'uncounted'*

Last resort

Humanitarian Buffer doses

Principle to align Humanitarian Buffer related dose and delivery costs to other support through COVAX

	Funding request	Eligibility for funds
Doses 	Up to 5% of total AMC funds to fund doses (\$350M under current projections in 2021)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ AMC applicants✓ Humanitarian Agencies deploying in AMC <p><i>On an exceptional basis:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Self-Financing Participants for AMC-originating populations• Humanitarian Agencies in Self-Financing or non-COVAX countries and territories
Delivery 	Up to 5% (\$7.5M) of the \$150M approved for AMC delivery costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Only covered on an exceptional basis

Decision-making to be delegated to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)



Decision-making body under IASC auspices

1. **Reviews, prioritises** and **approves** relevant applications
2. **Documents decisions** for the Office of the COVAX Facility to implement
3. Supports the **collection of monitoring data** and reflects '**lessons learnt**' in its practices
4. Provides regular **updates** to the **Gavi Board**

Supported by the **Joint Allocation Taskforce (JAT)** which ensures a synergistic approach that can draw on information from the COVAX Facility

Recommendations (1/2)

The Gavi Alliance Programme and Policy Committee recommends to the Gavi Alliance Board that it:

- a) **Note** the scope of the Humanitarian Buffer as outlined in Annex B to Doc 03 and **approve** reserving 5% of COVAX AMC funding for doses to be deployed via the COVAX Buffer, **noting** that this will be progressively financed as AMC funding increases. The funds reserved for the Buffer will be reviewed at such a time that the Facility is terminated with a presumption that unused funds will be released to the Gavi COVAX AMC
- b) **Approve** amending the decision approved by the Board in December 2020 to read as follows: “Approved US\$ 150 million to provide exceptional support, if required and on a case-by-case basis, to AMC92 participants, and in cases of support for the delivery of humanitarian buffer doses to also include Self Financing Participants and humanitarian agencies, to address critical vaccine delivery gaps for which no other funding is available, subject to this funding being mobilised by Gavi”

Recommendation (2/2)

- c) **Approve** that of the US\$ 150 million for delivery costs up to 5% be used to support the deployment of the Humanitarian Buffer
- d) **Approve** delegating decision making on Humanitarian Buffer dose allocation to the Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Emergency Directors Group, which will report back to the Gavi Board on allocation of the Humanitarian Buffer doses and associated AMC funding
- e) **Approve** the Secretariat reporting back to the Programme and Policy Committee and Board by end 2021 on the operation of the Humanitarian Buffer, including against available key performance metrics, the number of requests received and approved and the timeliness of that approval, the number of Humanitarian Buffer doses allocated and delivery support funding. The Secretariat will also report back on activities undertaken to ensure the Humanitarian Buffer is a measure of last resort.

THANK YOU



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