



# THE COVID-19 VACCINE SUPPLY PLANNING INITIATIVE

The COVID-19 vaccine supply planning initiative works with countries to contribute to timely, complete, and accurate information presented in a standardized and usable format that can be used for coordinated operational supply planning decisions. Improving supply planning decisions can ensure sufficient quantities of vaccines are available when and where needed, as well as limit reallocation, redistribution and redeployment of vaccines.

## BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 global and country supply landscape is dynamic and complex. In addition to vaccines procured through the COVAX Facility, millions of doses have been procured and administered through donations and bi-lateral agreements. To complicate things further, information about these vaccines is captured through various data sources and tracking systems. These multiple supply streams and multiple data sources ultimately impede vaccine planning and supply management at country and global levels. This situation is compounded by the dynamic nature of in-country immunization programs, including adaptations of routine immunization tools and processes to account for COVID-19 vaccines, ever changing policies, fluctuation of demand, and the continuous shifting of disease patterns and recommendations.

To limit situations requiring re-allocation, redistribution, and/or redeployment of vaccines (is expensive, time-consuming, and inefficient) JSI is complementing the current global planning process with an operational process and data for short-term

supply planning to ensure vaccines reach countries when they are needed in this dynamic supply and program context. In the future, once processes are established and proven effective, we anticipate such mechanisms created for COVID-19 would prove to be beneficial for expansion to routine immunization programs and other vaccines.

## APPROACH

Operational decisions around how countries can adapt to changing needs and prioritize available vaccine supply requires visibility to real-time information, both on the current country context and programs as well as to the global supply situation. Core to the approach is working with countries to ensure they have the on-going visibility needed to make decisions based on their country and the global supply situation, particularly around the timing and necessary quantity of COVID-19 vaccine shipments.

JSI works closely with a network of staff, partners, and government colleagues in key countries to collect and analyze information, and create and maintain robust and agile supply plans to support decision-making and ensure that the supply of vaccines matches vaccination efforts.

## OUR APPROACH

- Leveraging existing platforms, processes and tools; to completing, organizing and standardizing all available and relevant data; and providing options for greater efficiency, visibility, and useful analysis.
- Engaging initially in countries with JSI advisors to establish the supporting mechanism, the project is now, actively engaging partner organizations including inSupply Health, John Snow Health Zambia Ltd., Africa CDC, PATH, VillageReach, Guidehouse, CHAI, and others, to take up the approach and plans to scale up to about 50 countries total by the end of 2022 with support from country and regional advisors.

While this is a country-focused effort, the data and tools generated will contribute to global and regional planning and inform process improvements, particularly in connecting data and its use between the country and global levels. We envision these processes will improve bi-directional information sharing—sharing global supply information with countries, and sharing country information (on absorptive capacity, progress, etc.) with global working groups. In addition to sharing specific data, we also anticipate sharing information to highlight and improve processes particularly between the global and country level.

**For more information about this initiative, please contact:**

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