

Quarterly Update Q2: 1 April - 30 June 2021

About this update

This quarterly update provides a summary of the [ACT-Accelerator](#) implementation progress and achievements from April to end June 2021. It shows how investments in the ACT-Accelerator have continued to drive results and impact, and captures funding commitments, provides an overview of progress made in bringing COVID-19 tools to countries, and highlights efforts made to ensure health systems are able to receive and fully optimize the use of live-saving COVID-19 countermeasures.

State of the global pandemic

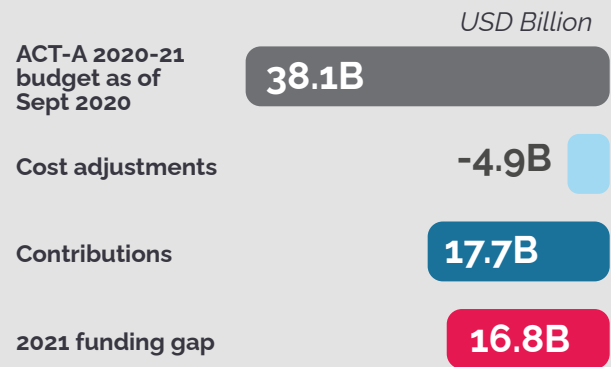
The COVID-19 pandemic, despite global efforts, is nowhere near over. Four variants of concern dominate the epidemiology and there are fears that new, and possibly more dangerous, variants may emerge, and be even more challenging to control.

Globally, more COVID-19 cases were reported in the first 5 months of 2021 than in the whole of 2020. While vaccinations now offer protection from severe disease and death, low-income (LIC) nations have received less than 1 percent of vaccines administered globally. Gaps between high-income and low-income countries have never been more apparent. All countries are experiencing new waves of infections, seeing erosion of public trust, resistance to public health and social measures. But while high-income countries have implemented widespread vaccination, put more robust testing systems in place and made therapies available, low- and lower-middle-income countries are still struggling to access all these tools. Additionally, governments are making increasingly divergent policy decisions that address narrow national needs which inhibit a harmonized approach to the global response.

(Source: [WHO dashboard](#)).

ACT-A overall financing situation¹

In just over 15 months [donors have pledged more than US\\$17.7 billion to the ACT-Accelerator](#).



¹ Financing figures updated as of 9th July 2021, based on first [ACT-A commitment tracker](#) update available after June 30th. Contributions include US\$1.4 billion pledged to ACT-A beyond the 2021 budget.

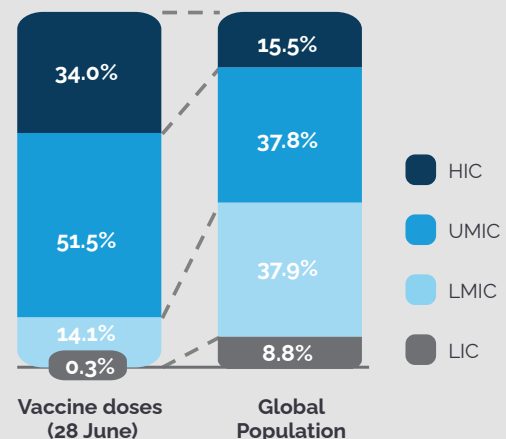
Confirmed cases & deaths

From March 2020 to 1 July 2021

Q2 from April 2021 to 1 July 2021



14.4% doses administered in LICs/LMICs representing 46.7% of the world's population



ACT-A delivery highlights

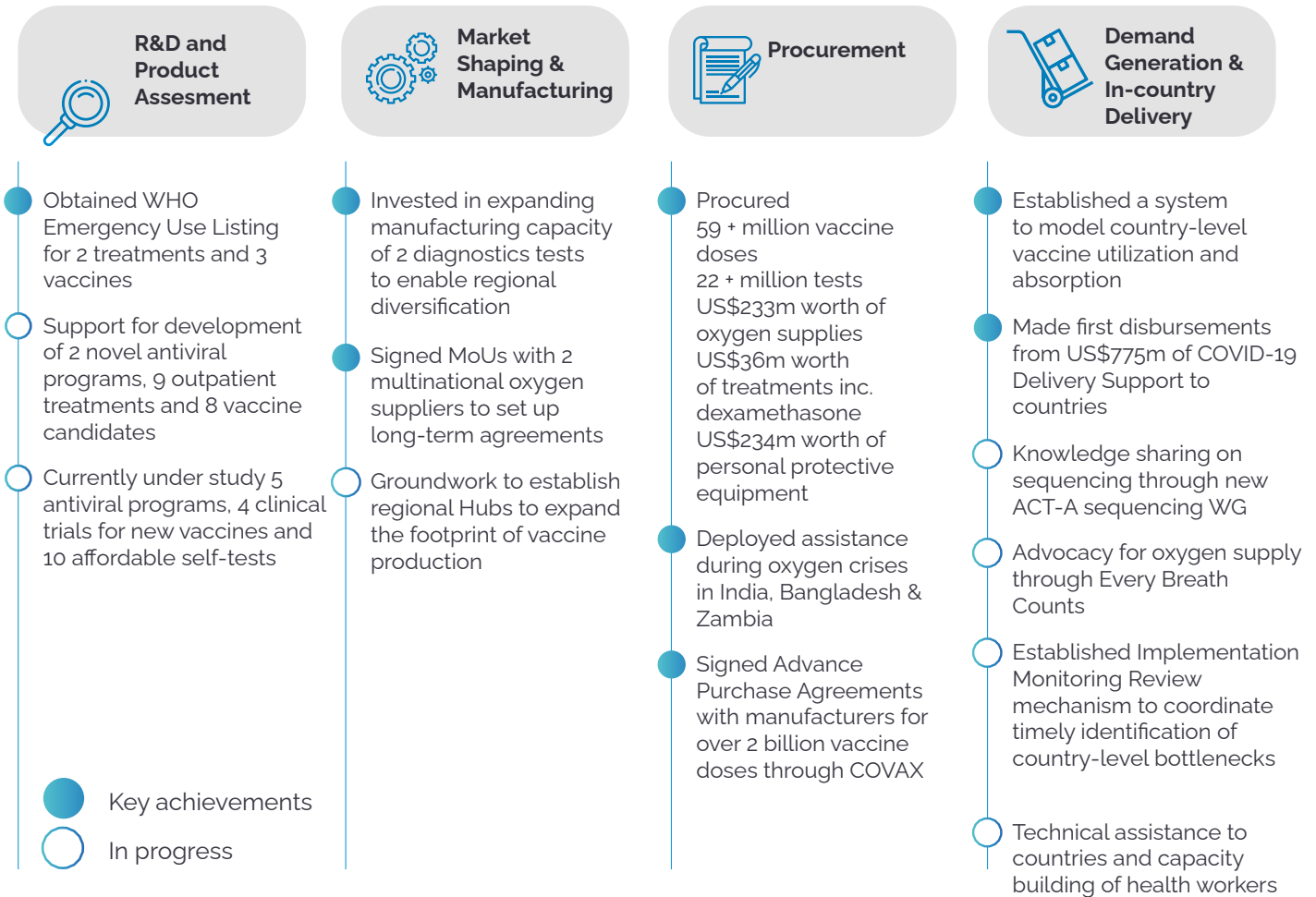
Overall procurement of COVID19 tools (since beginning of pandemic to end Jun 2021):

- **92.9 million** vaccine doses delivered through COVAX²
- **84 million** tests procured via Diagnostics Consortium
- **US\$37m** worth of treatments incl. dexamethasone³
- **US\$316m** worth of oxygen supplies
- **US\$554m** worth of personal protective equipment³

² Source [UNICEF](#).

³ Throughout the update, overall procurement of treatments (incl. dexamethasone), oxygen supplies and personal protective equipment is calculated as the total value of contributions through Global Fund C19RM (1 April 2021 - 21 June 2021), UNICEF shipments (1 April 2021 - 30 June 2021) and WHO SPRP procurement (1 April 2021 - 15 June 2021).

Q2: ACT-Accelerator pillar achievements

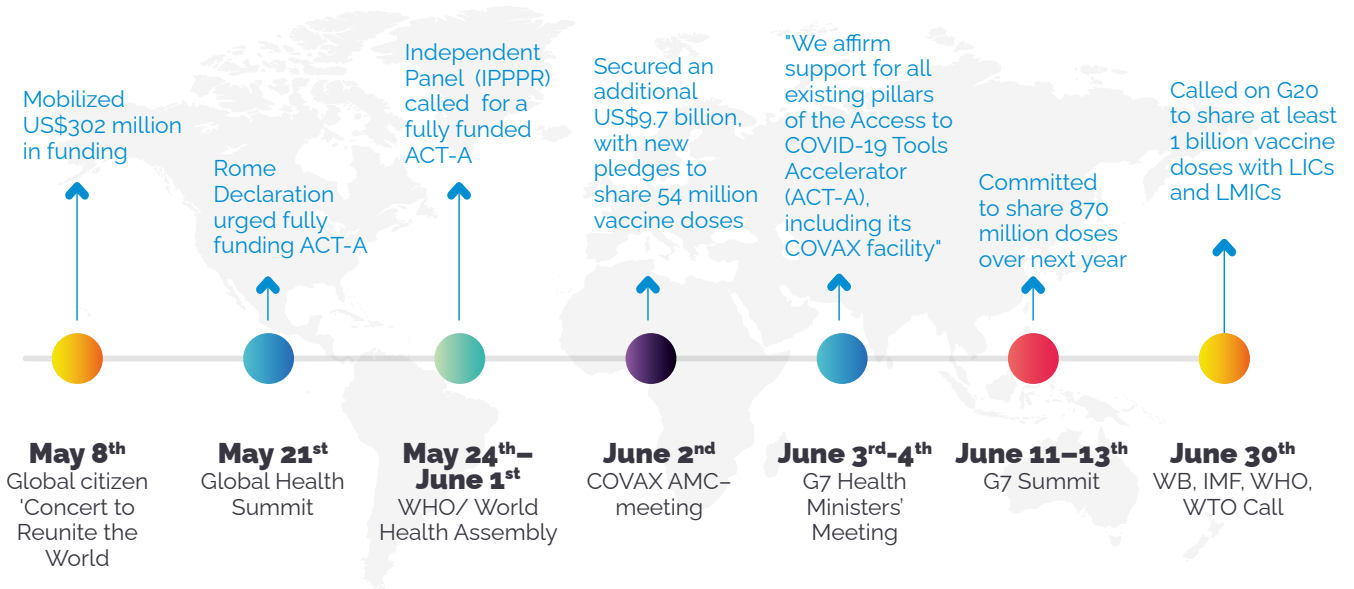


Mobilizing for equity

Increased global discourse and new initiatives reinforced the imperative to achieve equity in the fight against the pandemic. Leaders at [G7](#) committed to sharing 870 million vaccine doses over the next year; the [IMF](#) positioned its US\$50 bn

plan to end the pandemic as the best investment ever, with a US\$9 trillion payoff up to 2025; the [Independent Panel](#) for [Pandemic Preparedness](#) and [G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors](#) called for the ACT-A to be fully funded, and the [G20 Global Health Summit](#) resulted in multiple commitments to the ACT-Accelerator.

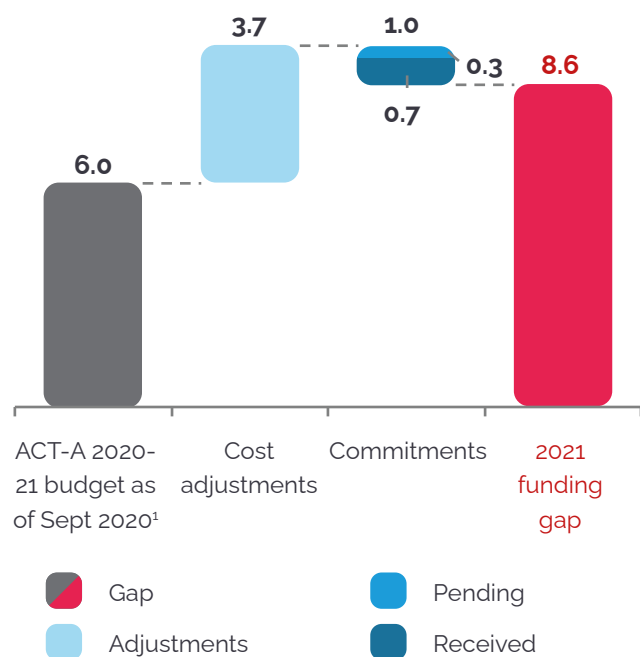
Advocacy support for the Act-Accelerator



ACT-A Diagnostics Pillar

Q2 Update: 1 April - 30 June 2021

US\$ Bn



¹ Financing figures updated as of 9th July 2021, based on first [ACT-A commitment tracker](#) update available after June 30th.

The Diagnostics Pillar is co-convened by FIND and the Global Fund, working closely with UNICEF, UNITAID, WHO and over 30 global health partners to scale up equitable access to COVID-19 diagnostic technologies.

Since the beginning of the pandemic:

- more than 84 million molecular and antigen rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) have been procured
- regionalized manufacturing has been given a boost through technology transfers
- the average price of antigen RDTs decreased from US\$5 to US\$2.5 (since September 2020)
- over 70 countries have been supported to expand laboratory infrastructure and ramp-up testing

Widespread and effective testing is critical for disease surveillance, outbreak detection, identification of new variants, patient diagnosis and contact tracing, and to measure the efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines particularly in light of emerging new variants. It also provides data to target public health measures such as lockdowns, distancing and mask policies, tailor advocacy and

risk communication and community engagement strategies to increase access to and uptake of diagnostics. Yet test-and-trace programmes globally have been chronically underfunded and now the reliance on vaccines is overshadowing the urgent need for heightened testing.

Variants can arise anywhere in the world and have the potential to decrease the effectiveness of existing tests, treatments, and vaccines. Ensuring rapid identification and robust surveillance of variant strains is therefore critical to ensure the progress made to date is not erased.



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Urgent actions needed

Procure US\$2.4 bn worth of Covid-19 tests to put all low-income countries and lower-middle-income countries on the path towards a ten-fold increase in COVID-19 testing and get all countries up to satisfactory testing levels

US\$
2.4
billion

Invest US\$0.1 bn in R&D, market shaping and manufacturing, technical assistance and demand-generation activities to ensure equitable access to diagnostics tools

US\$
0.1
billion

Resources needed

US\$
2.5
billion

Diagnostics Achievements for Equity

R&D and Product Assessment

Continued to assess diagnostic tests to inform government procurement of quality COVID-19 tests (90 to date since April 2020)

90+

Received and reviewed nearly 90 applications to bring affordable, accurate self-testing products to countries, with 10 now shortlisted for pilot programmes



Market shaping and manufacturing

Invested in the manufacturing of two quality and affordable rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) to increase global manufacturing capacity



Published new WHO Recommendations for national SARS-CoV-2 testing strategies



Procurement

Procured 22+ m COVID-19 diagnostics supplies for LMICs through the Diagnostics consortium

22+ million

Countries awarded US\$177 m for diagnostics

US\$ 177 million

Partner negotiations with suppliers resulted in 40-80% price reductions; the most affordable antigen RDT for COVID-19 was introduced at US\$2.55 and a record low price of US\$2.80 was reached for an RT-PCR test for manual use



Demand generation & in-country delivery

Continued testing pilot programmes in countries (20 to date since April 2020) and planned operational research studies (15 to date since April 2020)



Launched Antigen Rapid Diagnostic Test (Ag RDT) modelling consortium to explore the public health impact of Ag RDTs in different settings



Launched Genomic Surveillance Working Group; conducted baseline mapping of global sequencing capacity



Held first Country Roundtable, to enable bi-directional communication and information sharing with in-country implementers



Supported 73 countries with risk communication and community engagement activities to build trust and increase testing and tackle misinformation around COVID-19

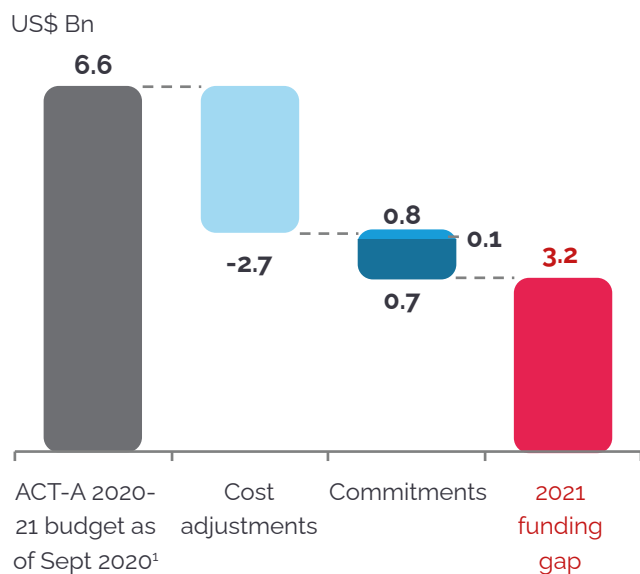


Updated web-based SARS-CoV-2 Ag RDT training package co-led by WHO and FIND - training accessed 1275 times in Q2 (from 95 countries or territories)

1275 times

ACT-A Therapeutics Pillar

Q2 Update: 1 April - 30 June 2021



¹Financing figures updated as of 9th July 2021, based on first [ACT-A commitment tracker](#) update available after June 30th.

The Therapeutics Pillar, co-led by Wellcome, Unitaid and WHO, supported the identification of the first life-saving therapy for COVID-19 – dexamethasone – and provided global guidance on its use. The Global Fund and UNICEF have led the work on procurement and deployment of COVID-19 therapeutics including oxygen and related products.

The COVID-19 Oxygen Emergency Taskforce was launched by Unitaid, Wellcome and WHO to assess and address COVID-19 surges in demand to cut preventable deaths. Global demand for medical oxygen is currently more than a dozen times greater than before the pandemic. Pre-publication [estimates](#) suggest that around 1 million critically-ill COVID-19 patients in low- and middle-income countries need 2.2 million oxygen cylinders (15.1 million cubic metres) per day.

From the start of the pandemic over US\$97 million of oxygen provisions (2.7 million items) have been shipped to countries. In the last quarter, US\$219 million in grants has been awarded to countries for the procurement of oxygen provisions, including oxygen concentrators and new public oxygen plants.



© UNICEF / Singh

Urgent actions needed

Invest US\$1.2 bn to rapidly address acute oxygen needs to treat the seriously ill, and control the exponential death surges caused by the delta variant

US\$
1.2
billion

Invest US\$0.3 bn in R&D, market shaping, manufacturing, strengthening of supply chains and capacity of health workers to deliver quality therapeutics

US\$
0.3
billion

Resources needed

US\$
1.5
billion

Therapeutics Achievements for Equity

R&D and Product Assessment

WHO issued strong [recommendations for IL-6 blockers](#) for severe and critical patients (incl. WHO EUL for two other treatments)



Identified 2 novel antiviral R&D programmes for development support



Generated cost-effectiveness analyses of therapies to inform funding prioritization for product procurement. Started ANTICOV - clinical trials in 13 African countries to test new drug combination to treat mild-to-moderate COVID-19 cases



Demand generation & in-country delivery

Raised awareness of urgent oxygen situation and financing needs through regular oxygen roundtables, strategic media and "Every Breath Counts" advocacy coalition



Addressed bottlenecks in the supply of key technology to deploy medical oxygen (PSA oxygen plants), e.g., by performing technical repairs in key countries & providing ongoing support



Supported countries to assess and formulate oxygen needs, submit C19RM proposals, and deploy oxygen (partners currently active in >40 LICs and LMICs)

C19RM

RFP issued by Unitaid/FIND for comprehensive solutions to improve the linkage between testing and care, enhancing access to testing and therapeutics



Market shaping and manufacturing

Signed MoUs with 2 multinational suppliers to pave the way for long-term agreements to widen access to liquid oxygen.



The O₂ Market Shaping Expert Advisory Group conducted diagnosis of critical bottlenecks slowing access to oxygen, which resulted in extensive industry engagement with suppliers of PSA plants, concentrators, cylinders, and oxygen equipment parts

Procurement¹

Total US\$ 233m+ allocated for oxygen procurement and shipment of 880,000 oxygen provisions (including tubing, filters, concentrator, cannulas, pulse oximeters, etc.) including US\$219m worth of grants made available to countries experiencing surges to procure and operationalize life-saving oxygen-related products themselves



Rapidly deployed assistance during oxygen crises in India, Bangladesh and Zambia. Partners procured and delivered 7,000 oxygen concentrators and 500 high flow nasal cannulas to India in April-May, and India received US\$75 million as a fast-track funding request entirely for oxygen²

Total US\$36m allocated for procurement of 1.8m of therapeutic items, including dexamethasone, to countries in need, and US\$35m awarded to countries for the direct procurement and operationalization of treatments

¹ Throughout the update, overall procurement of treatments (incl. dexamethasone and oxygen supplies) is calculated as the total value of contributions through [Global Fund C19RM](#) (1 April 2021 - 21 June 2021), UNICEF shipments (1 April - 30 June 2021) and WHO SPRP procurement (1 April 2021 - 15 June 2021).

² Supplies to India included in total oxygen support.

ACT-A Vaccines Pillar

Q2 Update: 1 April - 30 June 2021

COVAX, the ACT-Accelerator's Vaccines Pillar is co-led by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the World Health Organization (WHO) – working in partnership with UNICEF, as key implementing partner, and with vaccine manufacturers, civil society organizations and the World Bank.

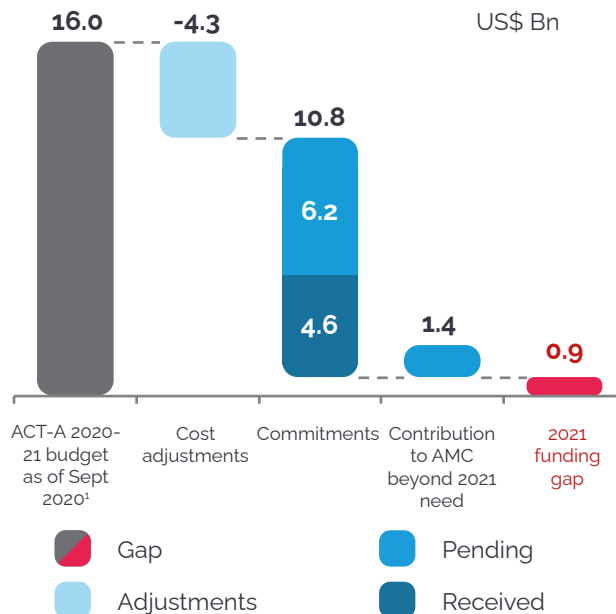
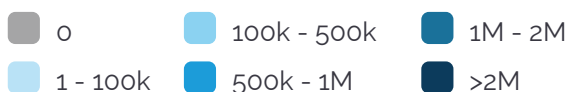
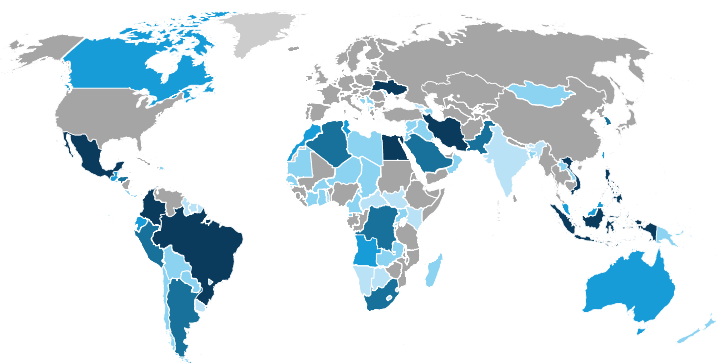
COVAX investments have accelerated the research and development of a portfolio of 10 candidates across four technology platforms. COVAX has shipped a total of 92.9 million vaccines to 134 countries and economies (as of 1 July 2021). Of these 60.1 million doses were shipped to 81 advance market commitment (AMC) countries and economies. It is expected that a further 1.8 billion doses will be available for shipment by the end of 2021; of these, AMC participants are expected to receive about 1.5 billion doses in total, including donated doses, equivalent to approximately 23% population coverage (excluding India). For latest COVAX vaccine roll-out data visit [GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance](https://www.gavi.org/vaccine/gavi-the-vaccine-alliance).

COVAX has laid the groundwork to secure further doses through contributions from donors and negotiations with manufacturers.

In the meantime, only 14.4% of doses have been administered in LICs / LMICs while they represent 46.7% of the world's population. WHO has called for 10% vaccine coverage in all countries by end of September 2021.

COVAX doses delivered

From April 1st to July 1st 2021



¹ Financing figures updated as of 9th July 2021, based on first [ACT-A commitment tracker](#) update available after June 30th.

A Manufacturing Task Force has been established to identify and resolve manufacturing issues impeding equitable access to vaccines through COVAX. The Taskforce is urgently addressing short-term challenges and bottlenecks and working with a consortium in South Africa to transfer technology and establish a vaccine manufacturing hub in the region, ensuring long-term regional health security.

Urgent actions needed

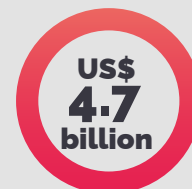
Close the funding gap for in-country delivery, including to humanitarian and fragile settings, with further investment to increase coverage in the coming months

Invest to continue critical R&D to meet the challenges of a rapidly evolving pandemic

Invest US\$3.8 bn beyond the 2021 ask, to guarantee supply of 760m doses of vaccines for 2022, by exercising options to buy now rather than lose the doses due to lack of funds



Resources needed



Vaccines Achievements for Equity

R&D and Product Assessment

Supported development & manufacturing of 10 COVID-19 vaccine candidates through CEPI, 2 have received WHO EUL, 4 are in advanced clinical development (Ph2/3 & Ph3)



Approved 4 clinical trial studies through CEPI, to address critical research gaps, optimize use and expand access



Provided ongoing vaccine effectiveness evaluations, filling in data gaps for critical policy making questions



Procurement

Closed 5 new Advance Purchase Agreements (APAs) with vaccine manufacturers for over 2bn doses in total



Established dose-sharing mechanism - more than 528m dose donations pledged to COVAX



Delivered 59.5 million vaccine doses to countries



Market shaping and manufacturing

WHO Emergency Use Listings were issued for 3 vaccines – manufactured by Moderna, Beijing CNBG and Sinovac



Expanded the footprint of vaccine production via the Manufacturing Taskforce (e.g., launch of South African consortium to establish the first regional manufacturing hub)



Demand generation & in-country delivery

59 countries received their first COVAX shipment; 16 countries started vaccination campaigns due to COVAX



Updated the Global COVID-19 Vaccination Strategy to inform country vaccination goals and targets for 2022



Launched weekly Implementation Monitoring Review (IMR) to evaluate vaccine rollout at the country-level and tackle emerging obstacles



Provided US\$150 million of technical assistance (100m) and cold chain support (50m) to all AMC-92 countries, led by UNICEF/WHO to enhance country delivery capacity



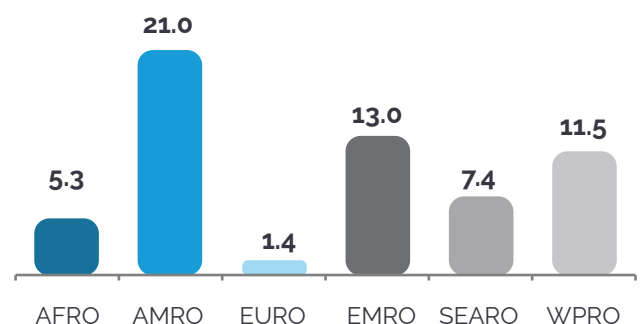
Gavi approved its COVID-19 Delivery Strengthening (CDS) envelope in June and will make US\$270 million available to all AMC-92 countries within 4 weeks of initial country engagement. Prior to CDS approval, Gavi provided around US\$15 million to 14 countries in emergency “bridge” funding to support delivery of doses at risk of wastage or idle



The [Humanitarian Buffer](#) put in place by COVAX has been operationalized and first applications received ACT-A Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal (ACT-A HAC) is the mechanism for financing operational and delivery costs associated with Humanitarian Buffer vaccine dose allocations

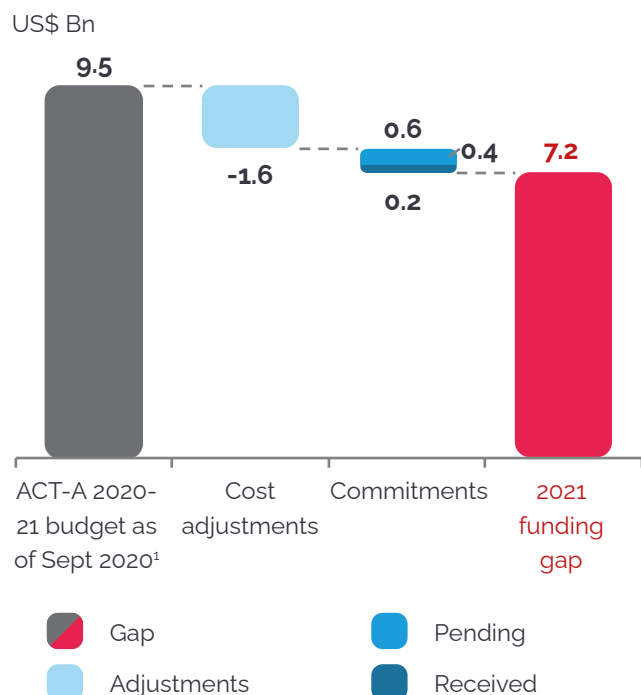


Vaccines shipped in Q2 (Total 59.5m doses)



ACT-A Health Systems Connector

Q2 Update: 1 April - 30 June 2021



¹ Financing figures updated as of 9th July 2021, based on first [ACT-A commitment tracker](#) update available after June 30th.

Both the Global Fund, through the COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM), and the Global Financing Facility, through the COVID-19 Essential Health Services, awarded grants to countries to buy PPE, distribute drugs, train community health workers in vaccine rollout to reinforce the COVID-19 national response.



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The Health Systems Connector (HSC), co-led by the Global Fund, WHO and the World Bank, works with countries, including civil society, to rapidly assess and strengthen key aspects of health systems and community networks in order to speed up the delivery and implementation of COVID-19 tools.

Protecting frontline workers is a critical element of the COVID-19 response. Up until end of June 2021, HSC procured personal protective equipment (PPE) worth more than US\$830 million, assessed country readiness for the deployment of COVID-19 vaccines in more than 140 countries (jointly by World Bank, GFF, Gavi, the Global Fund, UNICEF and WHO), and documented disruptions to 90% of health systems and services through national pulse surveys of more than 100 countries.

The HSC has captured country-specific insights on bottlenecks and ongoing health systems-related challenges and has developed global guidelines and training across multiple critical health system areas. A significant milestone was the reduction in PPE prices, reaching 90% reduction peaks on medical masks and N95/FFP2 respirators.

Urgent actions needed

Procure US\$1.7 bn worth of personal protective equipment to keep 2 million essential health workers safe while they care for the sick

US\$
1.7
billion

Invest US\$1 bn in health systems strengthening to mitigate critical supply and delivery risks during the emergency response and scale up essential risk communication and community engagement to rollout all COVID-19 tools

US\$
1.0
billion

Resources needed

US\$
2.7
billion

HSC Achievements for Equity

R&D and Product Assessment

Contributed to the 'Rethinking' PPE work stream, with UNICEF Sierra Leone helping to pre-test a questionnaire to collect feedback from frontline health workers on PPE.



Supported innovative PPE R&D projects to assess multidimensional aspects PPE and non-medical masks in the context of COVID-19



Procurement¹

Total of US\$ 234m for PPE including US\$64 million for 198m PPE items (gloves, surgical masks, N95 respirators, gowns, goggles and face shields among others), and US\$ 170m awarded to countries to procure PPE themselves to protect their essential healthcare workers



For April-May surge in South Asia region, facilitated the shipment of more than 48 million gloves, 16.6 million surgical masks, 448,000 N95 respirators, 120 million gowns, 27,000 goggles, 1.8 million face shields.



¹ Throughout the document, overall procurement of personal protective equipment is calculated as the total value of contributions through the Global Fund C19RM (1 April 2021 - 21 June 2021), UNICEF shipments (1 April 2021 - 30 June 2021) and WHO SPRP procurement (1 April 2021 - 15 June 2021).

Demand generation & in-country delivery

UNICEF advocated to broaden HSC to WASH/IPC essential health services, beyond the narrow focus of PPE so far



Worked in 73 countries to build trust in new COVID-19 tools and tackle misinformation around COVID-19



GFF awarded grants of US\$35m for strengthening country response, monitored monthly health service delivery levels and addressed demand side barriers for COVID-19



Organized knowledge sharing events to strengthen country engagement including:

- Engaging the Private Sector in COVID-19 vaccine rollout, sharing experiences from Philippines, Ghana, India, Morocco and Uganda
- In-Country Supply Chains for COVID-19 Tools Deployment: Experiences and Lessons from Africa CDC and Nigeria

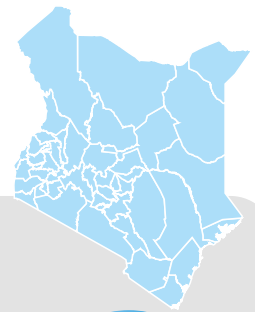


Developed specific tools to strengthen in-country delivery:

- Supply chain: COVID-19 supply and logistics guidance and Cold chain equipment inventory and the gap analysis [tool](#)
- Health financing: PFM resource [portal](#)



Q2 ACT-A Country profile: Kenya



COVID-19 response



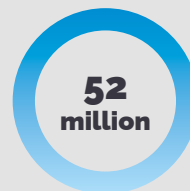
Daily tests/100k inhab.



Vaccine doses administered



Fully vaccinated people



Population



GDP percapita (2019)



Approved Global Fund (2020+2021) C19Response Mechanism grants to boost Kenya's pandemic response and ensure adequate supplies of COVID-19 tools



The World Bank approved US\$130 million for Kenya to procure more vaccines and boost Kenya's cold chain storage capacity— including establishing 25 county vaccine stores, strengthening the capacity of 36 sub-county stores, and equipping 1,177 health facilities with vaccine storage equipment.

ACT-Accelerator impact

Diagnostics



COVID-19 tests

Delivered to Kenya through the diagnostics consortium since the start of the pandemic, of which 1+m during Q2 2021.

Kenya has relied on a limited number of PCR testing facilities and reagents. The availability of Ag RDTs has significantly increased the number of people tested, and will enable the country to respond better to surges.

Therapeutics



worth of therapeutics supplied

Including oxygen accessories (US\$0.4m) such as 1300+ pulse oximeters, 70 voltage stabilizers, 30 oxygen analyzers and 80 oxygen concentrators .

Kenya is one of 13 countries in Africa taking part in **ANTICOV** trials of new treatments for mild-to-moderate infection.

Vaccines



COVID-19 vaccine doses

Delivered to Kenya, plus expected 180k dose donations from France and additional donations from Greece in Q3. Supplied in March 2021, vaccination programmes started almost immediately - prioritizing frontline health workers and those at most risk of severe disease.

UNICEF delivered an additional 72,000 doses in May, redeployed from South Sudan.

Health Systems Connector



Key logistical and technical support

UNICEF, the World Bank and WHO are supporting the Ministry of Health in planning, technical assistance, training, capacity building, risk communications and community engagement.

UNICEF supplied Kenya US\$857,358 worth of essential supplies including molecular diagnostics (US\$434,337), syringes (US\$182,504), face masks and N95s (US\$77,189), diagnostic consumables (US\$67,563), coveralls (US\$43,816), safety boxes (US\$18,243), isolation gowns (US\$14,585), goggles (US\$9,080), medical devices (US\$3,923), disposable face shields (US\$3,361), heavy-duty gloves (US\$1,502) and boots covers (US\$1,255).

Urgent Needs

The Covid-19 delta variant is surging and is expected to become the dominant strain circulating worldwide. The delta variant is now present in 124 countries¹



Accelerated transmission is resulting in increased deaths² globally. The international community is bracing for multiple imminent surges. Inequity in access to life-saving COVID-19 tools has never been more apparent.



Hard-won progress in populations with high COVID-19 immunization coverage is in jeopardy. Whilst low-income countries with much lower coverage rates are at higher risk of severe disease and hospitalization, with healthcare systems being overwhelmed.



People in low-income and most lower-middle-income countries do not have **adequate access to testing** – this leaves the world blind to understanding where the disease is, and how it is changing.



Avoidable death and unsustainable pressure on health systems is mounting in many countries due to **insufficient access to oxygen and PPE**.

¹ WHO (last updated 20 July).

² Deaths increased by 21.7% in the seven days up to July 26, (WHO Covid-19 Situation Update as of July 26, 2021)

This requires a Rapid ACT-A Delta Response (RADAR)

US\$7.7 billion is urgently needed to combat the delta variant surge and **US\$3.8 billion** to ensure the vaccine supply



Scale-up Testing

Procure US\$2.4 billion worth of Covid-19 tests to put all low-income countries and lower-middle-income countries on the path towards a ten-fold increase in COVID-19 testing and get all countries up to adequate testing levels to help locate variants of concern and identify where public health interventions are most needed.



Deliver Oxygen

Invest US\$1.2 billion to rapidly address acute oxygen needs to treat the seriously ill, and control the exponential death surges caused by the delta variant.



Protect health workers

Procure US\$1.7 billion worth of personal protective equipment to keep 2 million essential health workers safe while they vaccinate, test and care for the sick, and to help prevent the collapse of health systems where the healthcare workforce is already understaffed and overstretched.



Emergency response and delivery

Rollout emergency response and delivery support to help countries identify and address key bottlenecks for the effective deployment and use of COVID-19 tools. This is essential as coverage of COVID-19 vaccines is ramped up in the coming months.



Ensure the flow of accessible, affordable effective Covid-19 tools

Invest US\$1.0 billion in R&D, market shaping and manufacturing, technical assistance and demand-generation to ensure that tests, treatments, vaccines and other tools remain effective against the delta variant and other emerging variants, and that they are accessible and affordable where they are needed.



Buy vaccines now

Invest US\$3.8 billion beyond the 2021 ask, to guarantee supply of 760m doses of vaccines for 2022. These options to buy need to be exercised in the coming months or vaccine doses will be lost.

The ACT-Accelerator Partners: