**Human Rights Division**

**Ministry of Foreign, Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade**

## Materials for the contributions ensuring equitable, affordable, timely and universal access for all countries to vaccines in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

**Inputs on the human rights implications and the impact on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health of affordable, timely, equitable and universal access and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines**

1. COVID-19 vaccines are free of cost in Mauritius for all those who wish to get vaccinated in public vaccination centres. A cost of Rs300 is charged in private clinics for the preparation and administration of COVID-19 vaccines but the vaccine itself is provided free of cost by Government.
2. COVID-19 vaccines were made available in Mauritius in January 2021, when there were no local cases of COVID-19 in the country. Vaccination had already started by the time the peak of the pandemic had been reached, that is around November 2021.
3. All Mauritians who are eligible for vaccination have access to COVID-19 vaccines, irrespective of age, sex, occupation, social status and religion. There has been no inequality in the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. Priority has been given to the most vulnerable category of people, eg. front liners like healthcare workers, airport and port personnel, police officers, hotel personnel, followed by senior citizens and adults with comorbidities. Once the most vulnerable population was vaccinated, vaccination was opened to the general public and thereafter to adolescents and children aged 5 years and above. Bedridden patients have also been vaccinated in their own homes. Senior citizens residing in elderly homes have also been vaccinated. Prison inmates have been beneficiaries of COVID-19 vaccines as well. In addition, mobile vaccination teams had been set up for the vaccination of people living in remote regions of the island, thus removing any geographical barriers preventing part of the Mauritian population from getting access to COVID-19 vaccines. The population of Rodrigues regularly receive their COVID-19 vaccines through Air Mauritius flights and their vaccination campaign is proceeding in parallel to that of Mauritius. A special vaccination team travelled by ship to Agalega Island twice in October 2021 and March 2022 for the COVID-19 vaccination of residents of Agalega, thus ensuring that nobody was left behind in receiving their COVID-19 vaccination.
4. Once 70% of its population was vaccinated, Mauritius has donated its surplus of vaccines to neighbouring African countries as follows:
   1. Zimbabwe – 60,000 doses of Sinopharm on 19 November 2021
   2. Rwanda – 50,000 doses of Sinopharm on 30 November 2021
   3. Tanzania – 150,000 doses of Sinopharm on 15 February 2022
   4. Uganda – 150,000 doses of Sinopharm on 27 February 2022
   5. Namibia – 150,000 doses of Sinopharm on 28 February 2022
   6. Rwanda – 21,000 doses Component I Sputnik V on 31 October 2021 and 21,500 doses Component II Sputnik V on 31 October 2021

**Inputs on good practices and key challenges in ensuring affordable, timely, equitable and universal access and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines**

1. The National COVID-19 Vaccination Programme Fund was set up under the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, by the Mauritian Government to finance the COVID-19 vaccination campaign.
2. Collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and countries like India, China, France, South Africa, USA, UK, Russia and Dubai has ensured timely availability of vaccines as follows:
3. **Covishield Vaccine** 
   * Government of India – 100,000 doses on 22 January 2021

**2) Sinopharm Vaccine**

* + Republic of China – 100,000 doses on 14 April 2021

**3) Hayat Sinopharm Vaccine**

* + United Arab Emirates – 5,000 doses on 24 May 2021

1. **Janssen Vaccine**
   * Republic of South Africa – 50,400 doses on 17 Sep 2021
   * France – 1,170 on 21 September 2021
   * Mastercard Foundation and its Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative   
     in partnership with the Africa CDC – 151,500 doses on 19 November 2021

**5) Pfizer BioNTech Vaccine**

* + US Government through COVAX Facility – 76,050 doses on 23 September 2021
  + US Government through COVAX Facility – 107,640 doses on 15 November 2021
  + US Government through COVAX Facility – 203, 540 doses on 16 December 2021
  + United Kingdom – 211,200 doses on 8 and 9 May 2022

**6) Moderna Vaccine**

* + France – 760 doses on 12 April 2022
    - 200,000 doses on 5 and 12 February 2022

As at 20th September 2022,

* 932,630 adults have received a first dose of COVID-19 vaccine in Mauritius
* 905,683 adults have received a second dose of COVID-19 vaccine in Mauritius
* 653,215 adults have received a first booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine in Mauritius
* 16,554 adults have received a second booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine in Mauritius
* 81,811 adolescents aged 12-17 years have received a first dose of COVID-19 vaccine in Mauritius
* 74,982 adolescents aged 12-17 years have received a second dose of COVID-19 vaccine in Mauritius
* 14,198 children aged 5-11 years have received a first dose of COVID-19 vaccine in Mauritius
* 10,619 children aged 5-11 years have received a second dose of COVID-19 vaccine in Mauritius.

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