



Shibi Samuel, a nursing officer, works in a cold chain point at Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Hospital in New Delhi, Delhi.

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for every child

Humanitarian Action for Children

Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A)

HIGHLIGHTS

- The global Access to COVID19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) collaboration to accelerate the development, production, and equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments, and vaccines will be the largest and fastest procurement, supply and country readiness and delivery operation ever.
- Within this appeal, UNICEF and partners will deliver needed vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics and will work to support risk communication and community engagement as well as country preparedness efforts for the vaccine roll out, while supporting the strengthening of health systems.
- As of February 19, ACT-A faces a US\$22.9 billion funding gap for 2021. To do its part to support ACT-A, UNICEF urgently requires US\$ 659 million, which includes \$510 million to support the delivery of COVID-19 vaccines to low- and middle-income countries in 2021.

IN NEED



165 million

therapeutic treatment courses to be delivered via ACT-A partners, including UNICEF



900 million

diagnostic tests to be delivered via ACT-A partners, including UNICEF

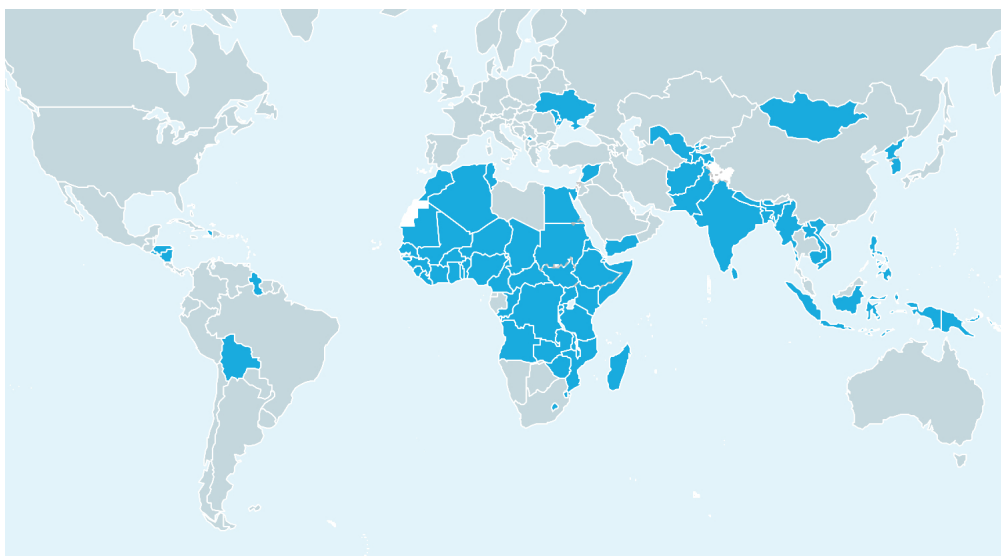


2 billion

vaccine doses to be delivered globally via COVAX and 1.2B to eligible countries¹

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

US\$ 659
million



This map does not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or territory or the delimitation of any frontiers. The countries in blue are Gavi COVAX AMC-eligible countries. UNICEF may also support non-AMC countries depending on context and need.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

The COVID-19 pandemic has triggered an unprecedented global health, humanitarian, socio-economic and human rights crisis, exacerbating the vulnerabilities of affected children. Since the outbreak began, COVID-19 has spread to over 215 countries and territories. Vaccines for COVID-19 are critical tools for helping bring the pandemic under control when combined with effective testing and existing prevention measures. The large global demand will mean that not everyone will be able to get the vaccine at the same time. It will take months, or even years, to manufacture enough vaccine doses for everyone around the world. As of mid-February, 130 countries have not received a single dose of COVID-19 vaccine, while 10 countries have administered 75% of the world's supply. COVAX, the vaccines pillar of the ACT-A, has been established to accelerate the development and manufacture of COVID-19 vaccines, and to guarantee fair and equitable access for all countries globally. COVID-19 is a global problem requiring a global solution and we will not be protected or safe from COVID-19 until the entire world is protected.

The complexities are enormous, and the timeline is unprecedented. This will be the largest and fastest procurement, supply and country readiness and delivery operation ever. As of February 19, ACT-A faces a US \$22.9 billion funding gap for 2021.² Incremental costs for delivery of COVID-19 vaccines procured through COVAX to low- and middle-income countries in 2021 are estimated at around US\$2 billion.³ As donors are invited to contribute directly to the agencies that make up ACT-A, UNICEF is fundraising for a portion of these overall ACT-A funding gaps.

STORY FROM THE FIELD



Ensuring global equitable access to COVID-19 health supplies: UNICEF's role in ACT-A/COVAX

Together with partners in the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator and COVAX, UNICEF is working to ensure countries have safe, fast and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines when the initial doses become available.

[Read more about this story here](#)

Ecstatic at receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, doctors and nurses at the Kurmitola General Hospital, which was converted into a COVID hospital in 2020, hold up the 'v' sign.

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

The Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) is a global collaboration to accelerate development, production, and equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments, and vaccines. UNICEF and partners will buy and deploy needed vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics and will work to support country readiness for the vaccine roll out, while supporting the strengthening of health systems. These actions will help combat the COVID-19 pandemic, potentially save lives of frontline workers and high-risk populations, make health systems more resilient and ultimately, help ensure that the children in low- and middle-income countries survive and thrive. Via our efforts, we will contribute towards ACT-A's targets to deliver 2 billion vaccine doses, 165 million therapeutic courses and 900 million diagnostic tests to low- and middle-income countries in a safe and equitable way in 2021.

To do our part in supporting the ACT-A and to contribute to fill funding gaps, UNICEF requires US\$659 million in 2021 to support:

- The Vaccine Pillar with commodities needed for safe vaccine administration, such as cold chain equipment, personal protective equipment (PPE), and hand hygiene (soap and hand sanitizer), operational costs for vaccine delivery and associated technical assistance. Crucially, this also includes support for vaccine delivery to humanitarian populations.
- The Diagnostics Pillar with the purchase and delivery of rapid COVID-19 diagnostic tests, as well as the associated technical assistance for roll-out and rapid scale up of novel technologies on the ground.
- The Therapeutics Pillar with the purchase and delivery of novel and repurposed treatments for COVID-19 and associated technical assistance for country preparedness activities, including drug safety surveillance and reporting, as well as the training of staff.
- Contribute to the health systems connector by providing Risk Communication and Community Engagement in countries to promote trust and support adoption for COVID-19 vaccines, treatments and tests.

2021 PROGRAMME TARGETS



Therapeutics

- **5,500,000** COVID-19 treatment courses procured for delivery in low- and middle-income countries



Diagnostics

- **5,600,000** COVID-19 diagnostic tests procured for delivery in low- and middle-income countries



Vaccines

- **92** eligible countries that are ready to administer COVID-19 vaccines⁴
- **1,200,000,000** COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in eligible countries and humanitarian contexts⁵



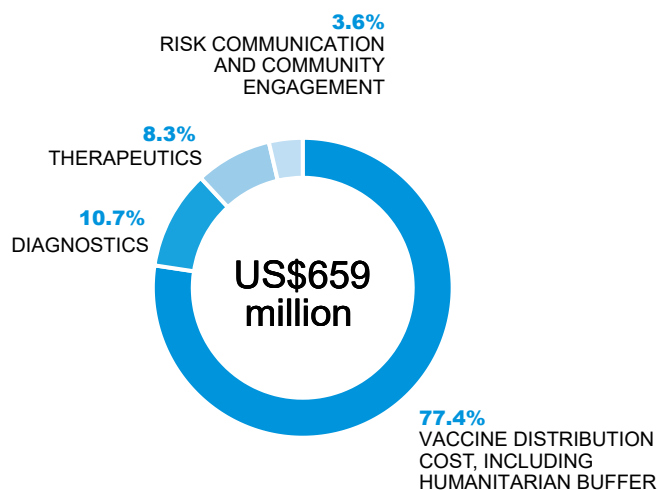
Risk communication and community engagement

- **50** countries implementing ACT-A related risk communication and community engagement interventions

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2021

UNICEF's 2021 ACT-A Humanitarian Action for Children appeal requires US\$659 million at the global level to support ACT-A, across the vaccines (COVAX), therapeutics and diagnostic pillars, and the health systems connector. As part of the US\$510 million required to support vaccine delivery, an estimated US\$120 million is for the delivery costs of doses supplied under the humanitarian buffer (which is a provider of last resort for at-risk populations not covered by national immunization programmes).

Unless funding is secured, UNICEF and partners will not be able to reach the millions of people targeted in this appeal thus slowing down the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine creating long-lasting impact on children and their families - driving poverty and malnutrition rates, poorer health, and lower levels of education. UNICEF is seeking flexible and timely contributions to ensure ACT-A interventions and tools are rolled out in countries most in need. Working with experts in its headquarters and regional offices, UNICEF will allocate flexible funding to ACT-A priority areas where the needs are most acute.



Pillar	2021 requirements (US\$)
Therapeutics	54,500,000
Diagnostics	70,500,000
Vaccine distribution cost, including humanitarian buffer	510,000,000
Risk communication and community engagement	24,000,000 ⁶
Total	659,000,000

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ENDNOTES

1. Eligible countries refer to economies of the Gavi Advance Market Commitment for COVID-19 Vaccines (Gavi Covax AMC) that have an approved National Deployment and Vaccination Plan (NDVP).
2. <https://www.who.int/news/item/19-02-2021-g7-leaders-commit-us-4.3-billion-to-finance-global-equitable-access-to-tests-treatments-and-vaccines-in-2021>
3. The US\$ 2 billion includes country, regional, and global level costs, technical assistance, in-country outreach and fixed site delivery costs, up-front costs, such as cold chain installation and training.
4. Eligible countries refer to economies of the Gavi Advance Market Commitment for COVID-19 Vaccines (Gavi Covax AMC) that have an approved National Deployment and Vaccination Plan (NDVP).
5. Ibid.
6. Risk communication and community engagement is part of health system strengthening of ACT-A.