



# COVID-19 national deployment and vaccination plan

**SUBMISSION AND REVIEW PROCESS**

29 JANUARY 2021



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COUNTRY READINESS AND DELIVERY



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# 1. Background

The national deployment and vaccination plan (NDVP) constitutes a country's overall plan to deploy vaccines and deliver vaccination to identified target populations. The NDVP is considered the "one country plan" and main framework for a country's COVID-19 vaccine deployment and vaccination efforts in all countries. The plan can be used to work with donors such as the World Bank, other development banks as well as the COVAX Facility for Advanced Market Commitment (AMC) for 92 eligible low- and middle-income economies (AMC 92).<sup>1</sup> The *Guidance for developing a national deployment and vaccination plan for COVID-19 vaccines* provides advice to countries to develop their NDVP.

In order to avoid two levels of review at the regional and global process, respectively, Gavi Independent Review Committee (IRC) members are included in a regional review committee. This method was selected to shorten the timeline for vaccine allocation recommendations to countries and avoid delays in implementing vaccination. The process described builds directly from the Gavi IRC process and incorporates information, processes, lessons learned and documents developed from the 2009 H1N1 pandemic vaccine deployment, when a similar process was convened. Because of the multiple partners in the COVAX Facility, this process was developed through an iterative process with input from a broad group of stakeholders at the global and regional levels.

This document outlines the submission and review process for the NDVP that applies to the AMC 92 countries, including a step-by-step process for NDVP development, submission and review (Annex 1). To enable a consistent and uniform assessment, an Excel-based NDVP Standard Review Form (SRF) will be used by reviewers. A user's guide is provided to support reviewers in evaluating each question in the SRF and is attached as Annex 2. This document and the SRF will be posted on the WHO and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) websites so that countries may also use them to preview or conduct pre-assessments of their NDVP.

A review process will guide vaccine allocation decisions and be used to provide feedback to countries for improving and finalizing NDVPs. A decade ago, during the influenza a(H1N1) pandemic, countries underwent a similar review process to receive donated vaccines. Similarly, countries receiving support from Gavi undergo a similar review for receiving support for introduction of new vaccines and for health systems strengthening.

## 2. Scope and objectives of the NDVP review

The NDVP serves as the **one country plan** for COVID-19 vaccine deployment and vaccination as well as the main framework for country support and assistance. The development process is expected to be iterative, with countries and partners working together to finetune the NDVP and fill gaps as the development progresses, until the NDVP is finalized. The 92 AMC countries are required to submit the NDVP so that country vaccine preparedness and readiness can be assessed prior to shipment of the allocated doses of

<sup>1</sup> **Low income:** Afghanistan, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen.

**Lower-middle income:** Angola, Algeria, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, El Salvador, Eswatini, Ghana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Mauritania, Micronesia (Federated States of), Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, West Bank and Gaza Strip, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

**Additional International Development Association eligible:** Dominica, Fiji, Grenada, Guyana, Kosovo, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tonga, Tuvalu.

COVID-19 vaccines from the COVAX Facility. The NDVP review will support identification of both technical and financial needs which in turn can inform requests to partners.

The purpose of the NDVP review is to:

- Assist all countries in making sure that their NDVP includes all the key elements required to rapidly deploy vaccines and implement COVID-19 vaccination.
- Document and provide awareness of needed actions and support technical improvements, which can be useful for gaining high level support.

Each region will establish a Regional Review Committee (RRC) that will conduct a review of the country plans to gauge preparedness, based on the NDVP submissions. The RRC will determine and shape the final regional review procedure and determine the process for further consultations between the RRC and countries to discuss the recommendations, should these be required.

Once the NDVP is officially submitted by the appropriate national government authority on the COVID-19 Partners Platform, the key responsibilities for the RRC will be to:

- Assess country preparedness in all key areas of the NDVP and provide feedback to countries via existing channels to support country readiness for vaccine introduction.
- Develop recommendations to highlight areas in need of further work or flag any potential technical assistance needs to support improvements in future iterations of the NDVP.
- Confirm adequacy for the 92 AMC countries in the four areas considered to be the minimum criteria that must be met before countries can proceed in a global vaccine allocation exercise (see section 5.1).

The review will form the basis for providing recommendations for allocation of vaccines or improvement(s) to the NDVP for the first target group delivery for up to 3% of the total population (phase 1) and for later target group delivery up to 20% of the total population (phase 2) and beyond.

The review recommendations will be returned to the country with one of three outcomes:

1. The NDVP will be accepted and recommended for the inclusion in the next vaccine allocation round.
2. The NDVP will require minor revisions. Countries will receive written recommendations for revision and

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