



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate General for Health
The Acting Director General

Brussels, 5 October 2020

MEETING REPORT

Subject: Meeting with Medecins sans Frontieres - MSF

1. Participants

Medecins Sans Frontieres

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

European Commission

- Sandra Gallina, Director General (acting)
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

2. Details

The meeting was organised through videoconference to take stock and exchange views on global efforts to provide vaccines to DCs notably through COVAX. MSF presented their work and current experience in vaccination campaigns in Africa, notably the most recent one against Ebola. MSF works in coordination with UNICEF and Gavi, the Alliance for global vaccines, through a multi-disciplinary team covering procuring and delivery (with UNICEF), awareness raising of communities and vaccination campaigns (with WHO and UNICEF).

Discussion turned around humanitarian access to vaccines for vulnerable groups left behind by governments and authorities (refugees, minorities, people in conflict areas internally displaced people, etc). COVAX will ensure distribution of vaccines for up to 20% of countries population but governments may avoid distribution to some groups, those “falling out of the net”. This is where humanitarian support provided by MSF is necessary.

COVAX has put aside 100 million doses for humanitarian purposes, to cover around 50 million people. The criteria and conditions to distribute and use this volume is unknown.

The European Commission explained the donation clauses included in all contracts negotiated and concluded by the EC. The details and criteria on how to organise possible donations for humanitarian purposes from the EU reserved allocation of vaccines is still

to be defined. Some costs associated to distribution of donations will require additional funding that is not available now.

The COVAX “Humanitarian buffer” was discussed, the EC agreed to share information as soon as the allocation criteria will be made available by WHO and Gavi. MSF would reflect on the most appropriate way to source vaccines for humanitarian purposes, either through COVAX buffer or through EU donations. Liability linked to any kind of donation was discussed. Liability clauses are usually well established in well-known and widely used vaccines, while it is not the case in COVID vaccines not developed yet.

Both sides agree to stay in touch and revert to future coordination meetings as soon as there are new developments.

