

PAHO: Securing Additional COVID-19 vaccines

July 2021

As requested by Member States (MS), PAHO will leverage its Revolving Fund (RF) as the platform to facilitate regional access to COVID-19 vaccines to secure additional vaccines for MS during Q4, 2021. The RF will supplement current global and national efforts to access doses ongoing through the COVAX Mechanism or through bilateral arrangements. This initiative is one of the three pillars of PAHO's Regional Plan of Action for Ensuring Sustainable Access to COVID-19 Vaccines as highlighted during the PAHO Executive Committee last month. The other two components are: 1) supporting the fulfilment of country commitment agreements with the COVAX Facility, and 2) supporting distribution of donations from multiple sources (please see the diagram below).

Market Forces Driving Inequities

While improvements in the vaccine market are anticipated for COVID-19 vaccine in Q4 2021 and during 2022, this will not guarantee sufficient availability for all the required demand in the region. The RF believes this situation will not correct itself without the pooling of regional demand and resources. While some MS have locked in bilateral deals to cover 100% or more of their populations, several others are only projected to cover 20% to 50% of their populations, mainly relying on the COVAX Facility and donations. This continues to present a significant inequity concern for the Region.

Leveraging more than 40 years of experience, PAHO will seek to improve market dynamics for the Region by applying its principles of quality assurance, pooling and solidarity. The RF's objective is to amplify its support, on behalf of MS to access vaccine supply by consolidating demand and guiding countries through market dynamics and innovative financial considerations to meet their vaccine needs.

In the context of a supplier-driven market and shortages, the criteria for allocating and prioritizing deliveries of the limited supply will be key to ensure equity among PAHO's MS. These criteria should integrate critical country aspects such as potential impact of COVID-19 (assessed through epidemiological data); country readiness and absorption capacity, and alternative supply sources such as bilateral deals and donations.

During this process, PAHO will be seeking MS valued inputs and the guidance from the Regional Technical Advisory Group (TAG), the COVID-19 Vaccination Task Force to create a portfolio of WHO EUL approved vaccines from various COVID-19 vaccine platforms.

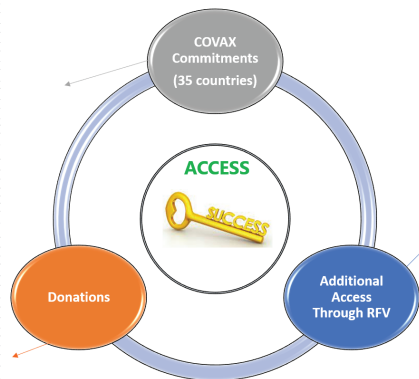
PAHO's Regional Plan of Action for Ensuring Equitable and Sustainable Access to COVID-19 Vaccines

Success Factors:

- 1- Producers delivering the committed/contracted vaccines
- 2- Voicing needs of countries
- 3- Operational and financial readiness

Success Factors:

- 1- Guiding the resources to the most needed
- 2- Proactive involvement in planning and operations
- 3- Technical guidance
- 4- Expediting and removing bottlenecks with donors



Success Factors:

- 1- MS commitment
- 2- Product portfolio approach (customized supplier engagement)
- 3- Addressing contracting terms with innovative approaches i.e. financing

Demand Dynamics & Member State Engagement

Regional and national demand dynamics are rapidly evolving driven by epidemiology of the disease, access, and uptake of vaccines in the countries, absorption capacity, strategies of national programs, among other considerations. This announcement will be contingent on MS engagement leading up to PAHO's Directing Council meeting in September.

PAHO anticipates convening a series of planning sessions with MS in July and August with a view towards (1) establishing MS commitment and participatory process; (2) aligning demand and supply (see [link to online platform](#)); (3) oversee a portfolio-based approach with vaccine suppliers; (4) financial sustainability with development banks as needed; (5) allocation structure and processes.

Member States received letter from PAHO Director on 16 July to outline process to access additional vaccines. The first session is scheduled for 23 July 2021.