

Vaccines for Africa:

Vaccine Roll Out & Production in South Africa (SAVax)

The COVID-19 pandemic in South Africa

South Africa is the African country most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic with more than 2,9 million cases and 90.000 deaths as of October 2021. It has experienced three COVID-19 epidemic waves so far and each wave has shaken the country's health system even more, resulting in higher mortality and morbidity rates. The South African health system is already facing public health challenges such as HIV, tuberculosis (TB), mother child morbidity and mortality, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and last but not least violence, traumata and injuries. Therefore the pandemic puts additional pressure on the health system.

Germany immediately committed its support to South Africa. On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, GIZ implements this project to support the vaccine roll-out and the local production of vaccines. GIZ offers a long standing experience in the health sector in South Africa. For instance by supporting the national HIV/AIDS strategy or supporting the local production of vaccines by deploying German expertise at the BioVac Pharmaceutical Institute since 2008.

COVID-19 vaccine roll-out

GIZ and the Department of Health cooperate in the South African vaccine roll-out. The goal is to reach 70% of the South African adult population. SAVax will focus on reaching disadvantaged populations in rural areas and informal settlements. Through the cooperation with the Douglas George Murray Trust, GIZ will support the demand generation for vaccines. Furthermore, building on its previous cooperation with the University of Pretoria and the Ndlovu Research Center, GIZ will support the Health Department at provincial level to maintain the quality of health care delivery and improve its pandemic preparedness in the mid- and long run.



Project name	Vaccines for Africa: Vaccine Roll Out and Production in South Africa (SAVax)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Lead executing agencies	SA Department of Science and Innovation (DoSI) SA Department of Health (DoH)
Duration	01/2022 - 12/2024

Vaccine production

GIZ has supported the local manufacturing of vaccines in South Africa since 2008 by deploying integrated experts at the BioVac Institute in Cape Town. This public-private partnership is providing vaccines for the national *Expanded Programme on Immunisation* and the private sector in South and Southern Africa. Today, BioVac is one of the leading manufacturers on the African continent and a central player in the South African vaccine development and manufacturing ecosystem.

The GIZ SAVax project will support the strategy of the National Department of Science and Innovation and partner with South African universities and companies to develop new training and research projects hand in hand with the Medical Research Council. The aim is to have enough skilled experts, capable of developing and manufacturing new vaccines for the current and possible future health crisis's in South Africa for the African continent. GIZ will support local innovation by collaborating with South African companies along the vaccine value chain, from vaccine development to manufacturing, distribution and administration. That will not only create more skilled jobs but also support South Africa's development as an economic and innovation hub in African.





Vaccine regulation

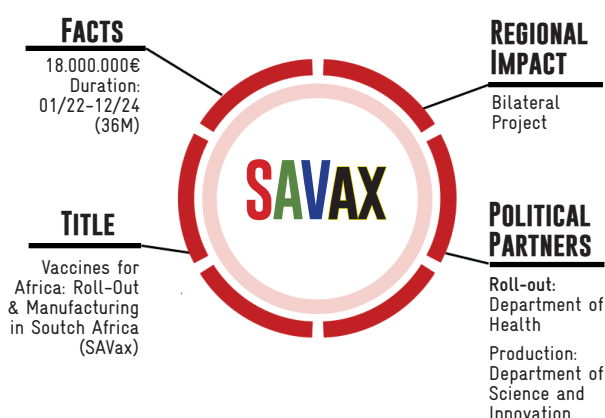
The backbone of local vaccine production is an effective national regulatory authority to ensure the quality and safety of vaccines. GIZ's SAVax will support the development plans of the *South African Health Products Regulatory Authority* to reach WHO maturity level 4. This will accelerate the approval of new vaccines in the country as well as the export of South African vaccines to other countries. By providing technical support and training, GIZ will contribute to strengthen the regulatory framework for vaccines and medical products in South Africa for the entire region.



Vaccine market shaping

Ensuring the development of new vaccines in South Africa will go hand in hand with the creation of the demand for them at continental level, for instance through longterm procurement contracts with other African governments or regional and international organisations or through advanced purchase agreements. GIZ's SAVax will support the capacity of South African stakeholders from the public and private sphere for market analysis and market shaping activities related to vaccines produced in South Africa.

IN A NUTSHELL



SAVax's multiple stakeholder partnership approach

Vaccine roll-out and production involve a variety of actors from the public and private sector, academia and civil society working together on a joint challenge. GIZ has a wide experience cooperating in managing multiple stakeholder systems applying different structures, processes and tools adjusted to the common goals and objectives. SAVax is implemented according to the spirit of the Sustainable Development Goal 17: *Strengthen means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development* ensuring coordination and harmonization with other actors and initiatives.

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