Lessons learned from tracking and coordinating donor financing for COVID-19 vaccine delivery

Nik Mandalia
UNICEF Headquarters
New York
COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery Funding | Purpose and Requirements

The creation of COVAX provided a mechanism for countries to gain access to COVID-19 vaccine – further shortening the historic time-lag which has existed between introduction of new vaccines in high income countries and low-and-middle income countries.

Many countries had already stretched their limited health sector resources to support COVID-19 response activities. There was a lack of visibility over the availability of resources to support vaccine roll-out activities.

Donor commitments were made to support in-country vaccine delivery – however there was limited visibility on resources available to each country.

UNICEF played a significant role in mobilizing resources for COVID-19 vaccine delivery through the Access to COVID-19 Tools – Accelerator (ACT-A) Humanitarian Appeal for Children (HAC). However, there was a need to understand which countries needed additional financial support.

Initial outreach to gather funding data from development partners

Comprehensive - ‘top-down’ - resource tracking exercise to quantify available external funding for vaccine delivery –

**COVID-19 Vaccine Financial Monitoring (C19VFM)**
COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery Funding | Objectives

**Global Level**


2. Support the development of analysis for resource mobilization and fundraising.

**Country Level**

3. Improve transparency of resources available to countries in support of vaccine roll-out activities.

4. Provide an entry point for country-level donor programming discussions.

Guiding principles

- Data should remain up-to-date/ reported in a timely manner
- Minimized reporting burden for respondents
Data elements

**Country recipient**
- Capturing all funding directed to a country regardless of implementing agent — i.e. government, UN agencies, and NGOs

**Source of funding**
- Capturing the entity which undertook the discretionary action of allocating resources — necessary when capturing multilateral organization funding

**Financing type**
- Specific focus on resources for vaccine delivery
- Commitments and funds disbursed to countries — composite indicator “Available External Funding”

**Mechanism**
- The administration method employed to channel funds to countries
- E.g. UNICEF’s ACT-A HAC, direct bilateral engagement, etc.
### Financing Sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Multilateral Development Banks</th>
<th>UN Agencies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World Bank</td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Development Bank</td>
<td>UNOPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inter-American Development Bank</td>
<td>WHO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donor Governments and Agencies</th>
<th>Foundations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Private Foundations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa CDC</td>
<td>ELMA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany (BMZ &amp; AA)</td>
<td>Private Donors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Affairs Canada</td>
<td>Gavi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan – Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JICA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Republic of Korea</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. Government</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>European Commission</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data as of: 29th October 2022

### Data Collection

#### Direct engagement with financing sources

Online platforms with publicly available data

Resources channeled through UNICEF
COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery Funding

Total available external funding:

US$ 4.44 billion

Across 138 low-and-middle-income countries

Capturing data from over 25 sources of financing

Funding data is consolidated and reported on a weekly basis to development partners through the Implementation Analysis and Insights (IAI) Report

Informing coordination of donor efforts and programming of funds at global-level

Funding data contributes to analysis for resource mobilization and advocacy

Data supports efforts for country-level planning and development of One Budgets

Data as of: 29th October 2022
### Global Funding Overview

**Low-and-middle-income Countries (138) | Available External Funding Contributions by Financing Source Type (US$)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source Type</th>
<th>Total Available External Financing</th>
<th>Gavi</th>
<th>Donor Governments and Agencies</th>
<th>UN Agencies</th>
<th>Foundations and Private</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MDBs</td>
<td>$4,440M</td>
<td></td>
<td>$1,823M</td>
<td>$1,333M</td>
<td>$1,333M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$1,586M</td>
<td></td>
<td>$1,586M</td>
<td>$1,586M</td>
<td>$1,586M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**No. of countries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Classification</th>
<th>LIC</th>
<th>LMIC</th>
<th>UMIC</th>
<th>No Income Classification</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of countries</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of total</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average per capita (US$)</td>
<td>2.77</td>
<td>4.92</td>
<td>7.19</td>
<td>5.90</td>
<td>16.13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gavi funding reflects amounts disbursed to countries. Some funding components are aggregated as global allocations, which are not included in the analysis.

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[Data as of: 29th October 2022]
Country Funding Overview

Data as of: 29th October 2022

Country Example | Available External Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Available External Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>World Bank</td>
<td>$11.8M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gavi</td>
<td>$9.7M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USAID</td>
<td>$11.2M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMZ</td>
<td>$6.9M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan - Ministry of Foreign Affairs</td>
<td>$1.1M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Govt' via UNICEF HAC</td>
<td>$0.5M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF (Thematic/Flexible Funding) HAC</td>
<td>$1.1M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Donors</td>
<td>$0.1M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Available External Funding: $42.4M

Commitments/Disbursement not confirmed | Disbursements
Donors are identified and contacted through established COVID-19 donor coordination groups and meetings. Initial programming of COVID support funds was fast — organizations provided disbursement data. Programmatic function of resources is decided once funds are disbursed to country-level. MDB funding is substantial — but limited visibility on disbursements. No emphasis on collecting both commitments and disbursements — limits donor accountability. Utilization/absorption data has been difficult to collect — less willingness for donors to make this data available. Lack of visibility over domestic resources.

Data framework and Data Collection

Direct engagement with financing sources

Limitations

Reporting Entities

Focus on donor entities with visibility over their allocations towards countries.

- No data collection from country governments on domestic resources.
- Emphasis placed on understanding on funding available at country level, rather than end-to-end flow of resources.

Guiding Principles

Timely/Up-to-date data
Minimized Reporting Burden

Funding Data Type

Data on commitments or disbursements is collected — using both as a compositive to provide an indication of “Available External Funding”.

- Initial programming of COVID support funds was fast — organizations provided disbursement data.
- Programmatic function of resources is decided once funds are disbursed to country-level.
- MDB funding is substantial — but limited visibility on disbursements.
### Guiding Principles

**Timely/Up-to-date data**

- Structured – Routine reporting from donors when new funding decisions are made.
- Structured - periodic outreach for follow-up with donors who no recent reporting.

**Minimized Reporting Burden**

- Flexible – based on donor ability to report comprehensive data.
- Active outreach vs. passive donor engagement.

### Granularity of Data

- All vaccine delivery funding available captured - regardless of programmatic function, cost category supported, or implementing agent.
- Visibility of disaggregated data is low at global level.
- Programmatic function and cost categories supported are often apparent once funds are disbursed to country-level.
- Allocations to implementing agents is sometimes decided at country-level.
- Time to draw data up from countries can be significant.

### Frequency of Data Collection

- Structured + Flexible approach to data reporting and outreach
- Structured – Routine reporting from donors when new funding decisions are made.
- Structured - periodic outreach for follow-up with donors who no recent reporting.
- Flexible – based on donor ability to report comprehensive data.
- Active outreach vs. passive donor engagement.

### Limitations

- Lack of granularity limits depth of analysis – difficult to determine gaps across cost categories at country-level.
- Additional information is required to have significant discussions on country-level programming – available data can only provide an ‘entry point’.
- Variation in reporting frequency across financing sources – aligning with donor programming timelines presents challenges.
Guiding Principles

**Timely/Up-to-date data**

- Minimized Reporting Burden

### Reporting Period

Flexible approach to period of reporting for available funds with no specified ‘cut-off’ date.

- Donor reporting of additional funding availability is recorded cumulatively.
- Initial funding was short-term/for immediate use (i.e., UCC) – little need for specific reporting periods.

### Obtrusive vs. Unobtrusive measures of data collection

Desirable to use unobtrusive data collection methods – drawing from routine reporting outputs from financing sources.

- No reporting template – financing sources report according to their own systems.
- Variation in donor grant management systems – some can easily report on COVID vaccine delivery funding, others require significant effort.

**Limitations**

- Flexible reporting periods - can cause difficulties in quantifying what funds are remaining at country-level.
- For organizations who require additional efforts to extract relevant information – frequency of reporting is reduced.
- Challenges supporting organizations to extract relevant data.
### Guiding Principles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timely/Up-to-date data</th>
<th>Minimized Reporting Burden</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allowed the resource tracking exercise to meet its objectives.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicates requirements for future pandemic preparedness and response resource tracking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The timelines of the data was supported by the actions taken to minimize the reporting burden.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Coordination Structures and Governance

The exercise was effective in capturing data due to its proximity to vaccine delivery coordination across development partners.

| PPR - resource tracking must be integrated into donor response coordination mechanisms and governance structures. |
| Personnel – requires engagement in programmatic areas of donor response – not just data/finance experts. |
| Resource tracking needs to be sufficiently resourced to ensure active outreach vs. passive data collection |

### Data Framework

The exercise was effective in fulfilling its objectives – however the lack of more granular data impedes the depth of analysis possible.

| PPR – Data uses, and data framework should be prospectively agreed by development partners. |
| Balance between granularity of data and frequency of reporting needs to be agreed according to use cases. |
| Data framework should be used to orientate donor financial systems to provide relevant data through routine, ‘unobtrusive’ reporting. |
### Donor Transparency

Donors showed a willingness to provide relevant data to ensure effective coordination of resources across partners. However, there were challenges which limited donor accountability:

- Lack of utilization data impedes the ability to diagnose financial bottlenecks at the country-level.
- Greater transparency is needed to track end-to-end resource flows (commitments – disbursements – expenditures).
- PPR – governance should include data sharing agreements for resource tracking purposes.