



A SHOT FOR ALL

Vaccines Delayed, Development Denied

What will it 'cost' to leave no one behind?

Join UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner and special guests at a high-level event during the 76th UN General Assembly

SAVE THE DATE
21 September 2021
7.30 a.m. - 9.00 a.m. EST



A word from the Director

As Africa grapples with new peaks of COVID-19 infections amidst a third – sometimes fourth – wave, thinly stretched health systems remain overwhelmed, even as they fight back. ‘Vaccine famine’ is today’s reality, reminding us that sustainable solutions require home-grown capacities to produce vaccines against COVID-19, and the next health crisis.

Grounded on actions to promote inclusion, [homegrown innovation](#), and the use of [digital technology](#), this edition of the RBA Digest spotlights some of UNDP’s work with the African Union, governments, [partners](#) and people on the ground to tackle vaccine inequity, respond to crisis impacts and prepare for future shocks. We press ahead, taking action on the [roadmap to building back better](#).

Ahunna Eziakonwa

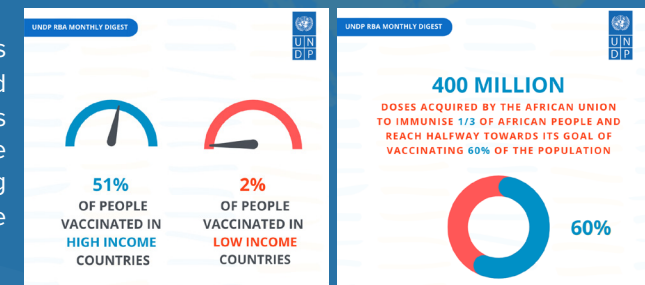
Right to health, right to life

As outlined in the [African Regional Judges’ Forum](#), COVID-19 has intensified disparities for marginalized and vulnerable populations. UNDP is supporting a rights – based approach, investing in the [fight against gender-based violence](#) in Zambia; and, through a [database on persons with disabilities](#) ensuring that issues concerning those most at risk do not go unexamined.

Spotlight: Access to vaccines in Africa

Africa’s pace towards herd immunity is slow. But, new momentum is injected as the African Union acquires [400 million vaccine doses](#), and distribution commences with [Togo being the first](#) country to receive its bulk just a few days later. UNDPAfrica is advocating for local vaccine manufacturing on the continent and is playing a role in addressing [vaccine equity](#) ensuring accessibility for vulnerable groups, like prisoners [in Madagascar](#).

[Register for UNDP’s special UNGA side event on vaccine equity...](#)



Reviving tourism opportunities

To stem the devastating impact of COVID-19 on the tourism industry in Africa, UNDP partnered with the Afrochampions in support for creating [Panabios](#), a pan-African AI solution facilitating the reopening of borders. This offers standardized and trusted testing and vaccines management creating safe

ways to reopen economic sectors like tourism. COVID-19 has forced Small Island Nations to re-imagine their tourism industry models, with Mauritius and Seychelles building adaptive capacity and championing [sustainable conservation principles and innovative tourism practices](#).

A continued response to the emergency

Following findings from its COVID-19 [Socioeconomic Impact Report](#), UNDP’s Uganda Country Office supported government to [deploy medical personnel and public health specialists](#) across the country, and piloted a [youth program](#) to implement sustainable and commercially viable ideas and models to the response. Our work delivering [critical COVID-19 medical supplies](#) worth US\$14 million has continued to grow in The Gambia.

[Read more about UNDP in Uganda...](#)

Tech helps countries and people face the ‘new normal’

UNDP is increasing efforts to digitize the development and crisis response. From [Eritrea’s COVID-19 mobile applications](#) to [Lesotho mobile technology for village health workers](#), we are working to strengthen surveillance and disease control. Innovation is brewing in Eswatini where [refrigeration and cold chain technology](#) that protects the environment is supporting delivery of safe vaccines, including for COVID-19.