COVAX OBJECTIVES 2022

(Updated April 2022)

In view of the ongoing, global pandemic, and in light of the WHO target for countries to vaccinate 70% of their population, COVAX aspires to enable equitable, full vaccination of all adult and adolescent populations globally to reduce the impact of the ongoing pandemic, allow economies and societies to function, and guard against the future evolution of the virus.

1. COVAX will encourage and support countries to achieve full vaccination, including recommended boosters (as per updated SAGE guidance).

2. COVAX's priority is to help AMC-92 countries to protect 100% of their highest- and high-risk populations.[1] The size of this group will vary across geographies. The primary objective of vaccinating this population is to provide protection against morbidity and mortality.

3. In addition, in the context of the global health security situation and building upon national goals, we will support all AMC-92 countries to strive towards complete vaccination of adult and adolescent (12+) populations. The primary objective of vaccinating this population is to rapidly maximize population immunity, to safeguard against a constantly evolving virus, and help reopen economies.

4. When specifically requested by countries, COVAX will consider providing vaccines for children aged 5-12. Countries will only be considered once they have achieved substantial progress in the high and highest priority groups (40% coverage will be used as a proxy) and confirm routine immunisation programmes will not be adversely impacted.

5. COVAX will concentrate finance and delivery efforts on AMC-92 countries, with an urgent focus on the 34 countries most in need of concerted support.

6. Recognising that countries face many competing priorities in the public health agenda, we will work with them to integrate Covid-19 vaccinations with other primary health interventions, increasing access and maximizing overall health impact.

7. In the face of the evolving pandemic, COVAX will continue its work to support R&D, regulatory, policy and manufacturing, including support for local manufacturing and tech transfer.

8. COVAX urgently needs the financial support of donors to achieve its delivery goals. Given the uncertainty of the pandemic, COVAX also needs to ensure contingent financing is available to be rapidly deployed should the need arise to procure and deliver new vaccines.

[1] As identified in the WHO SAGE Roadmap (updated Jan 2022). Highest priority-use groups include older adults, health workers and immunocompromised persons and the high priority-use groups include adults with comorbidities, pregnant persons, teachers and other essential workers, disadvantages sociodemographic subpopulations at higher risk of severe COVID-19.