



香港中文大學
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Commentary: Observations from COVID-19 Pandemic

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2022 NAM-CBioE Seminar on Global Vaccines
Coordination (23.2.2022)

I. “Vaccines do not save lives; *vaccination saves lives.*” (Report, p.16)

- Readiness to reach appropriate populations, including adults and high-risk groups
- Learn from countries on best practices that led to high immunization rates during COVID-19

(Report, p.17)



Hong Kong Covid-19 vaccination rates by age (at 12 Feb 2022)

Age group	Population number	12-Feb-22	Total	
		% population with 1st dose	% population with 2nd dose	% population with 3rd dose
5-11y	415,600	6%	0%	0%
12-19y	448,800	87%	63%	2%
20-29y	808,700	86%	80%	10%
30-39y	1,126,300	87%	81%	15%
40-49y	1,142,500	94%	88%	25%
50-59y	1,174,200	89%	83%	25%
60-69y	1,071,800	79%	70%	22%
70-79y	560,500	66%	53%	16%
80+y	401,800	36%	25%	5%

Source: Shared on Prof. Ho Pak-Leung Facebook on 14.2.2022



II. Deploy the most efficacious vaccine?

- Egg-based technologies (IIV and LAIV) have a long history and an excellent safety profile, but have limited efficacy (ranging from 60 percent in 2010–2011 to only 10 percent in 2004–2005).
- The egg-dominated market might have deterred some manufacturers from taking the risk on mRNA and other new technologies if the world had been hit by an influenza pandemic.

(Report, p.83)



III. Learn from the COVAX initiative?

- The Covax initiative, established in April 2020, aims to ensure fair access to Covid-19 vaccines worldwide.
- Jointly administered by the World Health Organization (WHO), Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations.
- For 92 low-income economies, it plans to donate sufficient doses to vaccinate around 30% of their populations in 2021 and 2022, under its Advance Market Commitment (AMC) scheme.

Research Briefing : Covax and global access to Covid-19 vaccines, 11 January 2022,
<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9240/>



Problems encountered by The COVAX

- By Jan 2021, 42 countries were rolling out COVID-19 vaccine campaigns, including 36 high-income countries and 6 middle-income countries.
- On 8 Jan 2021, WHO Director-General noted during a press briefing that “a key problem is that high- and middle-income countries that are part of the COVAX Facility are making additional bilateral deals for vaccines, which can increase the price for everyone. “

COVID-19 in 2021 — a timeline of the coronavirus outbreak

<https://www.devex.com/news/covid-19-in-2021-a-timeline-of-the-coronavirus-outbreak-102417>



Problems encountered by The COVAX - II

- “The gap between the number of vaccines administered in rich countries and the number of vaccines administered through COVAX is growing every single day and becoming more grotesque every day,” says WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus during a press briefing. (22 March 2021)

COVID-19 in 2021 — a timeline of the coronavirus outbreak

<https://www.devex.com/news/covid-19-in-2021-a-timeline-of-the-coronavirus-outbreak-102417>



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Problems encountered by The COVAX - III

- By October 2021, While over 1.2 billion doses have been pledged to COVAX — the international initiative for sharing COVID-19 vaccines — by members of the G-20 group of nations, only 150 million of them have been delivered.
- “Less than 1 in 10 health workers have been fully vaccinated on the African continent. In most high-income countries, more than 80% of health workers are fully vaccinated.”

COVID-19 in 2021 — a timeline of the coronavirus outbreak

<https://www.devex.com/news/covid-19-in-2021-a-timeline-of-the-coronavirus-outbreak-102417>



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Outcome of the COVAX initiative

- As of 7 January 2022, only 9% of people in low-income countries (having a Gross National Income (GNI) per capita below US \$1,045) have received at least one vaccine dose. This compares to 77% in high-income states (GNI per capita above US\$ 12,696).
- “COVAX has struggled to meet its vaccination goals, partly due to difficulties in procuring vaccines, but also the challenges in administering vaccines in countries where logistical and health infrastructure is weak.”

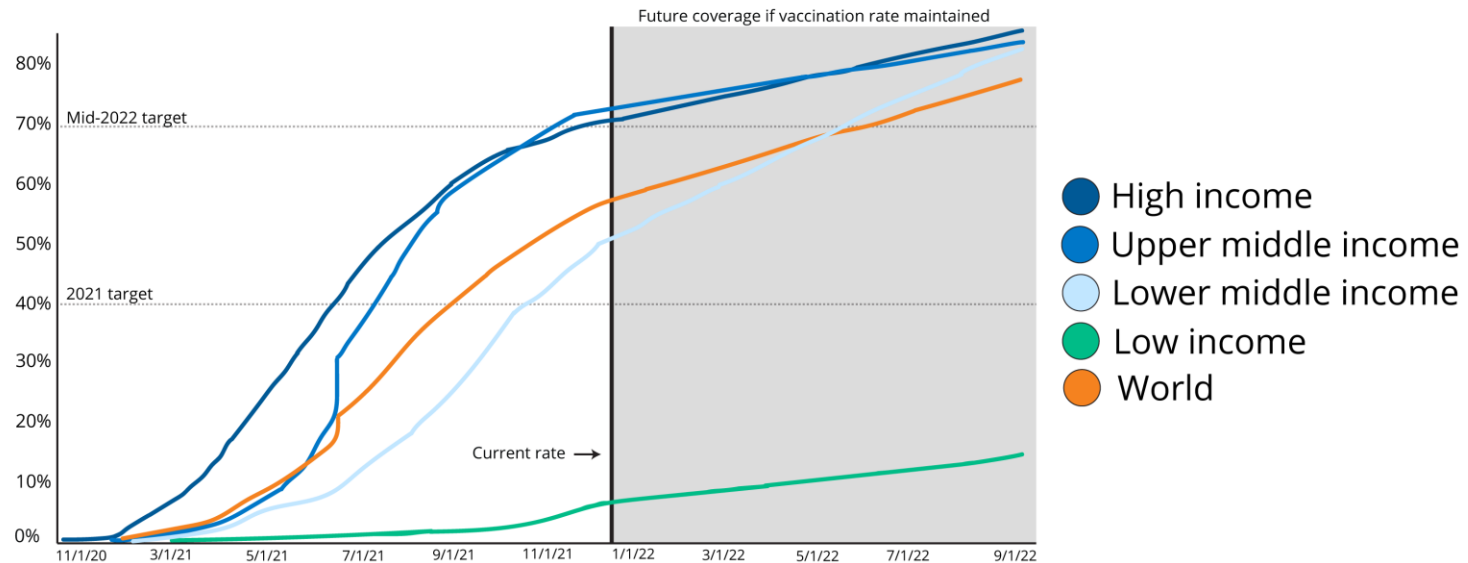
Research Briefing : Covax and global access to Covid-19 vaccines, 11 January 2022,
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KFF: “A Year of Vaccine Inequity”

The Global Divide in COVID-19 Vaccination Rates

Share of population receiving at least one dose as of Dec. 20, by country income



SOURCE: KFF Global COVID-19 Vaccine Coverage Tool: Current and Projected Coverage. December 20, 2021.

KFF

A Year of Vaccine Inequity. Kaiser Family Foundation. 22 December 2021.

<https://www.kff.org/global-health-policy/slide/a-year-of-vaccine-inequity/>



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The Crux of the Matter?

- National agenda (or priorities) vs. Global agenda (or priorities)
- Herd-immunity goal vs. some vaccines for all
- Well-intended initiative and mechanism need effective implementation and governance



Thank you for your attention

