

# Turning vaccines into vaccinations

Germany's Last Mile Initiative is determined to save lives by means of vaccination.

The deployment of vaccinations is currently the greatest challenge in combating COVID-19. While vaccines are becoming more accessible everywhere, turning vaccines into vaccinations remains a hurdle. Going the last mile of vaccinations is often hampered by logistical challenges, generally weak national health systems, vaccine hesitancy and wrong or misleading information. This also applies to life-saving tools such as medicines, oxygen, personnel protective equipment (PPE) and tests. Africa is particularly affected. The continent's immunisation rate currently stands at only 17 percent. During its Presidency of the G7, Germany is determined to support vaccine logistics and the implementation of vaccination campaigns with a focus on Africa, while also targeting low-income countries in other regions.

## What is the goal of the Last Mile Initiative?

The German Last Mile Initiative wants to rapidly increase global immunisation coverage and uptake. To this end, Germany will initially offer technical and financial support to more than 30 partner countries. The objective is that COVID-19 vaccines and other supplies reach even the most vulnerable populations also in fragile and humanitarian contexts. Thereby, the initiative contributes to the World Health Organisation's (WHO) target of vaccinating 70 percent of every country's population. It is also aligned with the Access to COVID-19 Tools-Accelerator (ACT-A) and its partners, and addresses urgent, additional funding needs of its financial framework.

## German commitment in numbers

Germany provides a further 1.5 billion USD (about 1.324 billion EUR) in 2022 to fight the pandemic. Approximately two-thirds of this sum will contribute to the Last Mile Initiative, from which the following funds go to multilateral agencies collaborating through the ACT-A:

- 130 million EUR are earmarked for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to fund broader vaccine as well as humanitarian logistics support,

- 146 million EUR are earmarked for the WHO to fund in-country readiness measures,
- 350 million EUR are earmarked for Gavi's COVAX Advanced Market Commitment mechanism to provide vaccines and support country delivery systems in collaboration with the Vaccine Alliance's partners,

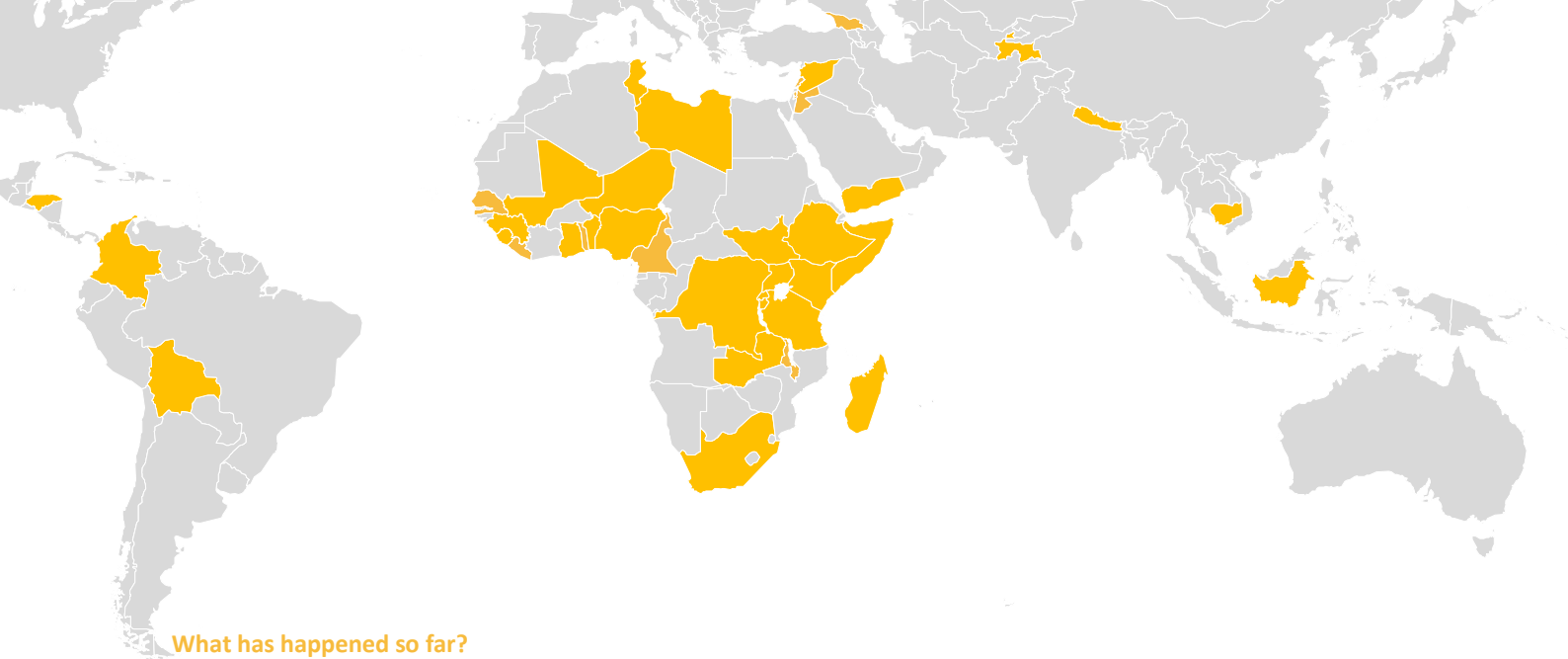
Complementary to its multilateral contributions, Germany provides 224 million EUR for bilateral projects and direct support for vaccination campaigns. Of those 174 million EUR are budgeted by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and 50 million EUR by the Foreign Office.

## What happens on the ground?

The bilateral projects commissioned by BMZ are carried out mainly through German development cooperation agencies and in cooperation with national authorities, partners such as UNICEF, WHO, Gavi, and the African Vaccine Acquisition Task Team as well as non-governmental actors. Field activities will focus on one or more aspects of the vaccine supply chain:

- purchase and delivery of necessary ancillary tools and materials (cooling equipment, syringes, PPE),
- securing infrastructure and energy supply,
- digitisation and waste management,
- training of frontline healthcare workers,
- support for immunisation and awareness campaigns, including in humanitarian contexts.

Pilot partners were identified based on the status of their national vaccination campaigns as well as the existence of active projects and collaboration structures on the ground. The Last Mile Initiative will be extended to other partner countries based on ongoing needs assessments and in consultation with international stakeholders.



### What has happened so far?

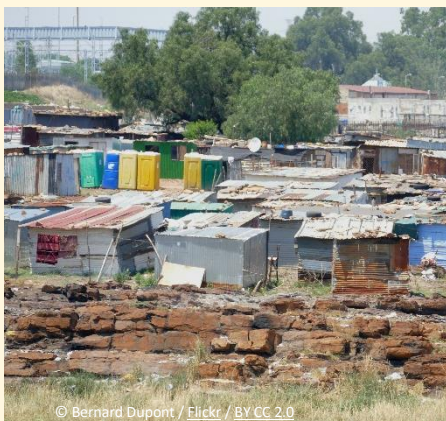
As part of its ACT-A contribution for 2020/2021, BMZ has provided the COVAX Facility with 180 million EUR to improve logistics for immunisation on the ground. In addition to supporting multilateral approaches, BMZ has been supporting 19 partner countries since 2021 to ensure a successful global vaccination campaign by

strengthening health systems and absorption capacities in low-income countries. Through various projects, health workers are trained, cold chains are established, and risk communication is strengthened. The bilateral engagement of BMZ within the Last Mile Initiative builds on and expands the activities started in 2021.

Getting people vaccinated against COVID-19 remains a challenge in many communities. Here are two examples on how Germany answers to this challenge and how the Last Mile Initiative will help increase national COVID-19 vaccination targets.

#### Tunisia: Mobile COVID 19-vaccination containers

In 2021, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) provided six mobile vaccination containers on behalf of BMZ to six cities in Tunisia. In the city of El Guettar, for example, the container was put on wheels and moved to the neighbouring governorate capital of Gafsa for mobile immunisation campaigns. In the city of Midoun, the container became the main vaccination point. By the end of 2021 more than 20.000 people got their vaccination in one of the six containers. In 2022, solar powered e-trikes will be purchased for door-to-door vaccination campaigns in remote places.



#### South Africa: COVID 19-vaccination outreach to informal settlements

The KfW Development Bank, commissioned by BMZ, has allocated 14 million EUR to the South African Department of Health for a vaccination outreach programme in densely populated urban areas. Local health centres in the provinces of Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape shall be equipped with extra mobile vaccination teams. To this end, several clinic vans are to be procured. The vans will serve as mobile vaccination stations in the remote settlement areas and provide basic health services there. Nurses, mobilisation teams and drivers will be recruited and trained for the immunisation campaign to complement and staff up the existing personnel of the health centres.

## Vaccination logistics and supporting measures – an overview by countries<sup>\*)</sup>

country	procurement	logistics	trainings	energy	digitisation	infrastructure	campaigns	waste management	financial co-operation (fc) / technical co-operation (tc)
<b>Africa</b>									
Burundi			x				x		fc
Cameroon	x	x	x	x			x		tc
DRC	x	x	x				x		fc
Ethiopia	x			x					tc
Ghana			x		x				tc
Guinea			x	x	x		x		tc
Kenya	x	x	x		x		x		fc, tc
Liberia	x	x		x			x		tc
Madagascar	x								tc
Malawi	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		fc, tc
Mali	x			x					tc
Rwanda			x				x		fc
Senegal	x		x	x					tc
Somalia	x	x	x		x		x		tc
Sierra Leone			x		x				tc
South Africa		x	x		x		x		fc, tc
South Sudan			x				x		fc, tc
Tanzania	x	x	x				x		fc, tc
Togo	x		x	x	x		x		tc
Uganda	x	x	x	x			x		fc, tc
West African region (Benin, Niger)			x				x		fc
Zambia		x	x				x		fc, tc
<b>Americas</b>									
Bolivia	x						x		tc
Colombia	x		x				x		tc
Honduras		x				X	x		tc
<b>Asia</b>									
Cambodia	x	x	x				x		tc
Indonesia			x		x				tc
Nepal			x				x	x	tc
Tajikistan	x	x	x						tc
<b>EMEA</b>									
Georgia		x	x				x		tc
Jordan	x		x				x		tc
Lebanon	x	x	x				x		fc, tc
Libya	x		x			x	x		fc, tc
Palestinian Territories	x		x						fc
Syria		x	x				x		tc
Tunisia	x	x	x		x	x	x		fc, tc
Yemen			x			x			fc

<sup>\*)</sup> This table only lists countries with bilateral projects and direct support for vaccination campaigns funded by the 174 million EUR from BMZ, as mentioned on page one.

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