

# Global Vaccine Market Report 2022

## Why in News?

World Health Organization (WHO) has released **Global Vaccine Market Report 2022**.

## Highlight

- It shows that **inequitable distribution** is not unique to COVID-19 vaccines, with poorer countries consistently **struggling** to access vaccines that are **in-demand** by wealthier countries.
- It revealed that **limited vaccine supply** and unequal distribution drive **global disparities**.
- **Example:** Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine against **cervical cancer** has only been introduced in **41% of low-income countries**, even though they represent much of the **disease burden**, compared to 83% of high-income countries,
- **Covid Vaccine Supply Success:** Approximately 16 billion vaccine doses, worth US\$ 141 billion, were supplied in 2021, almost **three times** the 2019 market volume (5.8 billion) and nearly **three-and-a-half times** the 2019 market value (US\$ 38 billion).
- The increase was primarily driven by COVID-19 vaccines
- However, it also shown that **public investment, streamlined processes, new technologies, pooled financing and procurement** are not sufficient to **achieve optimal public benefit**.
- **Profit maximization:** Vaccines prioritized by WHO are **not being developed or fully invested** in due to limited profit potential.
- **Lower-income countries have struggled** to access **critical vaccines** – such as against COVID-19 in 2021 and **cervical cancer vaccine** – that are **in-demand** by wealthier countries.
- **Lack of local manufacturing:** Some regions depend almost entirely on others for **vaccine supply**.
- **African and Eastern Mediterranean regions** were dependent on **manufacturers** headquartered elsewhere for 90 percent of their procured vaccines.
- Entrenched **intellectual property monopolies** and **limited technology transfer** further limit the ability to build and using **local manufacturing capacity**.

## Challenges:

- **Affordability:** Prices tend to be tiered by **income**, price disparities see middle-income countries paying as much – or even more – than **wealthier ones** for several vaccine products.
- **Price disparities:** It forces middle-income countries to pay as much as or more than **high-income** countries for vaccines.
- **Health Right:** Right to health includes the **right to vaccines**. However, **free-market dynamics** are depriving some of the world's **poorest and most vulnerable people** of that right.
- **Concentrated manufacturing:** Manufacturing capacity worldwide remains **highly concentrated**, leads to **risk of shortages** as well as **regional supply insecurity**.
- **Ten manufacturers alone** provide 70 percent of vaccine doses (excluding COVID-19).
- Several of the **top 20 most widely used vaccines** (such as PCV, HPV, measles and rubella-containing vaccines) each currently rely mainly on two suppliers.
- **Other hurdles:** **Lack of transparency in vaccine manufacturing and supply** and insufficient government oversight in the distribution of doses.
- **Global market vaccine dynamics** are not fully conducive to the **development, supply and access for vital vaccines** for public health.

## Recommendation of the report:

- **For governments:**
  - **Establish early, evidence-informed strategic goals and leadership** that serve the collective **global health interest** and to shoulder risks and invest aggressively in order to address the needs of today and prepare for **future emergencies**.
  - **Strengthen market preparedness** by investing in new **vaccine technologies, regional research** and development and manufacturing hubs, and by enabling regulatory harmonization.

- **Ensure transparency and oversight along** the vaccine value chain towards enhanced **health impact**. Define **principles** and **operational mechanisms** for collaboration across countries in times of **scarcity**, including for **intellectual property** and the circulation of inputs and goods.
- **For Industry:**
  - **Ensure that activities are aligned with WHO's guidance:** Research and development efforts must be focused on the **WHO list** of priority pathogens and target product profiles, more clinical trials should be performed in **low-income countries**, and targeted to inform **global policy needs** and expedited data submissions for regulatory approvals and prequalification.
  - **Establish provisions for technology transfer** and ensure transparency along the vaccine value chain.
  - Commit to specific measures allowing for **equity-driven allocation of products**.
  - **For international organizations and partners:**
    - **Prioritize the achievement of global public health** priorities as per the **Immunization Agenda 2030** as an umbrella for **individual organizational strategies, priorities and interests**.
    - **Support country-driven initiatives** and projects consistently with organizations' missions and avoid the creation of duplicate efforts.
    - **Continue to call for technology transfer** and for the application of **resolutions** on market transparency for health products.

#### **World Health Organization (WHO)**

- WHO is a **specialized agency of the United Nations** responsible for international public health.
- It is part of the **U.N. Sustainable Development Group**.
- **Objective:** Ensuring the attainment by all peoples of the **highest possible level of health**.
- It is **headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland**, with six semi-autonomous regional offices and 150 field offices worldwide.

