

# **Global Access to COVID-19 Tools**

**Jennifer Mabuka – Maroa PhD**

**Independent Consultant**

**01/28/2021**

## Vaccines and Vaccination: What are the Ethical Goals?

- Reduce morbidity and mortality – reduce impact of disease on the health of individuals
- Minimize the impact of the disease on the existing societal infrastructure and economy
- Bridge health inequalities – systematically disadvantaged groups or poor countries should not be left behind

# Global Access to COVID-19 Vaccines

- What does equitable access mean?

**A fair process- affordable, safe and effective vaccines in a timely version.**

- What factors might affect access?
  - Cost
  - Distribution
  - Delivery
  - Community attitude/Uptake

# Global Access to COVID-19 Vaccines

- Is this a new problem?

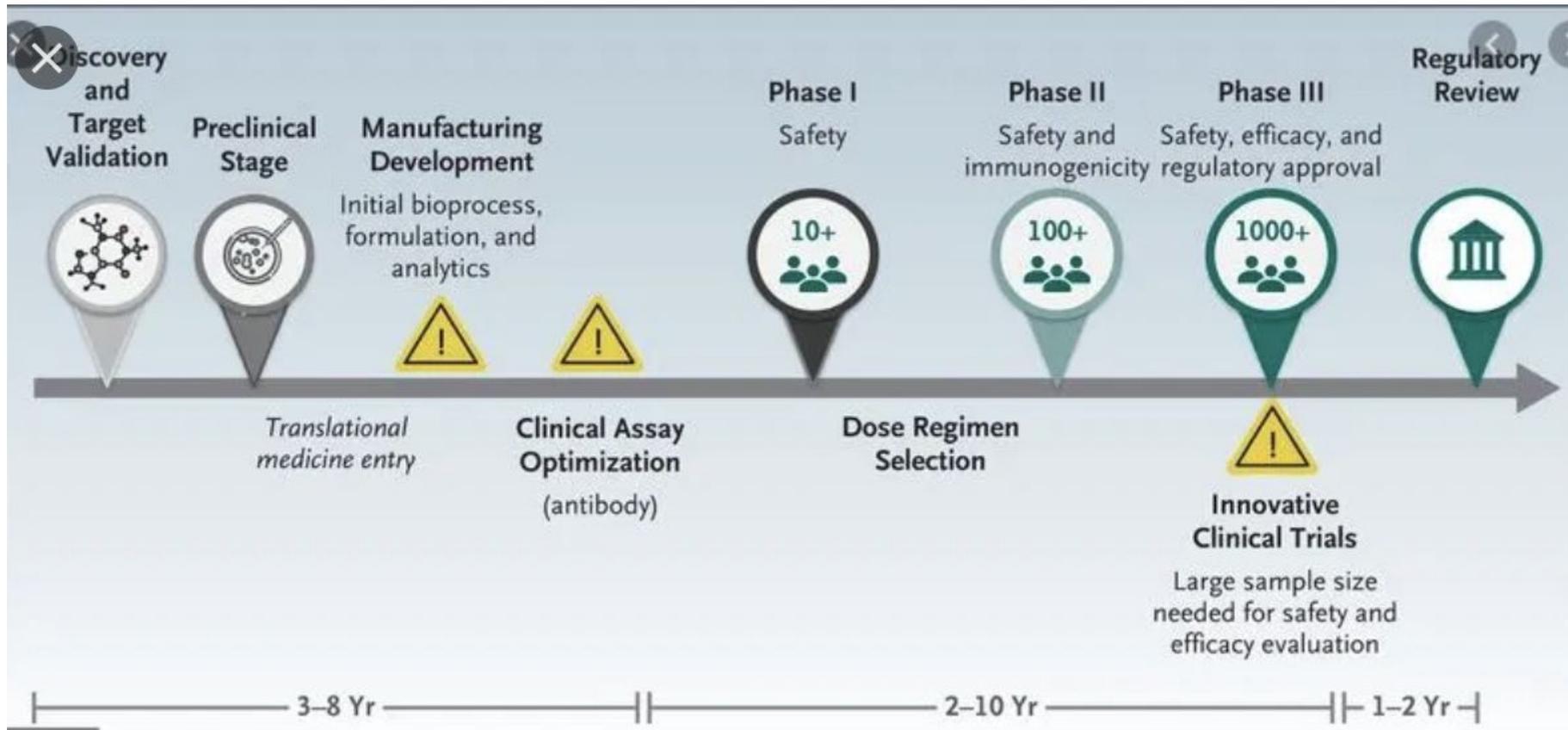
NO!

Access for ART for HIV patients in Africa.

- Child mortalities in low- and middle-income countries due to vaccine preventable diseases
  - Towards end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, global immunization efforts were beginning to plateau
  - 30million children in poor countries were not immunized – vaccines not affordable
  - **Global Alliance for Vaccines Immunization (GAVI)** was formed in 2000
  - To “**save lives, reduce poverty and protect the world against the threat of epidemics.**”
  - GAVI has helped immunize 822 million children and has saved more than 14 million lives.
- Why are vaccines and other products so expensive?

# High Costs of Developing Drugs, Diagnostics and Vaccines

- Requires a lot of costly research- infrastructure and human resource
- Takes a long time
- Many attempts fail



# Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator

- In March 2020, WHO, European Commission and France launched the **Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator**, a global collaboration to accelerate the development, production and equitable access to COVID19 tests, treatments and vaccines
- Key stakeholders include;
  - Governments,
  - Global health organisations,
  - Manufacturers, scientists,
  - Private sector,
  - Civil society and
  - Philanthropy
- Vaccine arm of ACT is called **COVAX**
  - Accelerate development and manufacture of COVID-19 vaccines
  - Guarantee equitable access globally
  - Co-led with GAVI, CEPI and WHO



# COVAX

- The goal of COVAX facility is to make sure that participating countries get access to COVID-19 vaccines as **quickly, fairly, and safely as possible**
  - Self funding and funded countries
  - Supports research, development and manufacturing
  - **Negotiate pricing**
- Over 190 countries – Biden administration has signed up and will support COVAX
- Deliver 2 billion vaccines doses by end of 2021
- 1.3 billion of these for funded countries
- Deliver first doses by next month (Feb 2021)
  - Pfizer BioNTech, Moderna and Oxford-AstraZeneca

# COVAX: Vaccine Delivery Framework

- Defined a framework on how to deliver the limited doses
- Tier 1 group
  - Healthcare providers
  - People over the age of 65
  - People under the age of 65 with underlying conditions that increase their risk of death.
- Aim to immunize 20% of the populations to protect this tier 1 or vulnerable populations by end of 2021
- These populations will vary from country to country
  - Africa has the youngest population globally- median age is 20 years

# COVAX: Vaccine Delivery Framework

- Additional doses will be made available depending on funding.
- Risk estimates in a country over time- Risk will vary depending on many factors, age, pre-existing immunity, genetic factors etc
- Threat- Potential impact of COVID-19 on a country given emerging epidemiological data
- Vulnerability- How well are the health systems in a country coping
- Five (5)% of vaccines will also be secured for ‘humanitarian buffer’ – hard to reach or conflict areas

**Questions Related to COVAX?**

# Vaccine Distribution/Transportation and Storage

- Securing vaccines is not enough, countries must prepare to receive and deploy them
- Challenges with the Pfizer BioNTech and Moderna Vaccine- need below freezing temperatures during transportation
  - During Shipping at -70 C and -20 C respectively
  - In the lab between 2-8 C for 30 days.

## How the vaccine cold chain works

1 Vaccines sent to destination country



2 Refrigerated lorry to cold room



3 Distribution in portable ice boxes to regional centres



4 Stored in electric fridges between 2C and 8C



5 Carried in portable ice boxes to local venues for vaccination campaign



# Vaccine Supplies for Delivery

Its not just vaccines, we need;

- Human resources- vaccinators, staff to document etc
- Healthcare units- with cold storage capacities
- Syringes
- Gloves
- Glassware
- Needles



# Community Interest: We are all in this Together!

- Positive attitude for uptake
  - Our role within our local communities
- Ability to return for second shot – for Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca



# Funding and Infrastructure to Develop COVID-19 Tools

## ✓ COVAX;

- Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)
- Global Alliance for Vaccine Initiative (GAVI)
- The Vaccine Alliance
- WHO
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics
- The Global Fund
- Unitaid
- Wellcome and
- The World Bank.
- The NIH

# Infrastructure to Develop COVID-19 Tools

## **What is Gavi doing to fight COVID-19?**

Seth Berkley, Gavi's CEO, says, "Health systems across the developing world face their biggest test in living memory, and Gavi is helping them to meet it." Gavi has committed to providing an initial amount of over **US\$42 million in urgent funding** to 30 countries, which will support countries in their response to COVID-19 by enabling them to protect healthcare workers with PPE, perform trainings, and fund diagnostic tests. Gavi is seeking to provide additional support to its beneficiary countries and funding up to US\$200 million is likely be approved in the near future.

# Clinical Trials are Important in Developing New Tools

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**This Too Shall Pass!**  
**Thanks for Listening.**