



**Summary of event: Pandemic preparedness beyond COVID-19:
Investing in vaccines production and supply for LMICs
21 October 2021, 09:30 - 11:00 CET**

Global community has taken important steps towards building vaccines production capability in LMICs

On 21 October 2021, key global and strategic players came together to discuss the progress on building vaccine production capacity in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

The event was a follow up of the discussion that took place on 3 March 2021, during which panellist agreed on the necessity of building vaccines production capacity in LMICs to overcome supply bottlenecks, promote equitable access to vaccines, ensure availability of routine vaccines, and build capacity for pandemic preparedness. Panellist had advocated for partnerships among industry, investors and technology providers, building skills, strengthening regulatory capacity, and developing a regional approach to overcome the complexities of vaccine production. Similar conclusions were made during the World Local Production Forum conveyed virtually by the WHO from 21-25 June 2021.

The debate is no longer about should there be an investment in vaccines production capacity in LMICs, but it's on how and when. In that sense, the objective of the event on 21 October 2021 was to take stock of partnerships to date, the challenges encountered and to discuss the way forward in intensifying partnerships for vaccine productive capacity in LMICs.

Panellist reviewed the progress so far under the various initiatives, including that of the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) Manufacturing Task Force, the Partnerships for African Vaccine Manufacturing (PAVM) of the African Union and Africa CDC, Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), the European Union, Africa Development Bank (AfDB), Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), among others. Among the key strength of the current global initiative identified by the panellist includes that:

1. the mobilization of resources is big enough to make significant changes and already include commitment for a long-term engagement;
2. extensive knowledge is generated on current vaccine production landscape across Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, Southeast Asia, Western Pacific and the Middle East;
3. concrete steps are being taken in all major areas, including infrastructure, skills, technology transfer and intellectual property, regulatory capacity, finance and regional cooperation;
4. important alliances are already taking shape, including the establishment of an mRNA hub in South Africa and the partnerships of Rwanda and Senegal with BioNTech;

5. governments and regional organizations, especially in Africa, are taking the initiative, showing commitment and ownership of the agenda, including setting up the targets;
6. collaborative, multi stakeholder and multifunctional engagements are taking place in COVAX Manufacturing Task Force and PAVM as well as during the World Investment Forum of UNCTAD and the World Local Production Forum of WHO.

Many of the panellist expressed that a viable international cooperation has taken shape and, considering the level of intervention, it can be said that the international community is on the right path. There are, however, important works that are in progress requiring additional effort and those that need enhanced intervention.

Works in progress that require additional effort

1. there are ongoing major efforts, including by BMGF, to develop new technologies in vaccines. As the industry is experiencing major technological shift, a sustained investment will be required in new technologies to strengthen the competitiveness of new entrants and small manufacturers of LMICs both in quality and price;
2. market shaping and demand forecast: almost all panellist underscored the complicated task of shaping the market to make investments feasible and sustainable, which involves:
 - a. forecasting the health burden and the future demand for vaccines;
 - b. market integration and demand aggregation, including regional health regulatory harmonization, removal of trade and investment barriers, developing pooled procurement mechanism; and improving the current financing model for supply of vaccines; and
 - c. connecting feasibility assessment of individual projects with regional coordination in light of the objective to aggregate demand.

Works in progress that require enhanced intervention

1. Other LMICs: It is equally important to expand vaccines production capacity in other regions, as it will help address vaccines supply constraints during pandemic crisis and become beneficial for the global community in general.
2. Regulatory strengthening: Despite several efforts, there is still a need to upgrade the capacity of national medicines regulatory agencies and to assist the industry meet safety standards;
3. Drug substance production: So far there are no known partnerships to build drug substance production capacity in regions like Africa;
4. R&D: partnerships to promote development of products and new vaccine technologies are lacking or yet to take off in the African region;

Panellist underscored the long-term commitment required to build vaccines production capability in LMICs. For this purpose, ownership and commitment of LMIC governments and regional organizations as well as commitment of development partners will remain crucial. UNCTAD and WHO expressed their readiness to assess progress and provide a forum for coordination of international, regional and national efforts and facilitate consensus building in moving forward.



PROGRAM

09:30 – 09:35: Introduction

09:35 – 09:46: Opening remarks (5minutes each)

1. Isabelle Durant, Deputy Secretary General, UNCTAD
2. Rogério Gaspar, Director, Regulation and Prequalification Department (RPQ), Access to Medicines and Health Products Division (MHP), WHO

09:47 – 10:04: Presentation on key development on partnership for production of vaccines in LMICs (8 minutes each)

1. Martin Seychell, Deputy Director-General, Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA), responsible for Directorates G and R, European Commission
2. Nicaise Ndembi, Senior Science Advisor to the Africa CDC Director

10:05 – 10:26: Roundtable discussion: Taking stock of the status of partnership for production of vaccines in LMICs and the way forward (6minutes each)

1. Matthew Downham, Sustainable Manufacturing Lead, Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)
2. Patrick Tippoo, Executive Director, African Vaccine Manufacturing Initiative (AVMI)
3. Abdu Mukhtar, Director, Industrial and Trade Development Department, African Development Bank (AfDB)

10:27 – 10:43: Commentary and discussion on the status of partnership for production of vaccines in LMICs and the way forward (4 minutes each)

1. David Robinson, Deputy Director, CMC Vaccines Development and Surveillance, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)
2. Axel Klaphake, Director Economic and Social Development, Digitalization Sector and Global Programmes, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
3. Stephen N. Karingi, Director, Regional Integration and Trade Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

10:44 – 10:58: Q&A

10:58 – 11:00: Final remarks (WHO and UNCTAD)

Moderators

Ermias Biadgleng, Officer-in-Charge, Intellectual Property Unit, UNCTAD;

Jicui Dong, Unit Head, Local Production & Assistance Unit, Regulation and Prequalification Department, Access to Medicines and Health Products Division, WHO.