



COVID-19 Transition and Recovery Efforts

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UNICEF Executive Board

2024 first regular session (6–8 February 2024)

Item 7: Update on the implementation of the recommendations in the evaluation of the UNICEF Level 3 response to the global coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and on the ongoing COVID-19 transition and recovery efforts being implemented by UNICEF.

Reference document: E/ICEF/2024/7

COVID-19 and future preparedness

- The negative impacts of COVID-19 are far-reaching, with a significant cascade effect on children
- A cross-sectoral whole-of-government/society approach is needed for preparedness and response to public health emergencies
- Child-centred, gender-sensitive strategies are crucial
- Progress for future health emergency preparedness and response is “at risk” as COVID-19 momentum & funding diminish



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Lessons learned from the COVID-19 response

- Importance of partnerships and early coordination
- Need for flexible funding for pandemic preparedness and response
- Country ownership of plans
- Continued investment in health emergency preparedness and response – enabling UNICEF to respond quickly to emerging challenges such as the current cholera outbreaks
- Multisectoral “public health” focus

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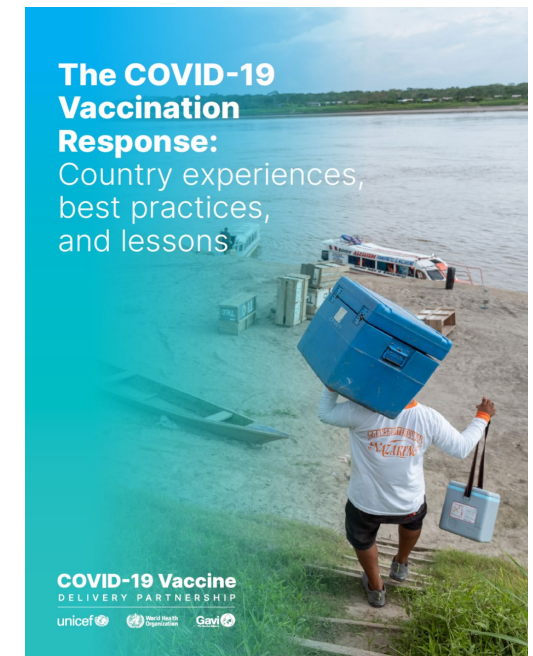
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Recommendations for a medical countermeasures delivery support mechanism based on lessons learnt from the COVID-19 vaccine delivery support model

**COVID-19 Vaccine
DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP**
unicef World Health Organization Gavi

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Prioritizing building on COVID-19 gains

- Water, sanitation and hygiene in health-care facilities, schools, public spaces and communities
- Supply and logistics with geographically diverse manufacturing
- Risk communication and community engagement
- Planning and investments in wider areas such as continuity of education and gender-based violence risk mitigation
- At the foundation of interventions: community health workers

Key areas of UNICEF's global sectoral leadership roles for public health emergencies



Risk communication and community engagement



Infection prevention and control/water, sanitation and hygiene



Supply and logistics

Recommendations

- Enhancing community health workers' training, skills, remuneration and equipment
- Focusing on the predictable hard edge of UNICEF's response in water, sanitation and hygiene/infection prevention and control, risk communication and community engagement, and supply and logistics – investments in these areas and wider control and mitigation priorities are essential for future effective interventions
- Engaging with the pandemic agreement negotiations and playing an active role in the Pandemic Fund to stress the importance of community engagement and accountability to affected populations
- Leading medical countermeasures partnership efforts, prioritizing local and regional manufacturing and preventing inequitable delivery
- Long-term sustainable financing for health emergency preparedness and response



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