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Covax and global access to Covid-19 vaccines

Summary

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Summary

The development of Covid-19 vaccines offers a potential pathway towards global recovery.

However, the purchasing and administration of vaccines has been dominated by richer economies. As of 7 July 2021, [only 1.0 percent of people in low income countries have had at least one vaccine dose, compared to 48.3 percent in high income states](#). The UK, Canada and the USA are amongst those states who have also secured agreements for vaccine doses [several times their population need](#).

[The Covax initiative](#) was established in April 2020 by the World Health Organization (WHO), Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations. It aims to ensure fair access to Covid-19 vaccines, and to accelerate their production. For 92 low-income economies, Covax intends to [donate sufficient doses](#) to vaccinate around 30 percent of their populations in 2021-2022. Funding for Covax is the [primary support the UK gives to vaccination campaigns](#) overseas.

This briefing sets out how the Covax scheme works, the challenges faced in administering vaccine campaigns in Africa, Asia and the Middle East, and the contributions of the UK and other high and upper-middle income economies to Covax and the distribution of vaccines.

How does Covax work?

The Covax scheme uses funding from donors and self-financing members to support the research, manufacture, and distribution of Covid-19 vaccines. It currently has [agreements to offer eight types of vaccine](#) and to potentially purchase up to [3.6 billion doses](#).

While its paying members, such as Canada, Saudi Arabia and South Africa are required to pay for the vaccines procured via Covax, [eligible low and lower-middle income economies](#) are eligible to receive doses for free. This includes Ethiopia, Nepal, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

To ensure fairness, all states will [first receive doses in proportion to their population](#) until 20 percent of the population are received.

Vaccine procurement and the pandemic in India

In March 2021, the [rollout of Covax vaccines began](#). Despite the goal [to distribute 170 million doses](#) by 31 May, [only 76 million were delivered](#). By 6 July, [100 million doses](#) were delivered.

Delays were due to increased domestic demand and the Indian Government [halting the export of vaccines](#) as the [pandemic worsened](#) in that country. The Indian Serum Institute is one the largest global manufactures of vaccines and was [due to provide 1.1 billion to Covax](#).

Response to vaccine shortfall

India is not expected to [resume exports of vaccines](#) until October 2021. While Covax has secured additional agreements, these will [not result in vaccine deliveries](#) until later in 2021.

The WHO has called upon higher-income countries to [delay child vaccines and share doses](#) with Covax. UNICEF has argued that G7 and EU member states should [share 20 percent of their supply](#) (153 million doses) from June to August to compensate for the shortfall. China, the United Arab Emirates and India [have previously donated vaccines](#) to other states.

Several countries including the USA and UK have now pledged to share doses, primarily via Covax. In June 2021, G7 members [pledged to share 1 billion doses by June 2022](#), half of which will come from the United States. It includes [870 million via Covax](#), of which half will be delivered by the end of 2021.

This includes a UK commitment to donate [100 million doses](#) by June 2022, including 5 million by the end of September 2021. 80 percent will be [distributed via Covax](#). Since April 2020, [the UK has committed £548 million to the Covax scheme](#) (this does not include the value of the donated doses).

While the WHO has welcomed the G7's pledge, its Director Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has said the [doses are needed "now" rather than next year](#), and reported that currently the virus "is moving faster the global distribution of vaccines."

To June 2021, \$9.7 billion [has been pledged globally to Covax](#). This will support the securing of an additional 1.8 billion doses for lower-income economies and enable Covax to vaccinate a total of 30 percent of their populations.

The WHO has called upon states to ensure that by September 2021, [10 percent of the population of every country](#) is vaccinated, and 30 percent by December.

1 The pandemic

1.1 Impact

Unless otherwise stated, all data covers the period to 9 July 2021

Since January 2020, globally there have been over 184 million confirmed cases of Covid-19 and 4 million deaths.¹ World Health Organization (WHO) experts estimate total deaths could be as high as 6 to 8 million, if those due to indirect factors such as reduced hospital capacity are included.²

The World Bank (WB) estimated the pandemic pushed between 119 and 124 million people into poverty in 2020, potentially rising in 2021 to between 143 and 163 million.³ In April 2021, ninety percent of countries reported disruption to their health systems and in 2021 two-thirds of the world's student population has already experienced school closures.⁴

1.2 Vaccination and recovery

International bodies have said the acceleration of vaccination programmes in all states is necessary to save lives, reduce the likelihood of new viral variants of concern, and enable economic recovery.⁵

The WB estimates that if infections continue to rise and the vaccine rollout is delayed, global growth will be 1.6 percent in 2021, compared to a potential of 5 percent.⁶

The proportion of the population needed to safely achieve global immunity to Covid-19 is uncertain, but is likely to exceed 60 percent.⁷

¹ WHO, [Covid-19 dashboard](#), accessed 9 July 2021

² Al Jazeera, [Covid-19 death tolls likely a "significant undercount."](#) 21 May 2021

³ WB, [Updated estimates of the impact of Covid-19 on global poverty](#), 11 January 2021

⁴ WHO, [Covid-19 continues to disrupt essential health services in 90 percent of countries](#), 23 April 2021; UNESCO, [One year into Covid-19 education disruption: Where do we stand?](#), 19 March 2021

⁵ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), [Access to Covid-19 vaccines: Global approaches in a global crisis](#), 18 March 2021; WB, [Financing for Covid-19 vaccine rollout reaches \\$2 billion](#), 20 April 2021; UN, [Secretary-General calls vaccine equity biggest moral test for global community \[...\]](#), 17 February 2021; UN, [Inequity of Covid-19 vaccines grows "more grotesque every day"—WHO chief](#), 22 March 2021

⁶ WB, [Global economy to expand by 54 percent in 2021](#), 5 January 2021; New York Times, [How much herd immunity is enough?](#), 2 April 2021

⁷ WHO, [Covid-19: Herd immunity, lockdowns and Covid-19](#), 31 December 2020

2

Covax

2.1

A global solution?

Covax is an abbreviation of Covid-19 Vaccines Global Access

Access to Covid-19 vaccines [has been unequal](#).⁸ As of 7 July 2021, 1.0 percent of people in low income countries had received one dose, compared to 48.3 percent in high income states.⁹

In April 2020, Covax was established as a [global initiative](#) to ensure equitable access to Covid-19 vaccines between countries, regardless of their income level.¹⁰ It functions by pooling global funding to invest in the research, manufacture, purchase and distribution of vaccines.

Vaccines are either distributed at a cost for participating higher-income states or as donations to eligible low- and middle- income countries. Covax seeks to allocate vaccines fairly, distributing them according to population size and need.¹¹

It is jointly directed by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Gavi, the vaccine alliance, and the WHO. UNICEF is a key delivery partner.

Funding for Covax is the [primary support the UK provides to vaccination campaigns](#) overseas, including in Commonwealth countries.

2.2

Participants

Countries participate in one of two schemes.

Self-financing programme for high and upper-middle income countries

The 76 participants include the UK, EU, Brazil, Canada and China.¹² Although they are eligible to request doses for up to 50 percent of their populations, they will not receive doses via Covax for more than 20 percent until all 92

⁸ International Rescue Committee, [Excess Covid-19 vaccines secured by US, UK and EU \[...\]](#), 10 March 2021

⁹ Our World in Data, [Share of people who received at least one dose of Covid-19 vaccine](#), accessed 9 July 2021

¹⁰ Gavi, [Covax explained](#), 3 September 2020

¹¹ Gavi, [Covax explained](#), 3 September 2020

¹² HC Deb, [14 October 2020](#), c22WS; Covax, [Self-financing countries](#), 12 May 2021

Advance Market Commitment countries have.¹³ While Canada has drawn upon Covax for its vaccines, other G7 nations, such as the UK, have not.¹⁴

Advance Market Commitment (AMC) for low- and middle- income countries

The [92 low- and middle- income countries and economies](#) include Afghanistan, Yemen, Pakistan, and the West Bank and Gaza. They have a total population of 3.9 billion.¹⁵ They are eligible to request sufficient doses from Covax to cover 20 percent of their population in the first instance.¹⁶

Gavi-COVAX AMC-eligible countries & economies			
At July 2020			
Low-income			
Afghanistan	Ethiopia	Malawi	South Sudan
Benin	Gambia	Mali	Syrian Arab Republic
Burkina Faso	The Guinea	Mozambique	Tajikistan
Burundi	Guinea-Bissau	Nepal	Tanzania
Central African Rep.	Haiti	Niger	Togo
Chad	Korea, Dem. People's Rep	Rwanda	Uganda
Congo	Liberia	Sierra Leone	Yemen, Rep
Eritrea	Madagascar	Somalia	
Lower-middle income			
Angola	El Salvador	Moldova	Sudan
Algeria	Eswatini	Mongolia	Timor-Leste
Bangladesh	Ghana	Morocco	Tunisia
Bhutan	Honduras	Myanmar	Ukraine
Bolivia	India	Nicaragua	Uzbekistan
Cabo Verde	Indonesia	Nigeria	Vanuatu
Cambodia	Kenya	Pakistan	Vietnam
Cameroon	Kiribati	Papua New Guinea	West Bank and Gaza
Comoros	Kyrgyz Republic	Philippines	Zambia
Congo, Rep	Lao PDR	São Tomé and Príncipe	Zimbabwe
Côte d'Ivoire	Lesotho	Senegal	
Djibouti	Mauritania	Solomon Islands	
Egypt, Arab Rep.	Micronesia	Sri Lanka	
World Bank International Development Association eligible economies			
Dominica	Guyana	Marshall Islands	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Fiji	Kosovo	Samoa	Tonga
Grenada	Maldives	St. Lucia	Tuvalu

Source: Gavi, [92 low- and middle-income economies eligible to access Covid-19 vaccines through Gavi Covax AMC](#), July 2020

¹³ Gavi, [Covax explained](#), 3 September 2020

¹⁴ BBC News, [Covax: Canada defends taking vaccines from sharing scheme](#), 4 February 2021

¹⁵ WHO, [Costs of delivering Covid-19 vaccine in 92 AMC countries](#), February 2021, table 2

¹⁶ International Development Association, [Borrowing countries](#), accessed 24 May 2021; Gavi, [92 low- and middle- income economies eligible to get access to Covid-19 vaccines through Gavi Covax AMC](#), 31 July 2020

The AMC list includes all economies with a Gross National Income per capita of less than \$4,045 and economies eligible for [certain WB support](#).

While India is included as one of the 92 AMC economies, accounting for 35 percent of their total population, Covax intends to provide around 7-9 percent population coverage in India in the near term, rather than 20 percent.¹⁷

2.3 Scheme for low and lower-middle income economies

Funding and purchase

Funding for the AMC is separate to the self-financing stream. It is funded through Official Development Assistance and private philanthropy—section 4.2 of this paper sets out commitments.¹⁸

Once vaccines are licensed by the WHO, Covax purchases them on behalf of AMC economies. These economies may also cost-share further purchases with Covax in addition to their donor-funded allocation.¹⁹

Vaccine rollout

In 2021, Covax intends to [use 1.3 billion doses](#) to vaccinate up to 20 percent of the populations of 92 eligible economies.²⁰ This 20 percent will include priority groups such as health workers, those over 65 and those under 65 with underlying health conditions.²¹ Doses are received in proportion to state's population size.

In June, Gavi [secured additional funding](#) to deliver 1.8 billion doses for lower-income economies in 2021 and early 2022, sufficient to cover 30 percent of the population in AMC-eligible economies.²² Gavi [seeks to vaccinate half their adult populations by 2022](#).²³

Once countries have been allocated sufficient doses for 20 percent of their population, further doses will be made available based on vaccine availability, country need, vulnerability, and Covid-19 threat.²⁴

Gavi estimates 1.8 billion doses will save between 200,000 and 800,000 lives in participating AMC economies

¹⁷ R. Agarwal and G. Gopinath, [Annex 1: Existing pandemic financing options for LMICS](#) in the IMF's A proposal to end the pandemic, 19 May 2021

¹⁸ Gavi, [Covax explained](#), September 2020

¹⁹ Gavi, [The Covax AMC explained](#), undated

²⁰ WHO, [Covax announces additional deals to access promising Covid-19 vaccine candidates](#), 18 December 2020

²¹ WHO, [Fair allocation mechanism for Covid-19 vaccines through the Covax facility](#), 9 September 2020, p25

²² Gavi, [World leaders unite to commit to global equitable access to Covid-19 vaccines](#), 2 June 2021

²³ Gavi, [Japan to host Gavi's Covax AMC summit](#), 12 May 2021

²⁴ WHO, [Access and allocation: How will there be a fair and equitable allocation of limited supplies?](#), 12 January 2021

On average, AMC economies are seeking to cover 50 percent of their populations through Covax.²⁵

Distribution

Participants must first develop a Covid-19 national delivery and vaccination plan, which is reviewed by the WHO, UNICEF and others to ensure readiness criteria are met. This includes providing national regulatory approval for vaccines, setting budgets, and determining priority populations.²⁶ The UK supports governments to apply to the Covax AMC and to design their rollout plans.²⁷

Humanitarian buffer

The Covax scheme reserves five percent of Gavi Covax AMC funding for a “[humanitarian buffer](#).” The estimated 100 million vaccine doses for 2021 may be used in areas of state failure and conflict, and in regions controlled by non-state armed groups inaccessible to governments. It will also provide a contingency in cases of severe outbreaks where regular vaccine allocation timelines are insufficient.²⁸ However, NGOs, pharmaceutical companies and UN agencies have [so far refused to accept liability](#) for any potential lawsuits resulting from the administration of doses, delaying the scheme.²⁹

Delivery of other support through Covax

By the end of 2021, low- and middle- income countries are also intended to receive 900 million diagnostic tests.³⁰ By mid-2021, the WHO also aims to provide 245 million courses of treatment.³¹

²⁵ Gavi, [One world protected: The Gavi AMC investment opportunity](#), 2021, p8

²⁶ WHO, [Country readiness for Covid-19 vaccines](#), 19 February 2021

²⁷ PQ 179634 [[Coronavirus: Vaccination](#)], 20 April 2021

²⁸ Gavi, [Gavi Board approves Covax for high-risk groups in humanitarian settings](#), 23 March 2021; Gavi, [The Covax humanitarian buffer explained](#), 31 March 2021

²⁹ New Humanitarian, [Emergency Covid vaccination scheme in legal jeopardy](#), 9 June 2021

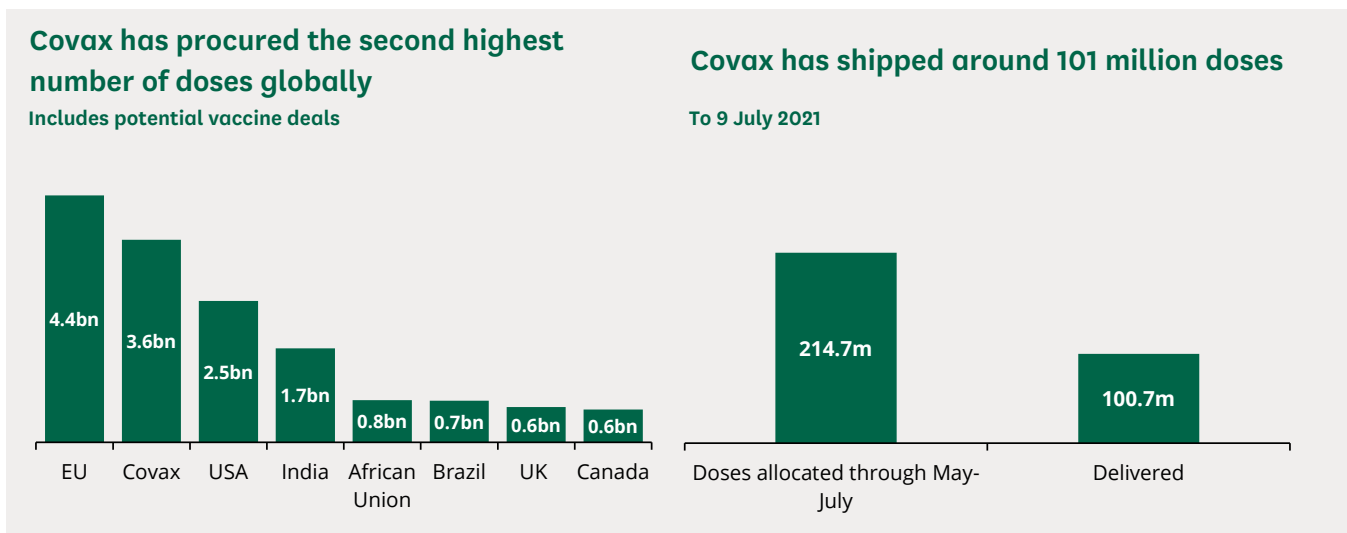
³⁰ WHO, [Act now. ACT together 2020-2021 impact report](#), April 2021, p9

³¹ WHO, [ACT-accelerator update](#), 26 June 2020

3 How is Covax performing?

3.1 Procurement and deliveries

Covax has procured around 3.6 billion doses for its self-funding and AMC-eligible participants. It aims to offer 10-12 vaccines, and currently has agreements for 8, including AstraZeneca/Oxford and Pfizer.³² It estimates for AMC countries, the cost to Covax will be around \$3.70 per person vaccinated with two doses.³³



Note: Data covers publicised advanced market commitment by country, including potential doses purchased, those secured by donation, and doses purchased. Totals for countries do not include any allocations from Covax. Potential doses purchased may include those still subject to technical success and regulatory approval.

Sources: Duke Global Innovation Centre, [Vaccine purchases](#), accessed 9 July 2021; UNICEF, [Covid-19 market dashboard](#), updated 9 July 2021

The first international Covax shipment took place in February 2021.³⁴ By 9 July 2021, Covax delivered nearly 101 million doses. It had intended to deliver 170 million doses by the end of May.³⁵

³² Gavi, [Gavi signs agreement with Johnson and Johnson \[...\]](#), 21 May 2021

³³ WHO, [Costs of delivering Covid-19 vaccine in 92 AMC countries](#), February 2021, section 5.5

³⁴ WHO, [Covid-19 vaccine doses shipped by the Covax facility head to Ghana](#), 24 February 2021

³⁵ WHO, [Director General's opening remarks at the World Health Assembly](#), 24 May 2021

The pandemic in India

Due to the [extent of the pandemic in India](#) and the Indian Government placing export restrictions on vaccines in March, it is estimated that by June 2021, Covax will be around [190 million doses behind schedule](#).³⁶

The Serum Institute of India is the largest single supplier to the Covax scheme and was due to [supply a total of 1.1 billion doses](#).³⁷ India is unlikely to resume major exports until October 2021.³⁸

This has raised concerns that AMC countries will not receive enough vaccines to administer second doses. The WHO has recommended countries prioritise first doses and requested manufacturers bring forward deliveries pledged for later in the year.³⁹ By mid-July, the WHO estimates Africa needs 20 million vaccines to administer second doses.⁴⁰

Covax has secured further vaccine agreements, but these will not result in deliveries until the second half of 2021.⁴¹ Covax estimates there will be around 1.5 billion doses, including donated ones, [available to AMC countries in 2021](#). This is equivalent to 23 percent population coverage (excluding India).⁴²

3.2

Vaccines to low income countries

Covax initially planned to provide nearly 1.8 billion doses to AMC countries in 2021. Asia and Africa will receive the largest totals.

Africa

In 2021, 43 African states, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia and Zimbabwe, will receive 600 million vaccines.⁴³ The

Projected Covax AMC vaccine supply in 2021

South Asia	626m
Sub-Saharan Africa	595m
East Asia & Pacific	328m
Middle East & North Africa	135m
Europe & Central Asia	55m
Latin America & Caribbean	27m
Total	1,766m

Note: Includes requested doses only.

Source: Gavi, [Covax AMC investment opportunity](#), 2021, figure 5

³⁶ Devex, [India crisis puts Covax 150 million doses behind schedule](#), 10 May 2021

³⁷ UNICEF, [Executive Director \[...\] remarks at briefing on Covax](#), 3 February 2021

³⁸ Reuters, [India unlikely to resume sizable COVID-19 vaccine exports until October](#), 18 May 2021

³⁹ WHO, [Risks and challenges in Africa's Covid-19 vaccine rollout](#), 14 April 2021; WHO, [Covid-19 virtual press conference transcript](#), 17 May 2021

⁴⁰ Al-Jazeera, [Africa needs 20m second AstraZeneca jabs in six weeks](#), 27 May 2021

⁴¹ Gavi, [Gavi signs agreement with Novavax to secure doses \[...\]](#), 6 May 2021;

⁴² Covax, [Global supply forecast](#), 23 June 2021

⁴³ WHO Africa, [Covid-19 vaccines](#), accessed 9 July 2021

Only 1.6 percent of global vaccines have been administered in Africa (to 7 July 2021).

[initial aim](#) had been to supply 720 million doses in 2021, for a population of 1.3 billion.⁴⁴

The rollout of Covax-delivered doses began in March 2021.⁴⁵ Around 90 million doses are intended to be delivered in the first half of 2021, to immunise 3 percent of the population most in need of protection.⁴⁶ To 8 July, around 25 million doses have been delivered to 44 states.⁴⁷

A number of states have returned their doses, as a result of vaccine hesitancy and gaps in local health systems limiting their capacity to rollout vaccines quickly.⁴⁸ The UN estimates that only seven African states will meet the goal of [immunising 10 percent of their population](#) by September.⁴⁹

The African Union has also secured 750 million doses. China, India, France and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have also donated vaccines.⁵⁰

The WHO says vaccine rollouts have been delayed by logistical challenges, such as difficulty in reaching remote locations, and funding shortfalls, which limits communication, training and data recording. Gaps in data has resulted in the vaccination of some non-priority groups.⁵¹

The WB estimates African states face a funding shortfall of \$12.5 billion to vaccinate more than 20 percent of their populations.⁵²

Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR)

This WHO region includes 22 countries, of which 11 are recipients of Covax doses.⁵³ 355 million Covax doses are due to be received by the end of 2021.⁵⁴ The first shipments began in March 2021.⁵⁵

At the end of May, the WHO stated “most” countries were behind in their rollouts, including in their vaccination of health care workers.⁵⁶ In July, it

⁴⁴ Reuters, [Covax aims to deliver 520 mln vaccine doses to Africa this year](#), 8 July 2021

⁴⁵ WHO, [First Covid-19 Covax vaccine doses administered in Africa](#), 1 March 2021

⁴⁶ WHO Africa, [Covid-19 vaccines](#), accessed 9 July 2021

⁴⁷ Reuters, [Covax aims to deliver 520 mln vaccine doses to Africa this year](#), 8 July 2021

⁴⁸ Devex, [DRC to return 1.3 million COVAX vaccine doses before expiry](#), 29 April 2021; The Guardian, [Malawi to bin 16,000 AstraZeneca doses amid fears of rise in vaccine hesitancy](#), 16 April 2021

⁴⁹ UN, [Nine in ten African nations set to miss urgent Covid vaccination goal](#), 10 June 2021

⁵⁰ UNICEF, [Covid-19 vaccine market dashboard](#), accessed 9 July 2021

⁵¹ WHO Africa, [Emerging lessons from Africa's Covid-19 vaccine rollout](#), 27 April 2021; WHO Africa, [Risks and challenges in Africa's Covid-19 vaccine rollout](#), 14 May 2021

⁵² WB, [Calculating Sub-Saharan Africa's Covid vaccination financing gap](#), 11 May 2021

⁵³ WHO, [The Covax facility: Interim distribution forecast—latest as of 3 February 2021](#)

⁵⁴ Reuters, [Covax to supply 355 million vaccine doses for Eastern Med this year—WHO official](#), 27 January 2021; WHO EMR, [Covid-19 vaccines rolled out in the Eastern Mediterranean region \[...\]](#), 21 March 2021

⁵⁵ WHO EMR, [Vaccines now an effective weapon against Covid-19 in all countries in the Eastern Mediterranean region](#), 7 April 2021

⁵⁶ WHO EMR, [Many countries in the EMR lagging \[...\]](#), 26 May 2021

warned the region was “far behind” its [goal of vaccinating 40 percent of its population](#) by the end of 2021.⁵⁷

Although **Yemen** received the first Covax doses in March, the conflict between the Hadi Government and Houthi rebels and existing humanitarian crisis has hampered the rollout. Observers have cited difficulty in accessing vaccine sites, lack of trust, migrants being stranded, and delays in reaching Houthi-controlled areas.⁵⁸ The WHO was to [begin vaccinations in Houthi-controlled areas](#) in North Yemen from 8 June.⁵⁹

Syria received doses from Covax in April and also from the UAE, Russia Israel and China.⁶⁰ Vaccines reached rebel-controlled areas in May.⁶¹

The **West Bank and Gaza** have received doses from Covax, in addition to donated doses from Russia and the UAE.⁶² Israel has also provided vaccinations to Palestinians who travel to Israel for work.⁶³ In May 2021, violence between Israel and Palestine temporarily halted vaccinations.⁶⁴ In June, it was announced Gaza and the West Bank would [receive vaccines from the United States](#).⁶⁵

South Asia

States such as India and neighbouring Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are participating in Covax. First shipments began in March.⁶⁶

Prior to the Covax rollout and crisis in India, India had provided vaccines to neighbouring states through donations and commercial contracts.⁶⁷ China

⁵⁷ WHO EMR, [Regional Director’s statement on Covid-19 \[...\]](#), 7 July 2021

⁵⁸ Al-Jazeera, [War and doubts slow Covid vaccination in disputed Yemen city](#), 3 May 2021; International Organisation for Migration, [IOM supports UN Covid-19 vaccination](#), 11 May 2021; UN OCHA, [Yemen: Situation report](#), 8 May 2021; Reuters, [Yemen starts Covid-19 vaccination campaign](#), 20 April 2021

⁵⁹ Reuters, [WHO to start Covid-19 vaccination in Houthi-run north Yemen](#), 1 June 2021

⁶⁰ WHO EMR, [Update on Covid-19 vaccination in Syria](#), 29 April 2021; Relief Web/Gov of UAE, [UAE dispatches fourth shipment \[...\]](#), 5 May 2021; Reuters, [Syria gets donation of 150,000 Covid shots from China, 24 April 2021](#); Al-Jazeera, [Israel paying millions to supply Covid-19 doses to Syria](#), 20 February 2021; The Independent, [Syrian President Bashar al-Assad “vaccinated with Russian sputnik Covid jab.”](#) 3 June 2021

⁶¹ France 24, [Vaccine rollout begins in rebel held northern Syria](#), 1 May 2021

⁶² UNICEF, [Arrival of first wave of consignment of Covax Covid-19 vaccine doses to the State of Palestine](#), 21 March 2021; Al-Jazeera, [Covid-19: Gaza starts inoculation drive amid vaccine shortage](#), 22 February 2021

⁶³ Al-Jazeera, [Israel starts vaccinating Palestinian workers after delays](#), 8 March 2021

⁶⁴ New York Times, [The assault on Gaza halts Covid shots \[...\]](#), 16 May 2021

⁶⁵ White House, [Factsheet: Biden-Harris Administration unveils strategy for global vaccination sharing \[...\]](#), 3 June 2021

⁶⁶ UNICEF, [Nepal amongst the first countries in Asia to receive Covid-19 vaccines from Covax facility](#), 7 March 2021

⁶⁷ Devex, [What does the data show about Covid-19 vaccine diplomacy?](#), 18 March 2021

has also donated vaccines to South Asian states, and the United States is due allocate 7 million across Asia as a whole.⁶⁸

In June, Nepal's health minister [called for vaccines to be donated to the country from other sources](#), due to delays in delivery from Covax.⁶⁹

Pakistan is one of a few countries that allows the private import and sale of vaccines, raising concerns about access inequality in the country.⁷⁰

3.3 How will demand to be met?

While Covax intends to provide doses to cover 30 percent of the population of AMC economies by 2022, participants will need to use other sources to vaccinate the rest of their populations.

Global market

The WB states many seeking to purchase vaccines, such as the African Union and Palestine, face a funding shortfall.⁷¹ The WB says it expects to provide \$50 billion by mid-2021 to fifty countries to support the purchase and rollout of vaccines.⁷²

Strengthening vaccine manufacture

Following the suspension of vaccine exports from India, the WB has argued the global focus should shift from funding vaccines to expanding global capacity to manufacture sufficient doses.⁷³

The World Trade Organization (WTO) has estimated that manufacturing capacity in 2021 needs to triple from 5 billion to 15 billion and said more should be manufactured in Latin America and Africa.⁷⁴

The African Union has announced agreements to increase manufacturing on the continent.⁷⁵ In June 2021, Egypt is [due to start local production of the Chinese Sinovac vaccine](#).⁷⁶ Senegal plans to [manufacture doses from 2022](#).⁷⁷

⁶⁸ UNICEF, [Covid-19 market dashboard](#), accessed 17 June 2021; White House, [Factsheet: Biden-Harris Administration unveils strategy for global vaccination sharing \[...\]](#), 3 June 2021

⁶⁹ The independent, [AP interview: Official says Nepal desperately needs vaccines](#), 17 June 2021

⁷⁰ Devex, [In Pakistan, Covid-19 vaccines go on sale](#), 18 March 2021

⁷¹ Reuters, [Palestinian Covid vaccine plan faces large funding gap, WB says](#), 21 February 2021

⁷² WB, [Key facts: WB Group vaccine announcement](#), 11 May 2021

⁷³ WB, [Remarks by WB Group President \[...\]](#), 15 April 2021

⁷⁴ Reuters, [New WTO chief calls for tripling of vaccine production](#), 1 March 2021; Independent, [WTO chief calls for diversification of vaccine production](#), 20 May 2021

⁷⁵ Devex, [AU launches partnership for Africa vaccine manufacturing](#), 14 April 2021

⁷⁶ Reuters, [Egypt to start local production of Sinovac vaccine mid-June—minister](#), 7 June 2021

⁷⁷ Reuters, In boost for Africa, [Senegal aims to make Covid shots next year](#), 8 June 2021

In March 2020, the UK provided £250 million to CEPI to accelerate vaccine manufacture.⁷⁸ The [G7 has committed to boost vaccine manufacture](#) in more countries, including low-income ones.⁷⁹

Waiving patents and intellectual property (IP) rights

South Africa and India have urged IP rights on vaccines to be waived to support greater production.⁸⁰ The US, Italy and France have supported a waiver.⁸¹

In March 2021, the UK Government said it did not support a waiver of IP rights as the existing IP framework had effectively mobilised and delivered vaccines.⁸² The Labour Party has said the Government should participate in talks on waiving IP on vaccines.⁸³ In May 2021, it was reported the Government is now in talks on the waiver.⁸⁴

In June 2021, the G7 said it would [“engage constructively” at the WTO on intellectual property rights](#) and noted the impact voluntary licensing and technology transfer had made to global vaccine supply.⁸⁵

The WTO has argued the licencing process should be improved and greater support provided to boost manufacturing capacity.⁸⁶ The WTO Director-General, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, expects a “sensible” answer to the transfer of technology and IP [to be made in July](#).⁸⁷

⁷⁸ Department for International Development, [PM pledges UK aid backing for coronavirus vaccine search](#), 27 March 2020

⁷⁹ G7 2021, [Carbis Bay G7 summit](#), 13 June 2021, para 12

⁸⁰ Times of India, [India, South Africa moot 3-year Covid patent waiver](#), 23 May 2021

⁸¹ Gavi, [The US adds its support to patent waivers for Covid-19 vaccines](#), 7 May 2021; Politico, [Macron backs waiving Covid-19 vaccine patents ahead of G7](#), 10 June 2021

⁸² PQ 162614 [[Developing countries: Coronavirus](#)], 13 March 2021

⁸³ Emily Thornberry MP for the Guardian, [Britain could steer a global vaccination programme—but where is the leadership?](#), 20 May 2021

⁸⁴ The Guardian, [Britain in talks to waive Covid vaccine patents \[...\]](#), 20 May 2021

⁸⁵ G7 2021, [Carbis Bay G7 summit](#), 13 June 2021, para 12

⁸⁶ Reuters, [Vaccine patent waiver will not be enough- WTO chief](#), 20 May 2021

⁸⁷ Devex, [WTO chief to G-20: Donate 2-3B more Covid-19 vaccine doses](#), 6 July 2021

4 International support for Covax

4.1 How many vaccines has the UK provided to individual countries?

Aside from the [Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies](#), the Government has not provided vaccines direct to any other state. Instead, it has provided support via Covax. Data can be found via three sources:

- Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, publishes [country totals of Covax deliveries](#).
- UNICEF maintains a [map of COVAX deliveries and planned shipments](#).
- Our World in Data publishes [data on the vaccination rollout](#) in states.

4.2 Funding

The Covax AMC is being funded through Official Development Assistance (ODA) and private sector contributions, as well as through a [cost-sharing approach](#) for ODA-eligible countries.

The following table shows [pledges to Covax](#) that exceeded \$100 million from countries and the European Commission, up to June 2021. The UK has made the fourth largest commitment (\$733 million). A total of \$9.7 billion was pledged from all donors. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is also a significant donor, providing \$206 million to June 2021.⁸⁸

The [additional funding pledged in June 2021](#) will be used to secure an additional 1.8 billion doses for lower-income economies and enable Covax to provide enough doses to vaccinate a total of 30 percent of their populations. The UK [did not pledge](#) additional funds in June.⁸⁹

⁸⁸ Gavi, [Key outcomes: Covax AMC 2021](#), 10 May 2021; Gavi, [Covax AMC donors table](#), 23 June 2021

⁸⁹ Gavi, [World Leaders unite to commit to global equitable access for Covid-19 vaccines](#), 2 June 2021

Country pledges to Covax AMC 2021

Pledges over \$100m+ only
US\$ million, to June 2021

US	3,500
Germany	1,097
Japan	1,000
UK	733
European Commission	489
Italy	470
Canada	384
Sweden	296
France	244
Switzerland	162
Saudi Arabia	153
Norway	141
Spain	122
Korea	110
Australia	100
Total (all donors)	\$9.7bn

Source: Gavi, [Key outcomes of one world protect-Covax AMC summit, 23 June 2021](#)

In 2021/22, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office has said its ODA [spending on global health will focus](#) on commitments to Covax, Gavi and the WHO, and on countries where need is greatest.⁹⁰ The Government has also stressed its funding support for the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine, which saw 97 percent of its funding come from public sources (such as UK and other governments, universities and charities).⁹¹ To June 2021, the vaccine accounted for 96 percent of the 81 million doses provided by Covax.⁹²

Calls for additional UK funding

In August 2021, the UK is due to receive around £20 billion (\$28 billion) of [Special Drawing Rights](#) (SDRs) (a type of reserve currency that can be exchanged for national currencies) from the \$650 billion being issued by the

⁹⁰ PQ HL269 [[Overseas Aid](#)], 1 June 2021.

⁹¹ The Guardian, [Oxford/AstraZeneca Covid vaccine research "was 97 percent publicly funded."](#) 15 April 2021

⁹² Number 10, [UK to donate 100 million coronavirus vaccine doses](#), updated 15 June 2021

International Monetary Fund (IMF).⁹³ SDRs are being provided to most countries to support them recover from the pandemic.⁹⁴

Gordon Brown, Prime Minister from 2008 to 2010, has argued [G7 states could redistribute the SDRs](#) to low income countries to purchase vaccines.⁹⁵ The UK Government says it is [lobbying for the recycling of SDRs](#) to low-income states at World Bank-IMF meetings.⁹⁶

Funding for the Access to Covid-19 Tools Accelerator

The [Access to Covid-19 Tools Accelerator](#) (ACT-A) constitutes four pillars, which include diagnostics, therapeutics, vaccines (provided through Covax), and health systems. In addition to Covax, its functions include providing PPE, oxygen and Covid-19 treatments.⁹⁷

Around \$15.1 billion has been committed to 13 June 2021, and UNICEF estimates that a further \$16 billion is required for 2021.⁹⁸ Save the Children estimate that if other priority interventions are included, primary health systems are strengthened, and vaccines and therapeutics continue to need funding, the total funding [ACT-A requires over the next two years is \\$66 billion](#).

In June 2021, former UK Prime Ministers Gordon Brown and Tony Blair were [amongst those who called upon the G7 to pay two-thirds of this sum](#).⁹⁹ G7 leaders [confirmed their support for ACT-A](#) but announced no new funding.

4.3

Pledges to share vaccines

Distribution of purchased vaccines

By mid-March 2021, it is estimated that high-income countries (16 percent of the world's population) had negotiated agreements [amounting to half the global vaccine supply](#).¹⁰⁰

Analysis by the Duke Global Innovation Centre suggests that many higher-income states have purchased sufficient vaccine doses to [have a large](#)

⁹³ Centre for Global Development [Can special drawing rights be recycled to where they are needed at no budgetary cost?](#), 21 April 2021

⁹⁴ IMF, [SDRs](#), 18 February 2021

⁹⁵ HC Deb, [16 June 2021](#), c283; The Guardian, [Covid: More than 200 leaders urge G7 to help vaccinate the world's poorest](#), 6 June 2021

⁹⁶ HC Deb, [30 June 2021](#), c368

⁹⁷ Save the Children, [Financing Covid-19 vaccination efforts with equity](#), June 2021

⁹⁸ UNICEF, [The Act-A partnership welcomes commitments of 870 million vaccine doses \[...\]](#), 13 June 2021

⁹⁹ The Guardian, [Covid: More than 200 leaders urge G7 to help vaccinate the world's poorest](#), 6 June 2021

¹⁰⁰ OECD, [Access to Covid-19 vaccines: Global approaches in a global crisis](#), March 2021

[number of surplus vaccines](#). The UK has agreements to provide over four hundred percent of its population coverage.

Vaccination procurement		
States/areas with 100%+ coverage		
	Population coverage	Doses purchased
Canada	522%	381.0m
UK	409%	517.0m
EU	345%	2,885m
New Zealand	328%	30.3m
Australia	291%	169.8m
Chile	253%	90.2m
Israel	249%	41.0m
USA	230%	1,410m
Switzerland	184%	31.5m
South Korea	172%	172.0m
Bolivia	170%	24.0m
Japan	144%	364.0m
Dominican Republic	130%	28.0m
Turkey	129%	214.5m
Peru	129%	49.0m
Brazil	116%	450.0m
Malaysia	112%	66.3m
Sri Lanka	100%	30.0m

Note: Includes only confirmed, rather than potential, coverage. Data does not include any unknown contracts, those under negotiation, potential deals, or potential coverage by Covax for participating states. Figures include vaccines not yet approved. The UK, for example, has [approved only four of the seven vaccines](#) it has agreements for. Population based on World Bank 2019 estimates.

Source: Duke Global Innovation Centre, [Vaccine purchases](#), accessed 9 July 2021 and [Data Notes](#), 11 December 2020

Calls to share doses

In May 2021, UNICEF called upon G7 countries and the ‘Team Europe’ group of EU countries to [donate 20 percent of their available vaccine supply](#) from June

to August 2021. It estimates this would be equivalent to 153 million doses and would not impede existing domestic rollouts.¹⁰¹

The WHO has also urged richer states to [donate vaccines](#) to Covax rather than vaccinating children.¹⁰²

Commitments to share vaccines

G7 states have pledged to share one billion doses, of which 870 million will be shared with Covax. Half the doses for Covax [will be delivered by the end of 2021](#).¹⁰³ The G7 have also said that their financial contributions to Covax to June 2021 [allowed 1 billion doses to be purchased](#) for the Covax AMC.¹⁰⁴

The UN has said the pledged doses are welcome, but are [insufficient in number and are needed now](#), rather than next year.¹⁰⁵ The NGO ONE estimates that the 1 billion doses [are sufficient to vaccinate 5.4 percent of the populations](#) of lower income countries by the end of 2021.¹⁰⁶

The country breakdowns of doses donated to Covax include the below (this is not an exhaustive list). Countries may also decide to donate bilaterally, rather than via Covax.¹⁰⁷

- The **United States** [will share a total of 500 million doses by June 2022. Around 200 million will be delivered in 2021](#). It will also share doses to support its neighbours and respond to areas with rapidly-rise case numbers. This includes in the Americas, parts of Asia and Africa.¹⁰⁸
- The **United Kingdom** has said it will [share 100 million doses over the next year](#), including 5 million by September 2021. 80 percent of the doses will be shared via Covax. The remainder will be shared bilaterally with countries in need.¹⁰⁹ [30 million will be shared by the end of 2021](#).¹¹⁰ In February 2021, the Prime Minister said that the United Kingdom will “share the majority” of future surplus vaccines.¹¹¹
- **Canada** has committed to share up to 100 million doses, though a substantial proportion may originate in funding previously pledged to Covax.¹¹²

¹⁰¹ UNICEF, [\[...\] The time to donate excess doses is now](#), 16 May 2021

¹⁰² UN, [Covid-19: Wealthy nations urged to delay youth vaccines, donate to solidarity scheme](#), 14 May 2021

¹⁰³ Gavi, [G7 announces pledges of 870 million Covid-19 vaccine doses \[...\]](#), 13 June 2021.

¹⁰⁴ G7, [Carbis Bay Summit Communiqué](#), 13 June 2021, para 9

¹⁰⁵ Reuters, [“We need more:” UN joins criticism of G7 vaccine pledge](#), 12 June 2021; Gordon Brown for the Guardian, [Despite the grand words, this G7 falls devastatingly short on vaccines](#), 14 June 2021

¹⁰⁶ ONE, [With exception of the US, ONE responds to underwhelming G7](#), 13 June 2021

¹⁰⁷ Covax, [Principles for sharing COVID-19 vaccine doses with Covax](#), December 2020

¹⁰⁸ White House, [Biden-Harris Administration unveils strategy for Global Vaccine sharing \[...\] for the first 200 million doses](#), 3 June 2021; White House, [President Biden announces historic vaccine donation \[...\]](#), 10 June 2021

¹⁰⁹ 10 Downing Street, [UK to donate 100 million coronavirus vaccine doses](#), 15 June 2021

¹¹⁰ PQ 27285 [[Coronavirus: Vaccination](#)], 8 July 2021

¹¹¹ 10 Downing Street, [PM announces 100 day target to create new vaccines](#), 19 February 2021

¹¹² CBC, [G7 meeting ends with promises on Covid-19, climate, mentions of China](#), 13 June 2021

- ‘Team Europe,’ including **France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain** and **Switzerland** will provide 100 million doses to Covax.¹¹³ On top of EU contributions, **France** has pledged 30 million doses, as has **Germany**. **Italy** will donate an additional 15 million doses.¹¹⁴
- **Japan** will share 30 million with Covax, other countries and economies.¹¹⁵
- **Spain** has said it will donate between 5 and 10 percent of its vaccine doses to Latin American and Caribbean countries in 2021.¹¹⁶ This will total 22.5 million to Covax.¹¹⁷
- **Belgium** will donate 4 million doses to Covax.¹¹⁸
- **Sweden** has pledged 3 million.¹¹⁹
- **Denmark** has pledged 3 million in 2021, primarily to Covax.¹²⁰
- **New Zealand** has pledged 1.6 million doses, focusing on the Pacific.¹²¹

In June, the WHO has [urged wealthier states to prioritise Latin America in their vaccine donations](#). The area is currently seeing a rise in cases.¹²²

Who has already shared vaccines?

There are two main sources on vaccine donations: [UNICEF’s Covax dashboard](#) and [Duke Global Health Innovation Centre](#). These are reliant on publicly available data and may not provide a complete view of vaccines donated.

The USA, China, India, Japan, Russia, the UAE, Israel and Australia are amongst those who have donated vaccines to other states.¹²³

Recipients include Bangladesh, Myanmar and Nepal (from India), Pakistan, Laos and Nepal (from China), Nigeria and Ghana (African Union/MTN), and Fiji (from Australia).

¹¹³ Gavi, [Global leaders renew their commitment to address urgency of Covid-19 pandemic](#), 21 May 2021

¹¹⁴ Gavi, [France makes important vaccine dose donation to Covax](#), 23 April 2021; Reuters, [France to share 30 mln doses by end of year](#), 12 May 2021; Reuters, [Factbox: What are G7 countries pledging on vaccine doses?](#), 12 June 2021

¹¹⁵ Gavi, [World leaders unite to commit to global equitable access for Covid-19 vaccines](#), 2 June 2021

¹¹⁶ Reuters, [Spain to donate 5 percent-10 percent of its share of Covid-19 shots to Latin America](#), 21 April 2021

¹¹⁷ Gavi, [World leaders unite to commit to global equitable access for Covid-19 vaccines](#), 2 June 2021

¹¹⁸ The Brussels Times, [Belgium to donate four million additional coronavirus vaccines to Covax](#), 31 May 2021

¹¹⁹ Gavi, [Global leaders renew their commitment to address urgency of Covid-19 pandemic](#), 21 May 2021; Reuters, [Sweden to donate at least three million vaccine doses to Covax in 2021](#), 25 May 2021; New Zealand Herald, [NZ donates 1.6 million vaccine doses \[...\]](#), 16 April 2021

¹²⁰ The Local, [Denmark to donate millions of Covid-19 vaccines to global scheme](#), 25 May 2021

¹²¹ Gavi, [Global leaders renew their commitment to address urgency of Covid-19 pandemic](#), 21 May 2021; Reuters, [Sweden to donate at least three million vaccine doses to Covax in 2021](#), 25 May 2021; New Zealand Herald, [NZ donates 1.6 million vaccine doses \[...\]](#), 16 April 2021

¹²² New York Times, [The WHO urges wealthy nations to give Latin America priority for vaccine donations](#), 16 June 2021

¹²³ UNICEF, [Covid-19 vaccine market dashboard](#), accessed 9 July 2021; Middle East Monitor, [Palestinians receive 40,000 Covid-19 vaccines from UAE](#), 11 March 2021; Al Jazeera, [Covid-19: Gaza starts inoculation drive amid vaccine shortage](#), 22 February 2021.

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