

31 March 2023

Requesters name redacted for proactive  
release

195 Lambton Quay  
Private Bag 18-901  
Wellington 6160  
New Zealand

T +64 4 439 8000  
F +64 4 472 9596

OIA 28535

Tēnā koe Requesters name redacted for  
proactive release

On 12 February 2023 you made an Official Information Act request to the Ministry of Health where you requested:

- 1) *the purpose of the CoVax arrangement, why NZ got involved and who else was involved and any expectations to be achieved by it*
- 2) *copies of all draft and signed agreements*
- 3) **information about funding allocated to CoVax from NZ and other sources**
- 4) *advice to any Minister or any other person about the risks, benefits, alternatives etc to CoVax before or after joining covax*
- 5) *any reviews of the benefits and costs risks etc to the participation in CoVax at any time after joining covax*
- 6) *any other obligations arising from CoVax including domestic or international obligations with other states, international organizations and/ or with vaccine manufacturers etc and how NZ addressed these*
- 7) *any information to show how NZs investment in CoVax benefitted NZs Covid response*
- 8) *any learning and/or other advice arising from CoVax*
- 9) *any press releases and/ or other communications with media about CoVax*

On 6 March 2023, you were informed by the Ministry of Health that point 3 of your request "information about funding allocated to CoVax from NZ and other sources" was transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (The Ministry).

The COVAX Facility is a global initiative to equitably distribute safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines worldwide. New Zealand was an early donor to COVAX and has provided NZ\$26 million in financial contributions to the COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC) to support vaccine access and uptake in developing countries.

Funding was provided from New Zealand's international development cooperation programme for all three contributions, each of which was publicly announced at the time (copies of press releases are also attached):

- NZ\$7 million contribution to the COVAX AMC, announced in May 2020 - [www.beehive.govt.nz/release/new-zealand-joins-global-search-covid-19-vaccine](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/new-zealand-joins-global-search-covid-19-vaccine)
- NZ\$10 million contribution to the COVAX AMC, announced in December 2020 - [www.beehive.govt.nz/release/nz-ready-provide-75m-pacific-and-global-covid-19-vaccination-support](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/nz-ready-provide-75m-pacific-and-global-covid-19-vaccination-support)

- NZ\$9 million contribution to the COVAX AMC for vaccine delivery and increasing immunisation rates In countries where vaccine uptake is still very low, announced in December 2021: [www.beehive.govt.nz/release/new-zealand-provides-additional-funding-covax-vaccine-delivery](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/new-zealand-provides-additional-funding-covax-vaccine-delivery)

New Zealand also provided approximately NZ\$6.4 million in funding to COVAX to cover the cost of safe injection equipment and other ancillary costs associated with our approximately 9.7 million COVID-19 vaccine dose donations to the COVAX AMC to date.

Information held regarding funding allocated to COVAX from other sources is attached. Some portions of the documents are withheld under the following section of the OIA:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government.

A list of donor pledges to the Gavi COVAX AMC is also publicly available on the World Health Organization website at URL: [www.who.int/initiatives/act-accelerator/covax/covax-news-note-to-editors](https://www.who.int/initiatives/act-accelerator/covax/covax-news-note-to-editors)

Please note that we may publish this letter (with your personal details redacted) and enclosed documents on the Ministry's website.

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: [DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz). You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Sarah Corbett  
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

**From:** [GENEVA](#)  
**To:** [CPCD; PHM](#)  
**Cc:** [...ALL POSTS; EUR; AMER; AUS; SEA; MFA; TND; LGL; ECO; DST; ...WLN.SLT; DCE; OCE; FM.DPMC \(FPA\) \(Seemail\); FM.P/S MFA \(Seemail\); FM.P/S Trade \(Seemail\); s6\(a\) FM,Health Ministry \(Seemail\); FM.MBIE Science & Innovation \(Seemail\); FM.MBIE Formal Messages \(Seemail\); UNHC; CMD; FM.Treasury \(Seemail\)](#)  
**Subject:** FORMAL MESSAGE: COVID-19 VACCINES: COVAX AMC INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY LAUNCH  
**Date:** Friday, 16 April 2021 9:25:43 am  
**Attachments:** [Post IO Launch - PRESS RELEASE - FINAL.pdf](#)

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## [UNCLASSIFIED]

### Rāpopoto – Summary

Hosted by the US and Gavi, the COVAX AMC Investment Opportunity launched today seeks to raise US\$2 billion by June - sufficient to secure an additional 500 million Covid-19 vaccine doses for COVAX in 2021. Donor and private sector pledges at the event totalled nearly US\$400 million. Prime Minister Ardern announced that New Zealand will donate vaccine doses sufficient to cover 800,000 people, with a focus on the Pacific region. This specific commitment was welcomed by Gavi, and places New Zealand at the forefront of tangible efforts to share doses through COVAX (with the UK and France/Team Europe also committing to share doses in the future). Japan announced it will bookend today's event through hosting a Gavi COVAX AMC Summit in June.

### Hohenga – Action

For information.

### Pūrongo – Report

A "One World Protected" virtual event, hosted today by the US and Gavi launched a campaign to raise by the middle of 2021 an additional US\$2 billion for the COVAX Advanced Market Commitment (AMC). The investment prospectus is available [here](#); the press release from today's event is attached.

2 The event attracted participation (live and pre-recorded) from a geographical spread of Heads of State/Government and Ministers, as well as leaders from philanthropic organisations (including Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, VISA Foundation), multilateral development banks (including World Bank, IMF, IDB), pharmaceutical companies (including AstraZeneca and Pfizer CEOs), private sector (Google Health) and UN agencies.

3 **The investment case** was laid out by a number of speakers. US Secretary of State Blinken commented that this was "not just an opportunity, it is an imperative". Stopping COVID-19 was "the top priority" of the Biden-Harris administration, and ensuring broad and equitable access to vaccines was an essential part of achieving that goal. Blinken applauded the countries who had supported COVAX to date, "but to beat this pandemic we must aim higher". He observed that with US\$2 billion of additional finance, COVAX could reach 30 percent rather than 20 percent population coverage of the 92 AMC-eligible countries. IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva observed that while current forecasts pointed to an improved outlook for the global economy, this was would "multispeed", with many developing countries languishing economically for years. "Vaccine policy is currently the single most important economic policy", and could add 9 trillion to the global economy by 2025.

4 Many speakers lauded the **speed and historic achievements of COVAX to date**, and the importance of global solidarity and multilateralism in responding to Covid-19. Swedish Prime Minister Lofven recognised the impressive reach of COVAX which had now delivered vaccines to more than 100 countries. Colombia President Martinez pointed to the success of COVAX and its ability to raise more than US\$6 billion in 2020; "COVAX works". Ghanaian President Addo observed that COVAX had laid the foundation for responding to future pandemics when they

arrived. Singapore Foreign Minister Balakrishnan noted that a strong commitment to vaccine multilateralism was essential.

5 The **challenges facing COVAX** were also illuminated during the event. Gavi Board Chair Barroso, amongst others, called out vaccine nationalism and export restrictions, commenting that the world was far from achieving vaccine equity. Indonesian Foreign Minister Marsudi contrasted the 1 in 4 people in High Income Countries that had been vaccinated against the 1 in 500 in Low and Middle Income Countries. She said there was a need to resist vaccine stockpiling and avoid fuelling geopolitical divides. UNICEF Executive Director Fore pointed to the risk posed by new variants, and that “health workers are exhausted”. Supply constraints and manufacturing scale up challenges were also commonly identified by speakers.

6 In addition to restatements of existing pledges, a number of **new financial commitments were announced** during the event. These included Sweden announcing it would increase its funding to COVAX by USD260 million, bringing its contribution to a total of USD280mn (making Sweden the largest contributor relative to population size). The Netherlands announced an additional US\$47 million, and Denmark US\$8 million. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced that US\$ 30 million would be made available to match private sector contributions to COVAX AMC. An anonymous Swiss foundation offered US\$ 16 million to incentivize private sector giving, and Google Health committed US\$2.5 million in funding plus US\$15 million in advertisement credits for Gavi.

7 Noting that it was unlikely that COVAX would have more doses available in 2021 due to supply limitations, Gavi CEO Berkley highlighted the **importance of dose sharing** to supplement the doses purchased for AMC countries by COVAX. “Sharing quickly will help get vaccines out to the most vulnerable”. In this context, Prime Minister Ardern announced (via pre-recorded video) that **New Zealand will donate to COVAX vaccine doses sufficient to cover 800,000 people, with a focus on the Pacific region**. The UK and France/Team Europe also committed to share doses, but without specific details.

#### **Tākupu – Comment**

8 Gavi will have been pleased with the level of participation and the commitments made at today’s launch event. Prime Minister Ardern’s dose sharing announcement drew specific thanks from Gavi ([Gavi tweet](#)) and places New Zealand at the forefront of tangible efforts to share vaccine doses through COVAX.

**Mutu - Ends**

**UNDER EMBARGO – 16:35 CET, 15 April 2021**



## **GLOBAL LEADERS RALLY TO ACCELERATE ACCESS TO COVID-19 VACCINES FOR LOWER-INCOME COUNTRIES**

- The “One World Protected” Event, hosted today by the United States and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, launched a campaign to raise US\$ 2 billion for the global fight against COVID-19.
- The additional funding from donors and countries with MDB support will enable the Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC) to secure 1.8 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines for 92 lower-income countries by the end of the year.
- At the event, governments and private sector partners made early pledges worth nearly US\$ 400 million and committed to donate millions of COVID-19 vaccine doses to COVAX to benefit the most vulnerable in lower income economies.
- The new campaign will culminate in June 2021, at the Gavi COVAX AMC Summit, which will be hosted by Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga of Japan.

**Washington, D.C./Geneva, 15 April 2021** – World leaders joined forces today at the “[One World Protected](#)” event to take stock of progress in global efforts to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines and seek ways to further accelerate vaccination. The event, hosted by US Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken, Acting Administrator of USAID Gloria Steele, and Chair of the Board of Gavi José Manuel Barroso, was joined by more than 200 participants, including leaders from government, business, civil society, and partner organizations across the globe.

In a vital step on the path to providing global protection against COVID-19, a new Investment Opportunity was unveiled, launching a campaign to raise an additional \$US 2 billion from donors and the private sector for the [Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment \(AMC\)](#). With this funding, the COVAX mechanism can lock in up to 1.8 billion vaccine doses for people at risk in 92 lower income economies and accelerate coverage. The campaign will also aim to mobilize \$US 1 billion in cost sharing from countries through domestic resource mobilization and the support of multilateral development banks (MDBs).

Secretary Blinken and Acting USAID Administrator Steele, hosts of today's meeting, confirmed that the United States considers COVAX a critical instrument to ensure a coordinated global response. President Biden decided to join COVAX as one of the first acts of his new Administration, and the United States has become the single largest contributor to the Gavi COVAX AMC. The United States will continue to encourage world leaders to join in the effort.

## UNDER EMBARGO – 16:35 CET, 15 April 2021

"This isn't just an opportunity – it's an imperative," said Secretary of State Blinken. "From day one, President Biden has made stopping COVID-19 the top priority of the Biden-Harris administration. And ensuring broad and equitable access to vaccines is an essential part of achieving that goal. To that end, the U.S. government contributed \$2 billion to Gavi in support of COVAX in March – the largest donation COVAX has ever received. And we'll contribute an additional \$2 billion to this effort through 2022, because people everywhere should have access to rigorously tested, safe, and effective COVID-19 vaccines. And because we recognize that as long as COVID is spreading and replicating anywhere, it poses a threat to people everywhere."

Acting Administrator of USAID Gloria Steele noted, "The rapid spread of COVID-19 and its emerging variants demonstrates that no nation can act alone in a global pandemic. Vaccinating as many people as possible, as quickly as possible, is the only way to reduce the tragic loss of life, end the pandemic, and move us toward economic and social recovery."

The campaign will culminate in June 2021, where world leaders will meet again at the Gavi COVAX AMC Summit, hosted by Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga of Japan.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan Toshimitsu Motegi, taking note of the upcoming milestone, remarked, "Today, we are pleased to announce that Japan will co-host the "Gavi AMC Summit" with Gavi in June. The supply of vaccines and funding are still insufficient, and there is an urgent need to further strengthen the COVAX facility to ensure equitable access to safe, effective, and quality-assured vaccines to people in developing countries."

### New commitments to the Gavi COVAX AMC

At the event today, a number of donor governments announced significant new commitments worth a total of almost \$400 million towards the 2021 goal. This includes:

- **SEK 2.25 billion** (US\$ 258.1 million) pledge from **Sweden** for the International Finance Facility for Immunisation (IFFIm), Gavi's innovative financing mechanism.
- **EUR 40 million** (US\$ 47.2 million) from the **Netherlands** for the Gavi COVAX AMC
- **DKK 50 million** (US\$ 8 million) from **Denmark** for the Gavi COVAX AMC
- **CHF 100,000** (US\$ 106,000) from **Liechtenstein** for the Gavi COVAX AMC
- **EUR 678,125** (US\$ 800,188) from **Portugal** for the Gavi COVAX AMC

In addition to these, private sector partners and foundations also mobilised significant new resources for the Gavi COVAX AMC:

- The **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** announced that **US\$ 30 million** of its contribution to the Gavi Matching Fund would be made available to match private sector contributions to the COVAX AMC.
- **Gates Philanthropy Partners** have mobilized **US\$ 18 million**
- A **Swiss foundation** wishing to remain anonymous also offered **CHF 15 million** (US\$ 15.9 million) to incentivize private sector giving
- **Google.org** have committed **US\$ 2.5 million** to the COVAX AMC and in parallel will launch a global campaign incentivising employees to contribute directly to Gavi. In addition, Google.org has donated **US\$ 15 million** in Ad credits to Gavi. Longer term, Google.org engineers will also support Gavi's broader innovation agenda.
- The **Asia Philanthropic Circle** joined as a new partner and pledged **US\$ 1.5 million**

## UNDER EMBARGO – 16:35 CET, 15 April 2021

- The **Visa Foundation** joined as a new partner and pledge **US\$ 1.5 million**. Visa will also match employee donations to Gavi dollar for dollar through Visa's employee donation matching program.
- A group of **Portuguese philanthropists and partners** (Fidelidade Group, Luz Saúde Hospitals and Multicare Insurance, Manuel António da Mota Foundation, the Ismaili Imamat and Caixa Geral de Depósitos) collectively committed **EUR 1.5 million** (US\$ 1.8 million).
- **Vaccine Forward** (including AB SKF) have contributed **SEK 2 million** (US\$ 230,000) to-date, with the aim to mobilise up to US\$10 million

The cash contributions from Google, the Asia Philanthropic Circle and the Visa Foundation will be matched by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

"Equitable distribution of vaccines offers the best prospect for ending the pandemic, kick-starting economic recovery and overcoming the vaccine divide between those with access to COVID-19 vaccines and those without," said José Manuel Barroso, Chair of the Board of Gavi. "We are not there yet: while COVAX has begun delivering to AMC participating economies, we urgently need additional funding to protect those most at risk from the virus. I applaud leaders for stepping up and showing their support today as we embark on this vital fundraising effort."

### First commitments to dose sharing through COVAX

In addition to financial support, new pledges in support of dose sharing through COVAX were announced at the event. Under this scheme, countries will be able to donate millions of doses of their own COVID19 vaccines to COVAX in an act of global solidarity. As part of this effort, New Zealand committed today that it will donate more than 1.6 million doses of vaccines to COVAX, with a focus on the Pacific region. France welcomed the finalization of a new agreement between COVAX and Team Europe on the provision of doses which will ensure the first French and European donations via COVAX will materialize shortly.

The first international delivery of doses of COVID-19 vaccines supported by COVAX arrived in Ghana on February 24. As of today, more than 38 million doses have been shipped to 113 countries across six continents.

"The end of the pandemic is far from over as a vaccine global divide still looms large. Almost one in four people has received a COVID-19 vaccine in high-income countries while in low-income countries, only one in more than 500 people," said Retno L. P. Marsudi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia and co-chair of the COVAX AMC Engagement Group. "The COVAX Facility needs support from all of us, and each country has the responsibility to secure equitable access to vaccine for all. It is not only our moral duty to see this through, but it is in our common interest to bolster efforts to keep everyone safe. Global solidarity must prevail."

At the meeting, Heads of State and Ministers of Health of the countries that will see their vaccine coverage boosted by COVAX underlined the necessity to act quickly. The Chair of the African Union and President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, H.E. Felix Tshisekedi, noted the critical role that COVAX was playing to help put an end to the pandemic on the African Continent, and heralded the strong support of African nations for the mechanism. Pharmaceutical industry leaders reiterated their commitment to make doses available for COVAX to help stop the spread of the pandemic, and other partners reemphasized their commitments to the joint effort of ensuring global equitable access.

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Dr Seth Berkley, CEO of Gavi, who summarized the Investment Opportunity's primary imperatives for the gathering, said: "We must all pull together – governments and the private sector from around the world – because we cannot afford to fail. Leaving any countries behind just gives the virus more of a chance to mutate and increase the threat. We are only safe if we are all safe. Let us respond to the challenge at hand and prepare for the next one."

### Donor and partner quotes

**Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister, New Zealand** said: "Dose sharing can help us make the best use of available vaccines, and the COVAX Facility provides an efficient and equitable way to share doses with others."

**Per Olsson Fridh, Minister for International Development Cooperation, Sweden** said: "COVAX represents our best way of ending the pandemic by ensuring equitable global access to safe and effective vaccines. Already reaching over 100 countries, COVAX also shows what we can achieve by working together – from scientists and manufacturers to governments and multilateral organizations, to health workers around the globe. I am proud of Sweden's contribution of US\$ 280 million, making Sweden the largest contributor relative to our population. This is an investment not only in global solidarity, but also in our common objective of putting an end to the pandemic. Minimising the risk of dangerous virus variants, enabling a quicker economic recovery and minimising the already devastating impact of COVID-19 is in everyone's best interest. I hope that many more will join us in contributing to the COVAX Investment Opportunity launched today, because the pandemic isn't over anywhere until it is over everywhere."

**Sigrid Kaag, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, The Netherlands** said: "Vaccines are an essential investment to overcome the pandemic. We must upscale the availability of vaccines worldwide, ensure that they reach the most vulnerable and that health systems are strong enough. Therefore The Netherlands invests an extra 40 million EUR in COVAX AMC, as part of a broader package of 52 million EUR for vaccines and country readiness in support of the Access to COVID 19 Accelerator."

**Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne, Minister of State attached to the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, France** said: "France welcomes the finalization of the agreement on dose donations between COVAX and Team Europe, which will ensure the first donations via COVAX. This expression of solidarity is essential to speed up the rollout of vaccines in the world. France invites all developed countries to get involved, because it is now that the needs are most urgent. That is the meaning of the call issued by President Macron at the G7 Summit in February: to share at least 13 million vaccines by June 2021. France will play its part."

**Dr Karen DeSalvo, Chief Health Officer, Google** said: "COVID-19 has taken a devastating toll on communities around the world and overcoming the pandemic will require a coordinated effort on a global scale. Providing equitable access to vaccines is an essential step in our path towards recovery and Google is proud to stand alongside Gavi and their network of partners working towards that goal. No one is safe until we are all safe and we have a collective responsibility to ensure that everyone who wants to get vaccinated can do so, safely."

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**Al Kelly, Chairman and CEO, Visa** said: "As the world begins to recover from the pandemic, we need to ensure COVID does not turbocharge global inequality through a lack of consistent vaccine access. Public-private partnerships are vital to stop the spread of COVID and rebuild our global economy, which is why I'm proud Visa Foundation will grant \$1.5 million to the COVAX Advance Market Commitment to help make the COVID vaccine accessible to developing countries."

**Lawrence Lien, CEO of Asia Philanthropy Circle** said: "Ubiquitous equitable access to vaccines is of the utmost importance to prevent the pandemic from further putting lives and economies at unbearable risks. The Asia Philanthropy Circle with their members are proud to support Gavi for vaccine distribution in Asia helping to resolve the greatest public health and economic challenge of our lifetime."

**Dr Richard Hatchett, CEO of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)** said: "Last week St Lucia became the 100th country to receive doses from COVAX. We owe this achievement to the support and generosity of our partners and donors. Now, we must do more. The world has entered a new phase of the pandemic: more transmissible and lethal COVID-19 variants have caused resurgent disease outbreaks worldwide, and are driving overwhelming demand for vaccine. We fight an evolving virus, and fair access to vaccines is more important than ever to protect the most vulnerable, reduce the prevalence of the disease, and slow viral mutation. Equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines will benefit everyone on the planet, by ending the acute phase of the pandemic in the fastest and fairest way possible. With renewed financial support, commitment and collaboration from our partners, COVAX can make this a reality."

**Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General** said: "There remains a shocking and expanding disparity in the global distribution of vaccines. Some AMC countries haven't received any vaccines, none have received enough and now some countries are not receiving their second-round allocations on time. We've shown that COVAX works. But to realize its full potential, we need all countries to step up with the political and financial commitments needed to fully fund COVAX and end the pandemic."

**UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore** said: "Right now, there is far from enough supply to meet global demand – especially in the most vulnerable countries. Vaccines are concentrated in the hands of the few. Vaccine nationalism threatens us all. New variants are emerging. Health systems are strained. And health workers are exhausted – with many still waiting for their own vaccination," said. "The COVAX AMC is a beacon of hope. It's an effective, realistic way to ensure fair and affordable access to vaccines for all. But getting vaccines off the tarmac and delivered to difficult-to-reach populations requires concerted, coordinated effort and dedicated funding."

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### Notes to editors

Further event information is available [here](#).  
For a full list of AMC donors click [here](#).  
The latest table of pledges to the AMC is available [here](#).

**About Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance**

## UNDER EMBARGO – 16:35 CET, 15 April 2021

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance is a public-private partnership that helps vaccinate half the world's children against some of the world's deadliest diseases. Since its inception in 2000, Gavi has helped to immunise a whole generation – over 822 million children – and prevented more than 14 million deaths, helping to halve child mortality in 73 lower-income countries. Gavi also plays a key role in improving global health security by supporting health systems as well as funding global stockpiles for Ebola, cholera, meningitis and yellow fever vaccines. After two decades of progress, Gavi is now focused on protecting the next generation and reaching the unvaccinated children still being left behind, employing innovative finance and the latest technology – from drones to biometrics – to save millions more lives, prevent outbreaks before they can spread and help countries on the road to self-sufficiency. Learn more at [www.gavi.org](http://www.gavi.org) and connect with us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

The Vaccine Alliance brings together developing country and donor governments, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the World Bank, the vaccine industry, technical agencies, civil society, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and other private sector partners. View the full list of donor governments and other leading organizations that fund Gavi's work [here](#).

### About Gavi's role in COVAX

Gavi is focused on procurement and delivery at scale for COVAX: coordinating the design, implementation and administration of the [COVAX Facility](#) and the [COVAX AMC](#) and working with its Alliance partners UNICEF and WHO, along with governments, on country readiness and delivery. As part of this role, Gavi hosts the Office of the COVAX Facility to coordinate and provide oversight on the operation of the mechanism as a whole and negotiates advance purchase agreements with manufacturers of promising vaccine candidates, on behalf of the 191 economies participating in the COVAX Facility. It also coordinates the operation of, and fundraises for, the COVAX AMC and its no-fault compensation mechanism. As part of this work, Gavi works closely with governments and partners on ensuring country readiness, and funds UNICEF procurement of vaccines as well as partners' and governments work on readiness and delivery. This includes support for cold chain equipment, technical assistance, syringes, vehicles, and other aspects of the vastly complex logistical operation for delivery.

### About COVAX

COVAX, the vaccines pillar of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, is co-convened by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Gavi) and the World Health Organization (WHO) – working in partnership with UNICEF as key implementing partner, developed and developing country vaccine manufacturers, the World Bank, and others. It is the only global initiative that is working with governments and manufacturers to ensure COVID-19 vaccines are available worldwide to both higher-income and lower-income countries.

### About ACT-Accelerator

The Access to COVID-19 Tools ACT-Accelerator, is a new, ground-breaking global collaboration to accelerate the development, production, and equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments, and vaccines. It was set up in response to a call from G20 leaders in March and launched by the WHO, European Commission, France and The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in April 2020.

The ACT-Accelerator is not a decision-making body or a new organisation, but works to speed up collaborative efforts among existing organisations to end the pandemic. It is a framework for collaboration that has been designed to bring key players around the table with the goal of ending the pandemic as quickly as possible through the accelerated development, equitable allocation, and scaled up delivery of tests, treatments and vaccines, thereby protecting health systems and restoring societies and economies in the near term. It draws on the experience of leading global health organisations which are tackling the world's toughest health challenges, and who, by working together, are able to unlock new and more ambitious results against COVID-19. Its members share a commitment to ensure all people have access to all the tools needed to defeat COVID-19 and to work with unprecedented levels of partnership to achieve it.

The ACT-Accelerator has four areas of work: diagnostics, therapeutics, vaccines and the health system connector. Cross-cutting all of these is the workstream on Access & Allocation.

### Media contacts

**UNDER EMBARGO – 16:35 CET, 15 April 2021**

**Meg Sharafudeen**, Gavi

+41 79 711 5554

[msharafudeen@gavi.org](mailto:msharafudeen@gavi.org)

**Iryna Mazur**, Gavi

+41 79 429 3671

[imazur@gavi.org](mailto:imazur@gavi.org)

**Evan O'Connell**, Gavi

+33 6 17 57 21 26

[eoconnell@gavi.org](mailto:eoconnell@gavi.org)

**Laura Shevlin**, Gavi

+ 41 79 529 92 87

[lshevlin@gavi.org](mailto:lshevlin@gavi.org)

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