

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 June 2020 10:15
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: MSF technical brief on GAVI COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility - ACT Accelerator
Attachments: MSF-AC_COVID-19_Gavi-COVAXFacility_briefing-document.pdf
Categories: Orange Category

Dear [REDACTED]
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Today and tomorrow the Global Vaccine Summit will take place, this will be the third GAVI replenishment conference.

At the Summit, a lot of attention will go to the GAVI's proposal for global access to Covid-19 vaccines as part of the ACT Accelerator.
GAVI has proposed an Advanced Market Commitment (AMC), named 'COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility', to ensure scale up of manufacturing of a new vaccine and reserve supplies for developing and other participating countries.

Attached you find MSF's technical brief of this proposal based on our experience with GAVI and the PCV and Ebola AMC, including a set of specific recommendations. Below you find a press release on the same topic.

Don't hesitate to contact me if you have further questions or comments.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

**MSF: Any future COVID-19 vaccines must be sold at cost and accessible to all
Governments must attach strings as they pledge billions to pay for vaccines in developing countries**

Geneva, 2 June 2020—Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF) urged leaders to demand pharmaceutical corporations commit to selling any potential future COVID-19 vaccines at cost, as

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, prepares to launch a global mechanism to negotiate with corporations on such vaccines, and appeals to governments to set up a fund to purchase them for developing countries. The fund will be launched on the sidelines of Thursday's third pledging conference for Gavi, which was set up 20 years ago to pay for vaccines for the world's poorest countries.

Several heads of state have already referred to future COVID-19 vaccines as 'global public goods' and 'the people's vaccine'. But the translation of these important political statements into concrete plans to purchase future COVID-19 vaccines is yet to be determined. Gavi is attempting to fill this gap by launching a mechanism to scale up manufacturing capacity for potentially successful vaccines and to finance these for a set of developing countries. How governments agree to distribute the vaccine equitably and ensure transparent and objective prioritisation is also under discussion, with the World Health Organization leading a process to develop a global equitable allocation framework. MSF warned that the success of such efforts will hinge on governments adhering to this framework and putting the common good above individual nationalist interests.

"Governments and Gavi need to demand that pharmaceutical corporations open the books so we can see how much potential COVID-19 vaccines will actually cost to produce," said Kate Elder, Senior Vaccines Policy Advisor for MSF's Access Campaign. "Everyone seems to agree that we can't apply business-as-usual principles here, where the highest bidders get to protect their people from this disease first, while the rest of the world is left behind. Governments must ensure any future COVID-19 vaccines are sold at cost and universally accessible to all across the world."

To date, governments and philanthropies have given over US\$4.4 billion to pharmaceutical corporations for research and development for COVID-19 vaccines. However, by and large no conditions for access or affordability have been included as a precondition to any of that funding. The COVID-19 vaccines fund that is being mapped out by Gavi aims to raise billions to pay for increased production capacity for future vaccines, and to secure a price, but there is no guarantee whatsoever that pharmaceutical corporations will charge affordable prices.

A fund that was designed by Gavi, the Gates Foundation, the World Bank and others in 2009 to pay for pneumonia vaccines suffered from pharmaceutical companies demanding a relatively high price for the vaccine, leaving developing country governments who have had to take over paying for the vaccine long term with unaffordable prices. Despite a \$1.5 billion subsidy that was largely doled out to Pfizer and GlaxoSmithKline in attempts to secure enough supply of their pneumonia vaccines for developing countries, there were still supply shortages at times over the course of the funding initiative. Additionally, humanitarian organisations such as MSF and other non-governmental organisations were completely left out of the mechanism. This resulted in MSF being unable to access pneumonia vaccines at the Gavi-negotiated price until 2017, after MSF spent years campaigning for access to the lowest global price for pneumonia vaccines. Lessons need to be learned from that experience – it is crucial to set an at-cost price from the outset, because once prices are agreed, Gavi has not been in a strong position to negotiate lower prices later on.

"We can anticipate that global demand will outstrip supply capacity of future COVID-19 vaccines, certainly at the very beginning," said Dr Sidney Wong, Director of MSF's Access Campaign. "While it's encouraging that so many global leaders have claimed that future vaccines will be global public goods, there is a real concern that nationalist interests could lead to a scramble for who can buy them first. Governments and Gavi must adhere to a transparent and objective global allocation system that at the very least prioritises access to vaccines for frontline healthcare workers and people at greatest risk of severe illness and death worldwide. In our work around the world, MSF has witnessed too many people suffering and dying from diseases because of an absence of affordable medical tools. While we anxiously wait for an effective COVID-19 vaccine, let's ensure that history does not repeat itself. We must rely on one

another to do the right thing, and governments and civil society will have to hold each country to account.”

[Read more](#) about MSF’s analysis of the global mechanism for potential future COVID-19 vaccines, including MSF’s past experience with Gavi’s pneumonia vaccine Advance Market Commitment.