



# Taking Stock: COVID-19 vaccine financing, procurement and distribution in Africa

30 September 2021

13:00-17:00 (CAT)



The first COVID-19 vaccine in Africa was administered over six months ago. While there is consensus that with only 2% of the continent’s population vaccinated, we are far behind where we ought to be at this stage of the pandemic, there are already key lessons that ministries of finance and health can share with their peers across the continent. This virtual event, which follows from our April [peer-exchange and learning event](#), will provide an update on where we find ourselves now in terms of COVID-19 vaccine financing, procurement and distribution and reflect on the key public finance-related challenges that African governments have faced in vaccinating their citizens against COVID-19.

## Draft agenda

13:00 – 13:35	<p><b>Short video on housekeeping rules for the event</b></p> <p><b>Welcome and opening remarks</b> by Neil Cole (Executive Secretary: CABRI)</p> <p><b>Programme overview and update on vaccine financing, procurement and distribution in Africa</b> by Danielle Serebro (Acting Programme Manager: CABRI)</p>
<p><b>Session 2</b></p> <p>13:35 – 14:30</p>	<p><b>Costing Africa’s COVID-19 vaccination financing needs</b></p> <p>The World Bank is assisting countries to estimate the cost of their COVID-19 vaccination programmes. Their preliminary estimates for SSA were released in May 2021 and are crucial for understanding financing needs and advocating for the expansion of financing for vaccines. What has been included in the World Bank’s calculation and how does this differ from countries’ own costing practices? Are governments budgeting adequately for roll out and ensuring equitable distribution within their countries?</p> <p><b>Calculating sub-Saharan Africa’s COVID vaccination financing gap</b> by Katelyn Jison Yoo (Health Economist, World Bank Group) and Sarah Alkenbrack (Health Economist, World Bank Group)</p> <p><b>Discussant:</b></p> <p>Dr Muluken Yohannes (Senior Advisor: Ministry of Health, Federal Republic of Ethiopia)</p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Danielle Serebro</p> <p><b>Discussion questions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the total cost associated with your vaccination programme per capita?</li> <li>2. What costing tools did you utilise for your vaccination programme? Were costs associated with roll out adequately included in your costing estimates?</li> <li>3. What sources of financing will your country use to cover the costs of the COVID-19 vaccine and roll out? What are seen as the pros and cons of these different financing sources?</li> </ol>

14:30 – 14:40	<i>Comfort break</i>
<b>Session 3</b> 14:40 – 15:45	<p><b>Key challenges in pooled procurement and distribution: implications for African countries</b></p> <p>Most African countries have relied heavily, in some cases exclusively, on COVAX to finance and deliver COVID-19 vaccines. However, despite being the largest and most rapid vaccine programme in history, in most cases, countries will need to supplement their COVAX donations with domestic resources. How can pooled and bilateral procurement constructively co-exist? What new resources has COVAX tapped? What country-level challenges have been observed in vaccine distribution and what implications does this have for African countries going forward?</p> <p><b>UNICEF COVID-19 vaccination supply and distribution: Update and implications for African ministries of finance</b> by Samuel Kweku Ocran (Regional Chief of Supply and Procurement: UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office) and Bob Muchabaiwa, PhD (Social Policy Specialist (Public Finance): UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office)</p> <p><b>Discussant:</b></p> <p>Khadija Jamaloodien (Director: Affordable Medicine, National Department of Health, South Africa) and Mark Blecher (Chief Director: Health and Social Development, National Treasury of South Africa)</p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Dr Philipp Krause (Head of Technical Team: CABRI)</p> <p><b>Discussion questions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To what extent are you continuing to rely on pooled procurement v bilateral procurement?</li> <li>2. What challenges have you observed, or concerns do you have, with pooled procurement mechanisms and their distribution?</li> <li>3. What are the key country-level procurement and distribution challenges that you have experienced and how have these been overcome?</li> </ol>
15:45 – 15:50	<i>Comfort break</i>
<b>Session 4</b> 15:50 – 16:55	<p><b>Reprioritising budget towards COVID-19 vaccination programmes</b></p> <p>In April, we heard how a small set of African countries are mobilising additional resources for the COVID-19 vaccine. However, as we wrote earlier in the year, limited avenues for increasing fiscal space in Africa, has meant reprioritisation of existing budget allocations were inevitable. If governments do not approach the process of reprioritisation carefully and with foresight, other priority expenditure, including other health programmes, may suffer. Given that this is a live issue, governments in Africa can still use this as an opportunity to re-evaluate spending decisions, and direct funds away from non-priority areas or loss-making projects.</p> <p><b>(Re)allocating domestic resources towards COVID-19 vaccination programmes</b> by Claire Potdevin (Consultant Economist)</p> <p><b>Discussants:</b></p> <p>Ben Akabueze (Director General: Budget Office of the Federation, Federal Republic of Nigeria)</p>

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Andrew Blazey (Deputy Head of Division: Public Management and Budgeting, Public Governance Directorate, OECD)

**Facilitator:** Shanaz Broermann (Senior PFM Specialist: CABRI)

**Discussion questions**

1. What key tools used to reallocate budget towards your COVID-19 vaccination programme (virements, special appropriation, supplementary budget with reallocations from existing programmes, transfer from contingency reserve etc)?
2. Please share more about the process of reprioritising budget towards the COVID-19 vaccination programme. How were lower priority expenditure items identified and reprioritisation negotiated? From where was budget reallocated?
3. How were budgetary reallocations presented to parliament? What additional transparency and accountability measures have been put in place to account for reallocations towards COVID-19 vaccination programmes?

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16:55 – 17:00

**Closing remarks** by Neil Cole