

ACT TODAY FOR FUTURE VACCINE SHARING

In the Covid-19 pandemic, COVAX has been a global mechanism to share vaccine doses. It aimed to promote health equity and multilateralism and to counter vaccine diplomacy,

Dose sharing through COVAX encountered challenges, including:

- Wealthy countries hoarded vaccines and delayed sharing until late 2021
- Doses were donated in erratic shipments and often with short shelf-life, creating waste and absorption capacity problems
- Pharmaceutical companies imposed bureaucratic, logistical and legal hurdles

To avoid these problems in the next pandemic, **several steps can be taken now**

01

Inclusive design

Involve all countries in designing any dose sharing scheme from the start

02

Sharing commitments

Commit now to share a fixed proportion of future vaccine purchases

03

Access provisions

Include provision on vaccine sharing in R&D and pre-purchasing contracts with pharmaceutical companies

04

Binding principles

Make dose sharing principles binding not voluntary, e.g., specify minimum shelf life, volumes, delivery timelines, and cover ancillary costs

05

ODA eligibility

Agree on the extent to which dose sharing should count as overseas development assistance

06

Transparency

Make definitions of dose sharing and related statistics clear, transparent and publicly available



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Further reading:

"COVAX, vaccine donations and the politics of global vaccine inequity."
Globalization & Health, 2022

"COVAX and the many meanings of sharing." BMJ Global Health, 2021