Background information

To help countries protect people from developing severe disease from pandemic influenza H1N1 infection, the World Health Organization (WHO) is coordinating the distribution of donated pandemic influenza vaccine to 95 countries. This document is an update on efforts to mobilize resources, ensure a sufficient supply of prequalified vaccines, support country readiness and deploy vaccines and ancillary products to countries that have a national deployment plan in place.

Mobilizing resources

Governments, foundations and manufacturers have offered contributions of vaccines, ancillary products (such as syringes and safety boxes) and finances to support the donation initiative.

Current situation

WHO has received pledges of nearly 190 million doses of vaccine, 75 million syringes and US$70 million for vaccine deployment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Need</th>
<th>Pledge</th>
<th>Gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vaccines (doses)</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>189.84</td>
<td>10.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syringes</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>74.5</td>
<td>125.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety boxes</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US$ for global operations</td>
<td>62.6</td>
<td>36.75</td>
<td>25.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US$ for in-country operations</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>33.08</td>
<td>136.92</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 The difference between needs and pledges.

Preparing the first countries to receive vaccines

WHO and partners are assisting the 95 countries to receive and use vaccines, with an immediate focus on a first group of 35 countries. Before countries receive donated vaccines, they complete three steps: 1) make a request to receive donated vaccines, 2) sign an agreement accepting the terms and conditions of support and 3) develop a national pandemic vaccine deployment plan.

Current situation

1. All of the first 35 countries have requested vaccine donations.
2. 23 have signed agreements with WHO.
3. 6 have finalized National Deployment Plans.

Planning for national deployment

WHO has completed 9 training workshops in all regions to help countries produce sound national deployment plans and prepare to receive and manage pandemic influenza H1N1 vaccines.

The deployment plans describe to whom the vaccine will be given, how it will be administered, and many other aspects of the logistics of the operation. The first target group is health-care workers, as they are a vulnerable group because of their exposure to disease, and vital in keeping a country’s health care system functioning.

Current situation

Six countries have completed national deployment plans.

Supplying vaccines to countries

After a country meets the criteria for receiving donated pandemic vaccine, WHO deploys donated vaccines to the country through its partners and its distribution services agent (UNOPS).

Current situation

WHO with partners has placed orders for vaccines for 3 countries and have begun to transport ancillary products to several others.

Prequalification of pandemic vaccines

WHO only supplies vaccines that have been prequalified, which means they have been reviewed by a team of WHO experts and deemed to meet international quality standards. To date, nine pandemic influenza H1N1 vaccines have been submitted for prequalification by manufacturers, six vaccines have been prequalified, and several others are in process. More information is available here:

http://www.who.int/immunization_standards/vaccine_quality/pq_system/en/