

Increasing Equitable Access to COVID-19 Vaccines in Africa

At the outset of the pandemic, the biopharmaceutical industry committed to playing the greatest possible role in the global response to COVID-19, building on decades of investment and R&D. This enabled:

- Candidate vaccines were underway within a few days, and the first regulatory approvals came **326** days later.
- Historical collaborations, resulted in **381** voluntary partnerships for vaccines production, including in Africa, of which **88%** included technology transfer.
- An unprecedented **11 billion vaccine doses** were produced by the end of 2021.

Source: Airfinity



24%

COVAX enabled timely deliveries of vaccine doses to African countries. **Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire** received the first doses of COVID-19 vaccines by **February 2021**, at the same time as Japan.

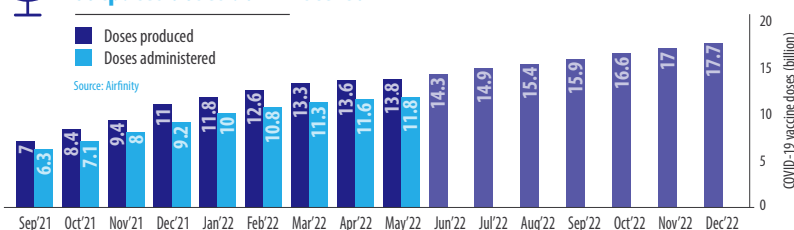
However, the pace of vaccination across the continent needs to increase significantly for Africa to cover priority populations and catch up with other regions, with **24% of Africans vaccinated** with at least one dose compared to around **80% in other parts of the world**, including countries in Latin America and Asia-Pacific.

Source: GRI and New York Times COVID vaccination tracker. <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/world/covid-vaccinations-tracker.html>

1 As of December 2021, whilst there is sufficient supply, COVID-19 vaccines are still not equitably reaching all priority populations worldwide



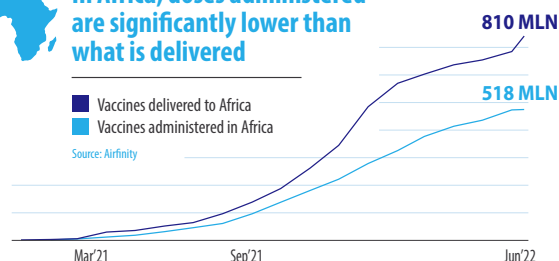
At present, worldwide production outpaces doses administered



Source: Airfinity



In Africa, doses administered are significantly lower than what is delivered

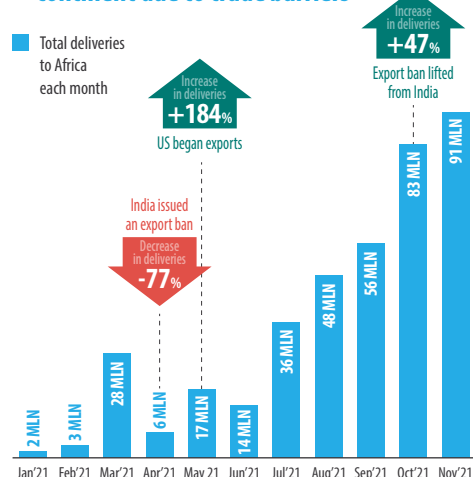


Source: Airfinity

2 Several factors hinder an increase in vaccination rates in Africa

A. Vaccines took longer to reach the continent due to trade barriers

Source: Airfinity

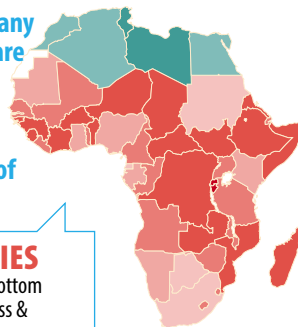


In 2021, just as vaccine production was ramping up, trade restrictions severely impeded the flow of both raw materials and commodities, as well as drug samples and finished products. For example, the US invoked the Defense Production Act, which prioritizes US crisis response. In the midst of its first COVID-19 wave in the Spring of 2021, India imposed a ban on vaccine exports, sharply curtailing supply to COVAX, and upending immunization plans for 91 low-and lower-middle-income countries, including a significant share of African countries. When the US and India export resumed, monthly deliveries to Africa increased by 184% and 47% respectively just in the following month.

B. Capacity of many local healthcare systems is limited, hindering quick rollout of vaccinations

17 COUNTRIES in Africa score at bottom of Healthcare Access & Quality Index

Source: GBD 2016 Healthcare Access and Quality Collaborators. "Measuring performance on the Healthcare Access and Quality Index", Lancet, 2018.



HAQ Index deciles
 <31.0 31.0-35.9 35.9-44.8 44.8-54.7 54.7-63.2 63.2-68.9 68.9-74.5 74.5-82.2 82.2-91.3

It is important to invest in making healthcare systems more resilient, building the necessary infrastructure to support countries' ability to deliver vaccines, and expanding Universal Health Coverage to boost absorption. Underfunded and understaffed healthcare systems at the front line of tackling infectious diseases pose a challenge to tackling the pandemic.

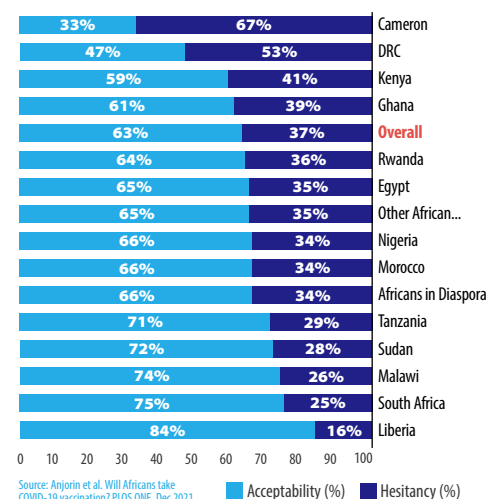


The Africa CDC will ask that all COVID-19 vaccine donations be paused until the third or fourth quarter of this year [2022], the director of the agency told POLITICO. John Nkengasong, director of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, said the primary challenge for vaccinating the continent is no longer supply shortages but logistics challenges and vaccine hesitancy — leading the agency and the African Vaccine Acquisition Trust to seek the delay.

Source: Africa CDC to ask world to pause COVID-19 vaccine doses | POLITICO (22 February 2022)

C. Vaccine hesitancy impacts vaccination rates

Ending the pandemic demands that public confidence in COVID-19 vaccines and the systems that deliver them are high and sustained. Vaccines won't work if people won't take them. Confidence in vaccines is about trust — in governments, in the biopharmaceutical industry, in vaccines themselves, and in the systems that deliver them. Concerted, cross sector action to build public trust is critical to increase access to COVID-19 vaccines.



Source: Anjorin et al. Will Africans take COVID-19 vaccination? PLOS ONE, Dec 2021.

Acceptability (%) Hesitancy (%)

In most African countries, over a third of the population wouldn't take the vaccine even if available

To urgently increase access to COVID-19 vaccines on the continent, innovative biopharmaceutical companies will continue to work with all relevant stakeholders on the following three overarching priorities and supporting activities:



STEP UP SUPPORT FOR COUNTRY READINESS TO ROLL OUT COVID-19 VACCINE DOSES



CONTRIBUTE TO EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF COVID-19 VACCINE DOSES

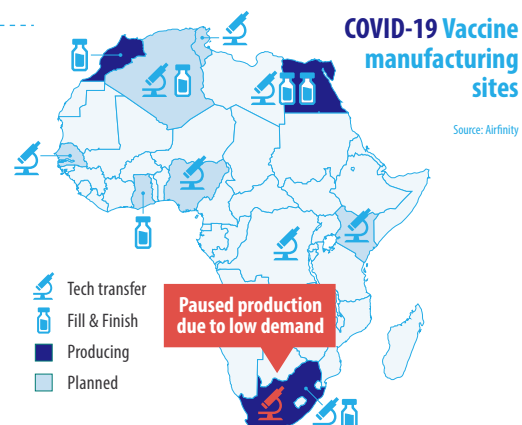


CONTINUE TO DRIVE INNOVATION



WE ARE COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING REGIONAL DIVERSIFICATION OF MANUFACTURING CAPACITY

The biopharmaceutical industry is demonstrating a commitment to regional manufacturing by growing partnerships in African Countries. These partnerships are bolstering manufacturing capacity, facilitating technology and knowledge transfer, and driving rapid R&D.



3 To ensure diversified geographical production in Africa, we need policies that focus on

Stable business environment

that respects business ethics, incentivizes innovation through IP protection, and develops and retains local skilled workforces

Sustainable financing mechanisms

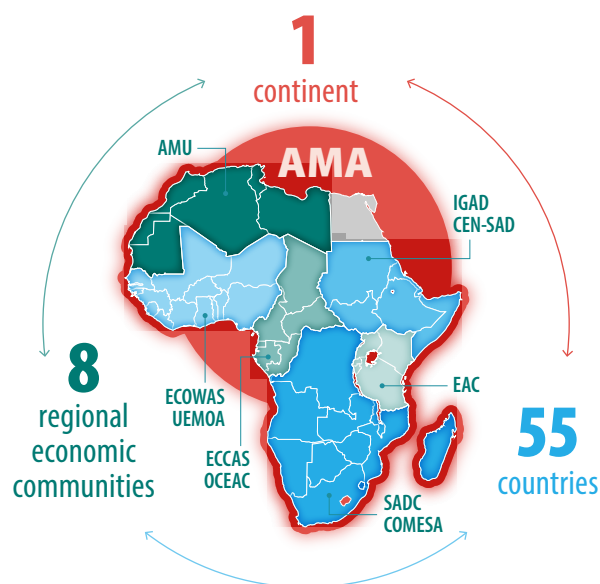
with access to low-interest capital and appropriate incentives to encourage private investments

Fostering growing demand for **reliable local markets** for healthcare products, including locally produced essential medicines and APIs

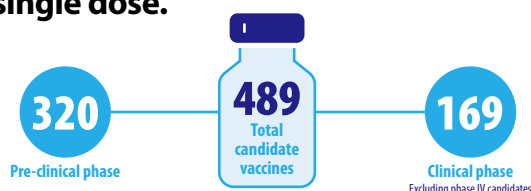
Ensuring timely product registration through regulatory system strengthening, harmonization, and reliance practices - including support for the **African Medicines Agency** and regional regulatory initiatives.

Enabling and facilitating **trade**, including the effective implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), eliminate Non-Trade Barriers, and foster international supply chain security

Facilitating and actively encourage **voluntary** and mutually agreed upon **technology transfer** and joint ventures



4 The industry is also continuing to drive innovation by developing vaccines that are easier to transport, store, and administer. We are developing new vaccines to counter possible COVID-19 variants, as well as combination vaccines against COVID-19 and other viruses in a single dose.



COVID-19 Vaccines in Clinical Development

Source: Airfinity



* AstraZeneca (University of Oxford) and Covishield (Serum Institute of India) are counted as one candidate, as well as Novavax and Covovax (Serum Institute of India).

5 Ensuring equitable access to vaccines for current and future pandemics requires:



POLITICAL COMMITMENT



HEALTH SYSTEM STRENGTHENING



BUILDING THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT



CREATING TRUST IN SCIENCE

For access to more detailed data and information, please visit: www.ifpma.org/covid19