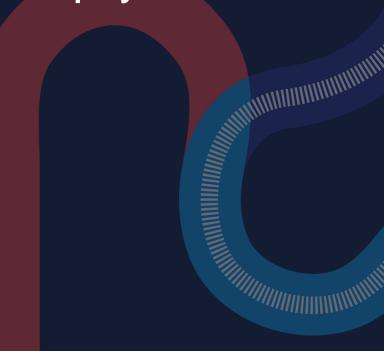# Emergency actions checklist and diagnostic for vaccine deployment

Over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of primary health care systems that include preventative health services such as immunization has become increasingly apparent. Engaging the private sector in the delivery of these services can accelerate the roll out of COVID-19 vaccines, address backsliding in immunization programmes, and lay the foundation for future partnerships for immunization services. This checklist provides a starting place for governments looking to engage the private sector in their COVID-19 vaccine deployment plans.

Align structures

Enlist all available infrastructure to deploy COVID-19 vaccines by leveraging public and private sector capacity

- ✓ Employ a resource-based approach to the COVID-19 vaccine deployment and administration by enlisting all available private and public sector structures, including actors beyond immunization programs (e.g., paramedical and community health workers)

- ✓ Jointly define and align roles and responsibilities of private and public sector entities for a gender, equity, and human rights-based COVID-19 vaccination plan

- ✓ Review and adapt roles and responsibilities to improve the COVID-19 vaccination plan and better leverage public and private sector capacity

- ✓ Use review processes to inform national legislation and other relevant policy frameworks to improve the COVID-19 vaccination plan (and health security more broadly)

Foster Relations

Ensure meaningful participation of the private health sector in COVID-19 vaccine deployment through intersectoral and inclusive governance mechanisms

- ✓ Ensure that COVID-19 vaccination plans are inclusive of diverse affected groups and interest groups, accounting for differences in gender, disability, ethnicity, geographic location, sector and age among others and leverage and strengthen existing intersectoral coordination mechanisms

- ✓ Facilitate the engagement of sub-sector constituencies and sub-group interests (including gender and diversity specific interests) via private sector interorganisational networks (e.g., federations, associations, councils, etc)

- ✓ Engage private sector representatives (e.g., professional associations) in data quality and other implementation challenges

- ✓ Optimize intersectoral and interorganisational relationships through the use of virtual communication platforms and protocols

Build Understanding

Optimise private sector data capture and information exchange for COVID-19 vaccine deployment

- ✓ Review the degree to which private sector data is disaggregated (e.g., by types of private sector) and captured in national health information systems (national, sub-national and primary care levels) as part of past and current immunization initiatives

- ✓ Map out private providers currently involved in immunization services and reporting by collaborating with the professional and facility associations to collect up-to-date data on infrastructure, staff expertise and medical equipment

- ✓ Strengthen the mandate and cross-sectoral reach of national health information directorates to improve private sector data capture, including disaggregation

- ✓ Strengthen governance, investments, and use of digital technology for COVID-19 vaccine deployment (inclusive of legal and regulatory provisions) to reduce fragmentation

Enable Stakeholders

Demonstrate regulatory agility to pre-empt and mitigate market failures as part of the COVID-19 vaccine deployment plan

- ✓ Facilitate regulatory certainty by creating a 'rule book' (such as guidelines and standard operating procedures) that public and private sector entities play by (e.g., pricing, quality standards, etc) for COVID-19 vaccine deployment and disseminate these rules to private sector entities, grounded in gender, equity and human rights considerations.

- ✓ Reduce invitations for abuse by enforcing regulations and proactively monitoring private sector/market activity (focusing on areas with the greatest risk of abuse)

- ✓ Review the fair cost of COVID-19 vaccines (including a gendered analysis of cost) and create financial incentives for crisis healthcare using regulatory and payment levers, , as well as an equity and human rights analysis

- ✓ Use licensing agreements, joint ventures and advanced purchase agreements to increase access technologies and incentivize development of innovative products

- ✓ Review temporary regulatory measures introduced as part of the COVID-19 response to determine if these can be adopted in the long-term to achieve more efficient regulatory systems

Nurture Trust

Recognise and consistently manage competing and conflictive public and private sector interests as part of COVID-19 vaccine deployment

- ✓ Recognise, mitigate and manage competing and conflictive interests as part of COVID-19 vaccine deployment

- ✓ Engage private sector in quality monitoring and safety surveillance to build trust amongst health workers and the community

- ✓ Draw on collaborative skills sets and international normative guidance to build core governance competencies for COVID-19 vaccine deployment

- ✓ Apply governance behaviours consistently (across public and private sector entities) and constantly throughout vaccine deployment

Deliver Strategy

Identify governance interventions and behaviors that can be implemented in the immediate term, while building organisational learning and change management in the medium term

- ✓ Involve the private sector in all aspects of the vaccine roll out, including communication and demand generation

- ✓ Recognise the critical role of PHC in vaccine deployment by integrating health security functions within frontline structures (public, private and civic)

- ✓ Develop more deliberative, explicit, inclusive and transparent approaches to resourcing and deploying COVID-19 vaccines (to allow for transition from the acute phase of the emergency to one of on-going management of COVID-19). Talk about financial resources – openly. The private sector may have resources and finances that can be leveraged, but they may also need financial support to perform their role in the vaccine plan

- ✓ Optimise the use of digital technology as a tool for organisational and behavioral change, across the public, private and civic sectors

- ✓ Use the COVID-19 'window of opportunity' for policy change, through diagnosis of health governance behavioral gaps, and the development of strategies and political appetite to redress these

- ✓ Agree metrics defining success of vaccine deployment strategy and plans

SUPPORT DESK

WHO's Support Desk provides timely responses to current challenges experienced during the COVID-19 response by providing tangible advice at the regional and country level. It is essentially a help desk that Ministries of Health, WHO staff, private sector representatives, and more can visit to ask questions and get answers on how to effectively involve the private sector in the equitable roll out of COVID-19 tools.