



PLATFORM FOR ACT-A COVAX CIVIL SOCIETY AND COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

COVAX CIVIL SOCIETY AND COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES STATEMENT ON THE COVAX REPLENISHMENT

Nearly two years on from the World Health Organization (WHO) declaring COVID-19 as a global pandemic, stark vaccine inequity continues to define the global response. In **low-income countries, a mere 15% of people have received one or more doses** and 61% of countries are not on track to reach WHO's target of 70% vaccine coverage by mid-2022.

Vaccine nationalism and short-sighted self-interest have meant to date the bulk of vaccine supply has been ordered and supplied by rich countries, with **high-income countries delivering 10x as many doses** as lower-income countries. The failure of the global response to deliver an equitable distribution of vaccines has led to a protracted pandemic – with continued and senseless loss of life, livelihoods and civil freedoms, and the world held hostage by the threat of new variants.

While supply has begun to stabilise, all it takes is one new variant, one fresh wave and rich countries will deploy the same tactics to monopolise supply to the detriment of the most vulnerable. Addressing this means we need dispersed, local production of vaccines so that distribution can be controlled by those that need it most. Intellectual property (IP) needs to be flexibly managed – with IP waivers, non-exclusive voluntary licensing, and active transfer of manufacturing technology and know-how to every entity looking to receive it. We need to build this capacity now, so that we can use it to save lives but also so we can react faster and more effectively for future pandemics.

With the upcoming COVAX AMC summit hosted by Germany on the 8th of April 2022 it is vital that donors, governments, multilaterals, international financing institutions and the private sector step up with support to ensure it succeeds. ACT-A needs US\$48 billion is needed to procure and deliver all the tools needed to fight COVID globally today. Within that, **US\$5.2 billion is URGENTLY needed by COVAX** to ensure they can continue to get vaccine doses where they are needed most.

It is critical to recognise that a significant part of this financing ask is to support in-country delivery, which has emerged as a critical barrier to roll-out. Countries with weaker health systems have been struggling to distribute massive volumes of vaccines – especially when they are forced to rely on the second-hand doses of rich countries, with short expiry dates and little visibility on delivery schedules. Without the financial support we are calling for, all the resources dedicated over the past 2 years to research and development of world-changing vaccines and treatments could in vain. Furthermore, the displacement effect and disruptions associated with delivery of COVID-19 tools in country could risk undermining all the gains made over the last decades across all other health priorities, including general immunisation and HIV/AIDS.

As focus shifts from securing supply to in country delivery, it is critical that national platforms and the COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery Partnership approach of a **ONE PLAN, ONE TEAM, ONE BUDGET** is built on transparency and inclusivity to leverage the strengths of all partners to realise our common goal.

Today's wars and humanitarian crises, including the war in Ukraine and humanitarian crises in Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen and many other countries, demand political attention of the governments. However, we cannot forget that COVID-19 has not disappeared, and these crises overlap to the detriment of global health, economy and security. We need governments to step up, not step away, otherwise trust in global multilateral institutions and groups like the G7 and G20 will be forever undermined. We need to use this pandemic to set a benchmark for how we respond to crises to come, from future pandemics to climate change. We need leadership that is prepared to rise to challenges rather than shrink away from them.