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GAVI, THE VACCINE ALLIANCE

GAVI COVAX AMC

# BREAK COVID NOW

The Gavi COVAX AMC Summit



# 1.2BN

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of COVID-19  
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to AMC-eligible  
economies

**Our world is fragile and unpredictable. More than 6 million deaths from COVID-19 have been reported. The real number is estimated to be three times higher, with the global economy shrinking by US\$ 12.5 trillion, or almost US\$ 700,000 for every life lost so far. Although the latest wave is receding in many countries, it is rising in others. For the first time in two years, securing more vaccine supply is not the primary concern. Restrictions are being lifted in parts of the planet. At the same time a new crisis has unfolded in Ukraine. Global economies, shaken by two years of uncertainty since the beginning of the pandemic, are facing another threat to recovery.**

As history has shown, COVID-19 continues to evolve new variants every four months on average. There are still 1.5 million new cases each week. Whilst on average 40% of the population of lower-income countries which benefit from the COVAX<sup>1</sup> Advance Market Commitment (AMC)<sup>2</sup> are now fully vaccinated, there are significant differences between lower-income and higher-income countries. Large immunity gaps leave populations everywhere vulnerable to new COVID-19 mutations and rapid infection. Whilst demand for vaccination has dropped in some AMC countries, if a new variant appears causing a new wave of disease, demand will likely spike again. This is not the time for the world to become complacent.

**As it has done since the beginning, COVAX is continuing to adapt**

For the first time since the COVAX AMC was established, additional procurement is not a key focus to support countries to reach their national vaccination targets. Production lines are reaching high levels of reliability. Export constraints are removed. More than 1.2 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been delivered through COVAX to AMC-eligible economies – a combination of doses purchased by COVAX using donor

funding provided in 2020 and 2021 and donated doses. With this in place, COVAX can offer higher predictability and a longer-term pipeline to countries.

With supply constraints easing and increasing confidence that vaccines delivered via COVAX and non-COVAX sources over the next six months will be able to meet demand, AMC-eligible economies can finally choose how they will ramp up their COVID-19 response. Select their preferred vaccines. Plan for them months in advance. And rely on COVAX to deliver.

COVAX is responding to this evolving landscape by providing AMC-eligible economies with flexible and adaptable mechanisms that can help them reach their own vaccination targets. The Gavi COVAX AMC Summit is a critical moment to provide countries with additional support.

Firstly, to help countries now by **providing catalytic delivery funding** to boost capacity and get more shots into arms, including through dose donations. And secondly, to help the world prepare for the unknown by structuring the **Pandemic Vaccine Pool as a contingent financial mechanism** funded to respond to new risks and shocks. A mechanism to support AMC-eligible economies if and when a new devastating wave of the pandemic threatens the world, or when science requires a new approach to vaccination.

### **Delivery, Delivery, Delivery**

First and foremost, working through the COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery Partnership (CoVDP)<sup>3</sup>, all efforts are being placed on enhancing country absorptive capacity to administer vaccines. The CoVDP uses political engagement, delivery funding, technical assistance and surge support to help countries address political, operational, and financial constraints holding back vaccination rates. It is focusing on 34 low-coverage countries. Progress is being made, but performance across AMC-eligible economies

remains unequal, with a small but significant number of countries still having vaccinated less than 10% of their population.

Each of the partners in the CoVDP plays a distinct role in building countries' delivery capacity. Gavi's comparative advantage in this partnership is to provide easily accessible short- and medium-term grants in line with country needs that can provide catalytic support to increase vaccination rates. This can happen fast and effectively as our support builds on established programmes in the countries Gavi supports with routine immunisation.

Gavi has set up a COVID-19 vaccine delivery support (CDS) fund as a new and easy-to-access vehicle to distribute our funding. So far in this pandemic, over US\$ 600 million of delivery funding has been disbursed which has supported a comprehensive package of technical assistance; funding for vaccinators and health workers; and support to improve delivery systems. Our funding has helped build cold chain capacity to store 1 billion COVID-19 vaccine doses and introduced the first ultra-cold chain storage for mRNA vaccines in over 50 countries.

Demand for Gavi's tailored delivery support is growing. Our CDS funding is already heavily oversubscribed, with additional requests from AMC-eligible economies expected. Therefore, **Gavi urgently needs at least an extra US\$ 600 million of new funding for in-country delivery** to replenish our CDS and boost absorptive capacities, remove bottlenecks and move from vaccines to vaccination as fast as possible. It will also protect health systems at large and ensure countries are able and ready to catch up with other vaccinations supported by Gavi, that have been delayed because of the pandemic.

Alongside the push to boost in-country delivery capacity, it is also important to ensure that COVAX's dose sharing mechanism is fully funded to get the doses to the countries that need them so it can continue to operate at scale. Dose donations have

played a crucial role so far in helping COVAX balance supply and demand. They will continue to strengthen and diversify our core portfolio in 2022. But in order for this live-saving mechanism to continue at full strength throughout 2022 Gavi **urgently needs at least an additional US\$ 545 million to cover the ancillary costs** that must be paid so donated vaccines are able to be administered by AMC countries upon their arrival. Costs for syringes, shipment, safe-disposal, and membership of the critical No-Fault Compensation Programme need to be covered in advance.

### **Pandemic Vaccine Pool, right sized**

In early January 2022, there were still fears that lower income countries may be short of doses based on the then-available supply and demand estimates. Based on current forecasts, it is now hoped that **demand for COVAX doses from AMC-eligible economies in 2022 can be covered** by our existing advance purchase agreements (APAs) and future expected donations.

But that is simply the latest picture. COVID-19 is continuing to evolve, new mutations will arrive, and the priorities of AMC-eligible economies will change in the future as the epidemiology of the virus develops further. And COVAX needs to be ready to respond. An important lesson from this pandemic is that every new variant starts a race against time. AMC-eligible economies should not have to fight again for a place in the queue to get the new, variant-adapted vaccines that may be needed.

In short, COVAX needs to have the tools in place so it can respond to the next twist and turn of the pandemic, and manage risks that countries can't face alone. Which is why the Summit will see the launch of a new **Pandemic Vaccine Pool, funded by up to US\$ 2.7 billion of cash and contingent pledges**. The pool will be structured so it can be funded by direct cash contributions and attract pledges made through new, innovative, **contingent financing facilities**.



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This will allow the Pool to **react immediately to unforeseen risks or shocks in the COVID-19 pandemic**. Alongside cash, for the first time, contingent pledges will be sought from donors, which will activate upon trigger events – for example the emergence of a dangerous variant where COVAX has to move quickly to activate options for variant-adapted vaccines secured in our deals with vaccine manufacturers; or where emerging evidence requires AMC-eligible economies to source annual booster doses for populations at risk. Countries will also be able to acquire doses from the Pool with backing from multilateral development banks (MDBs). Structured in this way, the Pool will give COVAX the ability to act fast in a crisis to secure access to doses. Our aim is also to work with partners to examine options to devote resources from the pool to support local and regional vaccine manufacturing in Africa.

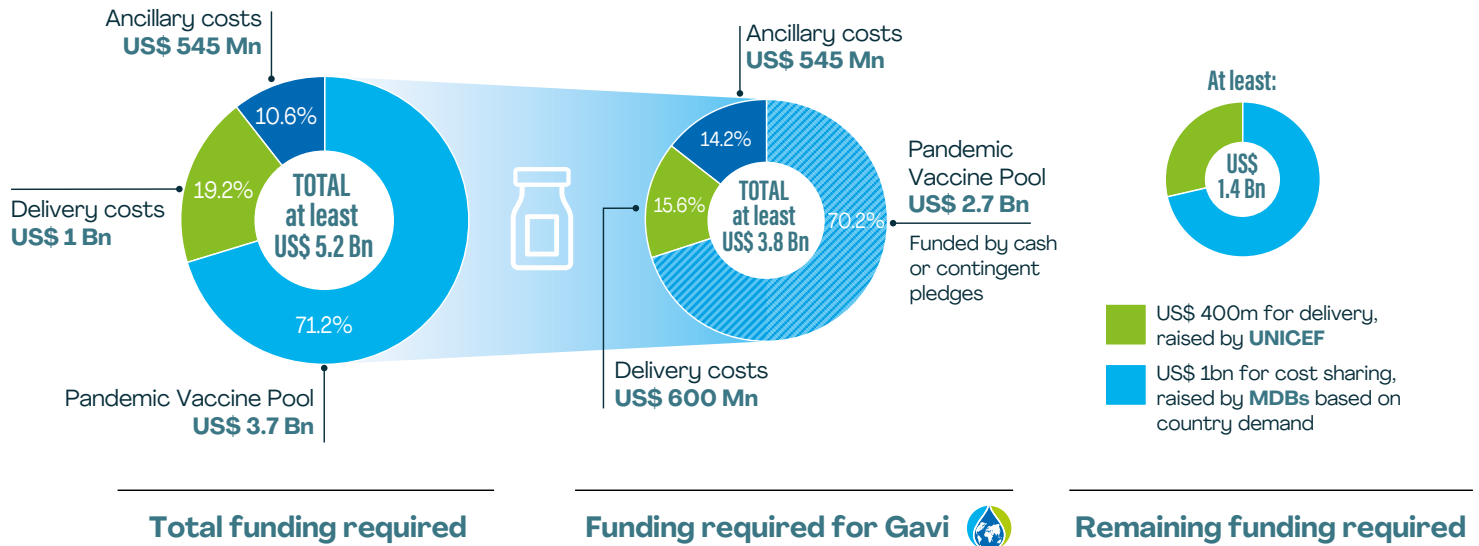
If no such event materialises, the contingent pledges will simply not be triggered. Any unused cash contributions will be folded into Gavi's global immunisation programmes, accelerating progress towards of other immunisation goals.

### **Leveraging new and existing financial instruments to break COVID now**

Recognising the constraints faced by many of our partners in these challenging times, Gavi has built on our existing suite of innovative financial instruments. Ahead of the Gavi COVAX AMC Summit, new partnerships will be announced which will provide donors with more options to make multi-year pledges, to frontload cash and, for the first time, to structure some of those commitments as contingent pledges. More details are set out in our companion piece setting how our partners can take advantage of Gavi's financial instruments to meet the US\$ 5.2 billion ask.



## How the total Investment Opportunity funding ask maps to Gavi



Funding the Gavi COVAX AMC 2022 Investment Opportunity will be the first step in helping AMC countries rebuild from the devastating impacts of the pandemic. If the virus is under control globally, then locally overwhelmed health services will begin to refocus on their core priorities, and economies will rebuild. Investments made in COVAX now are also a down payment to build more protection against health threats in the future – as our work with partners builds more sustainable country delivery capacity, resilient health systems and stable vaccine markets.

**ON 8 APRIL 2022, LET'S COME TOGETHER TO BREAK COVID NOW!**

## ENDNOTES

1. **COVAX** is the vaccines pillar of the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) and is jointly convened by CEPI, Gavi and WHO, working with UNICEF as a key delivery partner. The Gavi-administered **COVAX Facility** is responsible for the procurement of COVID-19 vaccines for more than 190 participating countries in the Facility.
2. The **Gavi COVAX AMC** is a separate funding mechanism within the COVAX Facility that supports the participation of 92 lower-income economies by providing access to donor-funded doses of COVID-19 vaccines.
3. The **COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery Partnership** (CoVDP) brings together UNICEF, WHO, Gavi and other global and regional partners with the aim of accelerating the delivery of COVID-19 vaccines through a 'One Government-led Country Team' approach. Led by Ted Chaiban of UNICEF, the CoVDP reports to a temporary sub-committee of the Gavi Board.



# BREAK COVID NOW

CEPI

