

Peer learning and exchange event
13–14 April 2021

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COVID-19 vaccine financing, procurement and distribution in Africa

Breakaway session discussion questions: sessions 4 and 7

At the end of each day, in groups of 5-6, participants will be given five minutes to share their responses to the following questions. You are consequently encouraged to prepare talking points for yourself ahead of the event. No PowerPoint presentations will be used during this session. Unstructured conversation will follow for approximately 20 minutes.

Session 4 breakaway session: costing, budgeting and financing the COVID-19 vaccine

a. Process of assessing financial needs for the vaccination programme

- What was the role of various stakeholders, including ministries of finance and health and development partners in determining the cost of the COVID-19 vaccination programme?
- Did you develop a new tool to cost the COVID-19 vaccination programme, make use of existing locally developed costing templates, or an international one?
 - Please briefly describe the tool(s) you used.
 - What was particularly useful about the tool you chose and where did you observe gaps or experience challenges?
- What did the MoH submit to the MoF as its total cost estimate for the COVID-19 vaccination programme?

b. Incorporation of COVID-19 vaccination programme in national budget

- Please share the total amount included in your latest budget; if it is not included in the latest budget (supplementary or annual), please explain why.
- Please provide insight into how the COVID-19 vaccination programme was incorporated into the national budget, if it has been.
- What fiscal transparency and accountability measures are in place to limit corruption in and wasteful expenditure within the COVID-19 vaccination programme?

c. Deciding on different financing options

- What financing options were considered and what were decided on? Please include any budget reallocations or virements.
- What costs and benefits were considered for each financing option?
- Was the Ministry of Health consulted in deciding on the financing package? What concerns, if any, did the Ministry of Health express about specific sources of financing?

Session 5 break away session: COVID-19 vaccine procurement and rollout

COVID-19 vaccine procurement

- Please share plans or deals to procure directly or through COVAX, AU and any other regional or pooled procurement mechanisms.
- What changes, if any, have been made to your procurement processes to procure the COVID-19 vaccine?
- What challenges have you experienced in COVID-19 procurement, for the vaccine or otherwise, and how were these managed? (if relevant please include any corruption or wasteful expenditure allegations and what transparency and accountability measures were in place to limit these)
- If you've used direct procurement, please share the process through which vaccine types and suppliers were decided, determination of specifications and criteria included in bid and how contracts were developed, and prices negotiated (including any information on monitoring and performance evaluation of procurement contracts)

COVID-19 vaccination programme roll out

- Please provide insight into the status quo of your COVID-19 vaccination programme roll out and any readiness assessments undertaken and major readiness gaps, particularly in terms of interministerial planning and coordination; budgeting; funding flows and service delivery; and cold chain, logistics, and infrastructure financing.
- How have planning, logistics, storage and distribution responsibilities been allocated across government and to development partners? How do roles and responsibilities and coordination mechanisms differ from routine immunisation programmes?
- To what extent are you using the private sector in reducing the cost and increasing efficiencies in the COVID-19 vaccine roll outs?
- What, if any, is the role of the ministry of finance in determining vaccine prioritisation amongst different groups and balancing equity with economic recovery?