THE MOVEMENT FOR COMMUNITY-LED DEVELOPMENT

COVID-19 VACCINE: ACCESS, PREPAREDNESS AND INFORMATION
Q&A with WHO
November 18, 2020

Can you clarify the outlook for do-able cold chains? Do countries have the requisite infrastructure and are there mechanisms to support them for this?

- Countries don't have the 'ultra-cold chain' infrastructure. Discussions are underway with manufacturers and others to determine how this can be supported.

Socialization and Prioritization: While it's medically important to prioritize health workers and the elderly, it might be sociologically important to have trusted leaders – religious leaders, traditional chiefs – at the front of the line to disarm anti-vaccine concerns. Has this been considered?

- The roadmap for prioritizing uses of COVID-19 vaccines in the context of limited supply is [here](). It includes the public health and ethical rationale for the groups identified so far. We would look to our in-country CSO partners to also work with trusted local community leaders.

The vaccine will be great in the midst of this second wave, but **what about remote, rural communities that never received funded provisions (PPEs, etc) & training from the first wave?** We are a Congolese network of grassroots smallholder farmer organizations in S. Kivu. How do we get involved and ensure our communities get access?

- Our recommendation would be to liaise with local authorities and other groups based in S. Kivu and DRC to coordinate and work together on these needs and questions.

Even though local NGO/CSOs are the 'feet on the ground,' they struggle financially. They will need some minimal financial resources to share information with their communities. How will the WHO ensure that all funds don't go to only INGOs and "regulars" at the funding troughs?

- This task is outside of WHO's mandate, however through local and regional advocacy and stakeholder mobilization efforts, steps can be taken to secure the necessary financing. Donor groups should also be engaged, e.g. Gavi, World Bank, etc.

What about the many indigenous and local level vaccine efforts or claims? How do we verify their authenticity and how does one prevent spread of misinformation around them?

- It starts with checking the source and the date of the information. [This article]() has some good tips.

How do we generate vaccine acceptability in an environment which is characterized by trust deficit between health workers and the population?

- There are a range of strategies needed:
    - Identify and engage with those local actors/influencers who are trusted
    - Establish channels for sharing information via trusted/credible sources
    - Where possible, work with local authorities (or those elsewhere in the health system) to rebuild relations between health workers and the population
    - … and any other local solutions that can be identified by the communities themselves

With so many vaccines in the race and limited budgets, how will countries determine the best vaccine for them? Who will decide which vaccine should go where and be given to whom? Will this be a part of the COVAX guidance?

- Yes, it will be part of the COVAX guidance. Further info here.