

# WHO Costing, Budgeting, Financing and Delivery of COVID-19 Vaccines

Q&A for Session 02 and 03: COVID-19 Vaccination: Costing for Scale-up

Wednesday, July 21 and 28, 2021

Thank you for attending the above webinar session. Many questions were submitted by participants during the webinar. In this document, we share the answers from presenters to each question that wasn't answered verbally during the corresponding Q&A session.

Links to the session recordings in all languages and presentations can be found on the [TechNet-21 website](#).

More information on COVID-19 vaccine introduction can be found in the resources listed below.

- COVID-19 vaccine introduction toolkit in [English](#), [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [French](#), [Russian](#), and [Spanish](#).
- [Guidance on developing a national deployment and vaccination plan for COVID-19 vaccines](#)
- [TechNet-21 – The Technical Network for Strengthening Immunization Services](#)

Webinar-related resources can be found in the following links:

- Online course: [Learning how to use the COVID-19 Vaccine Introduction and deployment Costing \(CVIC\) tool](#)
- [Partners Platform](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Introduction and deployment Costing tool \(CVIC tool\)](#)

In addition, TechNet-21 manages three Telegram channels supporting the webinar series participants. In these spaces you will be able to share your experiences, discuss key questions, and connect with experts from around the world. We'll also share new information and global guidance as it becomes available.

Join us today:

- [WHO Costing, Budgeting, Financing and Delivery of COVID-19 Vaccines](#) (EN)
- [OMS - calcul des coûts, budgétisation, financement et livraison des vaccins COVID-19](#) (FR)

### **How can this CVIC tool be integrated or aligned with immunization costing and planning in general?**

CVIC is aligned with the existing WHO-UNICEF supported tools. Methods and classifications are standardized and allow for integration with existing immunization costing and planning tools.

### **Resources mobilized for vaccination in some African countries remain really low. Don't you think it is important to strengthen the advocacy capacity for each country and to work with other institutions, such as the IMF or the World Bank, so that these institutions ask countries to finance some of the operational costs of COVID-19 vaccination? By imposing it as a requirement in their programs they have with these countries for example?**

Live answered at 33:50 - [https://youtu.be/\\_hs2TZs-TA?t=2030](https://youtu.be/_hs2TZs-TA?t=2030)

### **How is CVIC linked to the partners platform?**

The CVIC is compatible with the Partners Platform. The cost categories in the CVIC tool are aligned with the Partners Platform. You can upload the completed CVIC to the the platform and the cost numbers will automatically be generated from the tool to the platform, and you can use that to submit the request of resource needs.

### **Is CVIC focusing on logistics only or can it also be used for Pharmacovigilance?**

The CVIC can also be used to cost for Vaccine Safety Surveillance and Injection Safety. Simply saying, CVIC can be used to estimate incremental cost to introduce COVID-19 vaccine. The cost categories covered by CVIC also include: (1) Cross-cutting Technical Assistance for Planning, Coordination and Delivery; (2) Vaccine Doses and Related Devices & Supplies; (3) Vaccinators; (4) Vaccination Delivery; (5) Cold Chain; (6) Data Management, Monitoring & Evaluation, and Oversight; (7) Vaccine Safety Surveillance and Injection Safety; (8) Demand Generation and Communications; (9) Protecting Essential Health Services and Health Systems Strengthening.

### **How can COVID-19 vaccines delivery be made easier in rural areas, especially in Somalia where the country is not all open?**

Live answered at 50:11 - [https://youtu.be/\\_hs2TZs-TA?t=3011](https://youtu.be/_hs2TZs-TA?t=3011)

### **Where is demand creation activities provided for? What are the priority activities that must be involved in the conversations?**

Live answered at 49:13 - [https://youtu.be/\\_hs2TZs-TA?t=2953](https://youtu.be/_hs2TZs-TA?t=2953)

### **Does any of the tools take into consideration the protection grade expected per vaccine type (i.e., Pfizer 97%, Astra Zeneca 63%, Sinovac 60% etc.) and the potential impact for the need of boosters?**

Live answered at 47:41 [https://youtu.be/\\_hs2TZs-TA?t=2861](https://youtu.be/_hs2TZs-TA?t=2861)

**How can the CVIC tool be used for a country which already deployed COVID-19 vaccines since early 2021? How far does the costing need to be re-calculated or re-adjusted for the following budget cycle purpose? Also, can the CVIC tool specifically be used for subnational planning and budgeting?**

Live answered at 52:00 - [https://youtu.be/\\_hs2TZs-TA?t=3120](https://youtu.be/_hs2TZs-TA?t=3120)

**How will the CVIC tool help countries to self-finance after the COVAX Initiative?**

By supporting accurate costing of national COVID-19 vaccine deployment plans, countries will have the information needed to plan for resources needed for the task. With an accurate costing, countries can engage in conversations with stakeholders that can provide funding for the campaigns at the local level and with international partners.

**Is it possible to modify/change the variables that you have pre-filled? How accurate are they for the different countries considering that contexts are different from country to country and that costs fluctuate due to external factors?**

You can change any pre-filled information. These numbers come from the work of a global costing team and are estimated for a number of countries based on information available. It is always best to replace with local information if available at the country level, but can be used otherwise as they are the result of a comprehensive technical work.

**My country, Mali, is not in the list of countries having chosen or wanting to choose the CVIC tool. What are the other tools that exist for us to properly estimate?**

Live answered at 55:07 - [https://youtu.be/\\_hs2TZs-TA?t=3307](https://youtu.be/_hs2TZs-TA?t=3307)

**The tool is pretty flexible, and some items are prefilled. However, is it possible to include country-specific interventions? Does it include the six pillars of the health system cost?**

Live answered at 57:25 - [https://youtu.be/\\_hs2TZs-TA?t=3445](https://youtu.be/_hs2TZs-TA?t=3445)

**One of the challenges we face in costing and budgeting COVID-19 vaccines delivery is the uncertainty around global supply, in terms of timeline and incoming quantity, and the unpredictable and evolving nature of disease outbreaks, which change short-term priorities and therefore delivery strategies in rollout. How can we use the CVIC tool under this dynamic context?**

Live answered at 1:00:13 - [https://youtu.be/\\_hs2TZs-TA?t=3613](https://youtu.be/_hs2TZs-TA?t=3613)

**Costing of vaccine deliveries should also take into account conflict affected areas. In Cameroon, the socio-political crisis in anglophone regions has skyrocketed the cost of services. Have such situations been taken into consideration?**

Live answered at 1:03:58 - [https://youtu.be/\\_hs2TZs-TA?t=3838](https://youtu.be/_hs2TZs-TA?t=3838)

**Do all the SEARO countries have their data uploaded so that they can use the CVIC tool?  
What if a country is not using traditional immunization systems, in terms of traditional vaccinators as well as sites? Can this tool be used then?**

Live answered at 1:05:30 - [https://youtu.be/\\_hs2TZs-TA?t=3930](https://youtu.be/_hs2TZs-TA?t=3930)

**Can the tool be used when budgeting the delivery of different vaccines at the same time?**

Live answered at 1:07:35 - [https://youtu.be/\\_hs2TZs-TA?t=4055](https://youtu.be/_hs2TZs-TA?t=4055)

**Are all vaccines included into the tool? For example, in Uzbekistan, the Chinese-Uzbek vaccine is the most used vaccine.**

Live answered at 1:09:01 - [https://youtu.be/\\_hs2TZs-TA?t=4141](https://youtu.be/_hs2TZs-TA?t=4141)

**By the time the mass vaccination finishes, people shall be vaccinated individually. How much can we estimate a dose of COVID-19 vaccine in Sub-Saharan countries using FCFA?**

Live answered at 1:11:19 - [https://youtu.be/\\_hs2TZs-TA?t=4279](https://youtu.be/_hs2TZs-TA?t=4279)

Once producing estimation for COVID-19 vaccination - as it moves into the routine immunization program: the tool does it somewhat though it wasn't the central aim of the tool. By the time countries wish to integrate into the NIP and with more information on the vaccine (durability of the vaccine etc...), the cost estimates will have to change.

The tool is a bi-currency tool. It will output into the selected currency and USD. The exchange rate can also be automated in updates (when you do the refresh).

**As a local NGO, we want to participate in the service of vaccination of COVID-19 in Somalia. How do we partner and get funded to do the service?**

Live answered at 1:14:39 - [https://youtu.be/\\_hs2TZs-TA?t=4479](https://youtu.be/_hs2TZs-TA?t=4479)

The coordinating mechanisms within countries is a good place to start to identify funds to support the service you may be able to provide in the vaccine roll out.

**The NDVP and CVIC tool plans for three years, however the implementation of operational plan depends upon certain factors like the SAGE recommendation for prioritization and allocation of vaccines, the logistic, especially the quantity of vaccines received (which is always and almost 30% of the initial expected), and also the expiry date of the vaccine, which is always short from previous experience.**

The tool lets the country plan for up to three years in half-year intervals, and can be updated as more information comes available and less uncertainty is present. So you can specify a smaller time interval to meet the needs of your plan. You can start with one year for example and then update the tool when you have more certainty.

This is also mirrored in the manual inputs on the Partners Platform for those countries who have chosen not to use the CVIC tool. The upload of the CVIC sheet takes about 13 seconds to upload. We highly

encourage the upload of your completed CVIC sheet. It can help with the donor visibility as well as the upcoming GAVI core application.

**As the SAGE recommended a fixed strategy and we have to reduce the wastage because of the near expiry of the vaccine, we have to enhance the strategy with extra initiatives by increasing teams and other resources, but the CVIC is not changing or accomodating the extra cost as it is an emergency, a global pandemic. Should the CVIC make adjustments?**

We want to vaccinate the population within 2 weeks vs. 6 months - this will require additional HR and surge capacity. This is covered in the CVIC tool, which also caters to ULC vaccines - look to the customization tab to expedite each of the delivery modalities.

**Some of the countries with fragile health and political system don't have the basic statistics. How to proceed in that condition as asked in the CVIC?**

Here are a few suggestions:

- 1- Global estimates built into the tool are available
- 2- Quick look at the current vaccination strategies and build in a buffer
- 3- CVIC provides upper and lower bound estimates (e.g., for HRH to vaccinate) – i.e it provides a range versus a point estimate.

The EZ version allows countries to start using the tool with minimum information at hand (not on target groups sizes and unit costs). However for these 5 cells you will need country specific information, especially on the number of sub-national distribution points.

**What is a vaccination campaign site?**

A vaccination 'campaign site' is a fixed site which does not have cold storage. It is called Delivery Modality 2 in the CVIC tool and is explained in the user manual and OpenWHO video.

**Who are the partners for resource mobilization to COVID-19 vaccines and supplies?**

There is a range of partners supporting COVID-19 vaccines introduction (Gavi, USAID, Multilateral Dev Banks, etc...), bilateral or multilateral, who are providing support for scale up (operational cost and delivery). You can find the mapping on the Partners Platform donors mapping.

**How often can the CVIC be updated?**

You can update the tool as more information comes available, several times, and re-upload or use it internally for the country.

**In case of any clarification or guidance needed in future, who can be contacted?**

Email: [cvicosting@who.int](mailto:cvicosting@who.int) is a great point of entry to more support. It's a generic email. We have regional focal points that are also in the slides that can help.

**Is there any difference between vaccine forecasting and vaccine costing, microplanning including all its components, during vaccine estimation? Secondly, resources on hand might not be adequate to prepare for proper vaccine costing, how could it be solved for resource limited countries?**

The CVIC tool is not a microplanning tool (there is a new microplanning session coming this fall around October, the schedule will be adjusted to reflect this). The CVIC tool includes the 9 common costing categories for estimation.

The second question on vaccine financing: The R2 tab on resource mapping can be used as a conversation starter to talk to partners as well as domestic financing. This is a particularly useful tab in facilitating the conversation (from the tool perspective). The broader financing question is outside of the CVIC tool, which prepares for the financing conversation.