



COVID-19 FACT SHEET

Global VAX: A New ‘Initiative for Global Vaccine Access’ To Accelerate U.S. Vaccine Delivery Assistance Around the World

The United States is committed to defeating the COVID-19 pandemic, both at home and abroad, and has been instrumental in the global response to fight the virus. To date, the U.S. Government has responded in more than 120 countries to fight against COVID-19.

The emergence of COVID-19 hotspots and variants including Delta and Omicron underscores the importance of this global fight. Vaccinating the world is the best way to prevent future variants that could threaten the health of Americans and undermine our economic recovery. As more vaccine supply flows to low and middle income countries, the United States and other donors must redouble efforts to help countries efficiently and effectively receive, distribute, and administer doses.

As part of the U.S. Government’s commitment to global frontline efforts to get shots into arms and save lives around the world, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator Samantha Power has announced the U.S. Government’s Initiative for Global Vaccine Access, or Global VAX for short. This initiative will expand assistance and enhance international coordination to identify and rapidly overcome vaccine access barriers and save lives now, with a specific emphasis on scaling up vaccination support in sub-Saharan Africa. Global VAX brings together a whole-of-government effort, through which the United States has already committed more than \$1.3 billion for vaccine readiness. Today USAID announced U.S. commitments of an additional \$400 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds, generously provided by the U.S. Congress, to further augment this work. Global VAX includes bolstering cold chain supply and logistics, service delivery, vaccine confidence and demand, human resources, data and analytics, local planning, and vaccine safety and effectiveness. The U.S. Government has called on all countries to likewise step up actions and commitments toward enhancing access to global COVID-19 vaccines.

Global VAX builds on significant investments by the United States to support health systems with vaccine delivery and fight COVID-19 around the world. With this announcement, of which \$315 million will support vaccine readiness programs, the United States has committed more than \$1.6 billion in funding to help get shots into arms around the world. This work is already paying dividends, but there is more to be done by us all. Additional resources announced today include:

- **\$315 million to support vaccine delivery and get shots in arms in low and middle income countries.**

This investment will support country-specific needs to ramp up vaccination rates and get more shots in arms. These activities include investing in cold chain and supply logistics to safely store and deliver vaccines; supporting national vaccination campaigns;

launching mobile vaccination sites for hard-to-reach and rural populations; assisting countries in vaccine policy-making and planning for strategic health care worker and resource deployment; and supporting the development of health information systems to better evaluate vaccine distribution equity and monitor vaccine safety.

- **\$10 million to support in-country vaccine manufacturing.**

This investment will support countries poised to produce vaccines to help them build regulatory capacity, transfer “know-how” to train emerging manufacturers, and provide strategic planning and other assistance. This will enable countries to boost vaccine manufacturing locally, which not only diversifies international production, but also has the potential to drive new investments in local economies and create jobs. This investment strategically complements the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation’s investments to scale regional manufacturing of COVID-19 vaccines.

- **\$75 million for additional support for USAID’s Rapid Response Surge Support.**

USAID’s Rapid Response Surge Support delivers life-saving resources to COVID-19 hotspots, or areas experiencing surges in cases. This investment will help strengthen oxygen market systems to improve reliable oxygen production and delivery—often the most critical and in-demand resource needed in communities experiencing COVID-19 surges.

Global VAX:

Amplifying U.S. Efforts to Get Shots in Arms Around the World

The past year has been characterized by scarce vaccine supply in most of the developing world; but this is now rapidly shifting. U.S. efforts to increase global vaccine supplies have contributed to significant improvements in supply availability for developing countries, with even larger volumes coming on line in early 2022. But vaccine availability is only part of the process—and as the world heads into the third year of the pandemic, a primary focus of the global vaccination effort must also be on supporting those countries to get shots in arms.

From early this year, the U.S. Government has worked to help countries to administer vaccine supplies and turn vaccines into vaccinations. These strategic efforts build on more than 30 years of experience in strengthening routine immunization around the world.

Investments from the U.S. Government, including USAID, CDC, the Department of State through PEPFAR, and DoD have supported a wide range of work to make sure countries are ready to receive large vaccine shipments. The Initiative for Global Vaccine Access will build on this progress and invest in rapidly expanding efforts such as:

- **Cold chain and supply logistics:** Supporting the supply and deployment of cold chain capacity to refrigerate vaccines at the right temperature and preserve the product for improved end-to-end delivery. These efforts also include training technicians, providing

assistance for tracking supply and managing logistics, and developing local vaccine distribution plans.

- **Service delivery:** Expanding equitable access to vaccinations by supporting national vaccination programs and campaigns and launching mobile vaccination sites for hard-to-reach and rural populations.
- **Vaccine confidence and demand:** Working with community groups, religious leaders, government officials, health care workers, and journalists to address community concerns; optimizing access to trusted sources of information and locations for vaccinations.
- **Human resources:** Supporting workforce assessments to determine urgent needs for redistributing and reassigning health workers where they are needed most; supporting rapid hiring and training of clinical and support staff to assist local vaccination efforts.
- **Data and analytics:** Strengthening systems for the collection of data on COVID-19 vaccinations and building dashboards for the real-time use of these data to inform planning, decision making, and equitable distribution.
- **Development of local vaccination plans:** Working with government officials to develop and update national and community vaccination plans that detail transport, cold chain, storage, personnel, and other operational requirements.
- **Vaccine safety:** Supporting the development of safety monitoring guidance for COVID-19 vaccinations; working with government health officials to ensure appropriate vaccine safety protocols are established and maintained; responding to vaccine-related events—real or perceived—to protect public health and maintain trust.
- **Vaccine effectiveness:** Evaluating COVID-19 immunization activities to identify challenges, recommend corrective actions, and understand best practices for continual program improvement to help reduce disease and deaths from COVID-19 globally.

An Unprecedented Effort: Building on our Progress To Date

Investments to Increase Global Vaccine Supply and Fight COVID-19 are Paying Off

When President Biden made the commitment to become the world’s “arsenal of vaccines,” the United States took on an unprecedented challenge to help bridge global vaccine supply gaps. Today, we are the single largest donor to COVAX, the global partnership to procure and deliver vaccines equitably for countries in need. The United States has committed to purchasing and donating one billion doses of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines worldwide, bringing the total doses committed to be shared by the United States to more than 1.2 billion. That equates to approximately three doses abroad for every one dose administered to date in the United States.

The United States has already shared more than 290 million vaccines to 110 countries overseas—free of cost with no strings attached—amounting to more donations than all other countries combined.

U.S. leadership in this fight extends beyond the generosity of donations—the United States Government has helped to facilitate key deals between vaccine companies and partner institutions.

For example, the U.S. brokered a landmark supply deal between Moderna and the African Union, giving up space in Moderna’s production queue to enable the African Union to receive 30 million doses earlier. The U.S. Development Finance Corporation invested in expanding vaccine production in multiple developing countries while also providing political risk insurance to COVAX. And the U.S. Government facilitated a breakthrough deal between Johnson & Johnson and COVAX to allow the J&J vaccine to be supplied to the COVAX Humanitarian Buffer—an effort to ensure vaccines are available and accessible to extremely vulnerable populations who are not being covered by national vaccination plans.

Global VAX also builds upon PEPFAR’s critical investment of more than \$15 billion in building and strengthening local health systems and infrastructure—which leverages the expertise, experience and capability across the whole of the U.S. Government. This investment has been vital to protect and advance HIV gains and fight COVID-19 on the African continent.

U.S. Efforts Deliver Results Around the World

USAID, the Department of State through PEPFAR, and the CDC have successfully supported many countries around the world by scaling up vaccine delivery and distribution efforts. For example:

- In Cameroon, where persistent hesitancy has contributed to low COVID-19 vaccine uptake, USAID, CDC, and PEPFAR have assessed key drivers of vaccine hesitancy and acceptance. The assessments informed USAID-produced radio, television, and newspaper materials to promote the government’s national COVID-19 vaccination campaign conducted in November 2021. The U.S. Embassy also erected a tent in Yaoundé where USAID supported vaccination activities. The campaign proved successful: During the first five days of the campaign, 274,000 Cameroonians received their first dose of the vaccine, and 70,000 received their second dose.
- In Mali, CDC, in partnership with local organizations, is supporting the Ministry of Health to implement its vaccination program. This includes training more than 800 healthcare workers throughout five regions. CDC is also helping Mali conduct a knowledge, attitudes, and practices survey to improve understanding of vaccine demand and hesitancy.
- In El Salvador, where 67.9% of the population has received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, USAID funded the installment of 39 remote temperature monitoring devices in the national and regional depots where vaccines are stored, which will enable the Ministry of Health to monitor the temperatures of the cold storage remotely, quickly identify and address any issues, and help get more vaccines to the last mile.
- In Nigeria, CDC built upon its 20-year history of working with the Ministry of Health on HIV prevention and control through PEPFAR, polio eradication, and health emergencies to support COVID-19 vaccine rollout.
- In Zambia, U.S. support through PEPFAR and other global health programs played a key role in the launch of a COVID-19 vaccine campaign in the Copperbelt region focused on getting two million people vaccinated by the end of the year. As part of this effort, USAID is supporting extensive door-to-door community outreach and events at soccer stadiums, hair salons, and more.

- In Bangladesh, USAID recently transferred four new ultra-cold freezer trucks to the government to safely transport millions of COVID-19 vaccines across the country. Fourteen more trucks are on the way, enabling millions more to receive vaccines.
- In Kosovo, USAID is supporting the government's vaccination efforts in marginalized communities with low vaccine uptake. More than 8,000 volunteers engaged in door-to-door campaigns in marginalized Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in 13 Kosovo municipalities to raise awareness, address concerns, and increase vaccine confidence and uptake.
- In Thailand, CDC worked with government partners to integrate COVID-19 surveillance into the existing influenza surveillance systems to improve outbreak detection and to evaluate vaccine effectiveness.
- In Belize, CDC supported the Ministry of Health and Wellness to increase the number of trained staff to administer vaccines. CDC training focused on measuring dosages, timing between shots administered, monitoring for adverse symptoms after vaccination, and proper documentation. This surge workforce has been instrumental in Belize, delivering at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine to 72.5 percent of the eligible population.
- In Georgia, CDC collaborated with the Ministry of Health and community partners to strengthen vaccine communication plans to promote vaccine benefits and safety and dispel rumors contributing to lower levels of confidence in rural settings.
- In Uganda, CDC experts joined a local language television show to emphasize the critical importance of COVID-19 vaccine uptake for people living with HIV. Leveraging existing platforms and decades-long relationships developed through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), CDC and its partners are collaborating with five regional partners to support COVID-19 vaccination uptake in priority groups and strengthen vaccine data management and monitoring.
- In partnership with UNICEF, USAID has supported the installation of more than 300 ultra-cold-chain freezers to enable the safe storage and management of the Pfizer vaccines in 39 countries—and hundreds more will be installed by January.
- USAID has worked with UNICEF, the Gates Foundation, and the White House COVID-19 team to closely coordinate the procurement and supply of specialized auto-disable safety syringes to prevent the spread of other viruses that can come from syringe reuse.
- CDC is supporting evaluation of COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness by variant, vaccine target group, and product in more than a dozen countries and through regional networks across four World Health Organization regions. These collaborations have led to the first real-world vaccine effectiveness estimates for global vaccine products and helped inform global vaccine policy.

The Road Ahead

In September, President Biden called on global leaders during the first Global COVID-19 Summit to meet a set of common targets to vaccinate the world, save lives now, and build back better health systems and health security—including the goal of getting shots into arms for everyone, everywhere. The United States, working with partners and multilateral organizations, will host a second COVID-19 summit aimed at accountability and new actions by the end of the first quarter of 2022.