VACCINE FINANCING: A DOMESTIC RESOURCE MOBILIZATION PERSPECTIVE

JLN COVID Vaccine Financing Event, April 2021

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Objective of the COVID19 Vaccines

1) Protecting all Fijians from COVID19

2) Reduce Mortality & Morbidity related to COVID19

3) Supporting the Economical Recovery for Fiji
Background

- Fiji received its first batch of vaccines on the 6th of March - from the COVAX Facility:

- To date we have received:

  - 12,000 (Covax)
  - 100,000 (Covishield)  
  \[ \{ \text{total} \} = 56,000 \text{ individuals} \]
  - 24,000 (Covax - short shelf life) – for 24,000 individuals (started roll out again just this week).
Question 1a: How did you design your COVID-19 vaccines strategy?

i) Systems Approach from any immunization program

ii) Guided template by the WHO & UNICEF with additions by MOHMS (Family Health Unit)

iii) Three main oversight committees:
- Interagency Coordinating Committee who acted as technical advisors to the MHMS
- National Coordinating Committee made up of divisional medical and nursing heads
- Communications Steering Committee

Question 1b: What were your main considerations in doing so?

- Regulatory authority
- Target Population
- Cold Chain
- Deployment
- Adverse Events Following Immunization
- Digital Platform (Registration & Vaccination)
- Financing
- Communications etc.
Question 1c: How are you prioritizing populations for COVID-19 vaccines and why?

Phase 1: Front-liners: all individuals in border control at the air and sea ports; front-line health care workers; and their immediate family members.

Phase 2: Vulnerable Individuals: all individuals with some sort of comorbid issues such as Diabetics, Hypertension, Cardiac, Mental Health Illness, Cancer, Disability, Rheumatic Heart Diseases, etc., though not limited to these.

Phase 3: All individuals above 60 years of age, followed by all individuals above 18.

All individuals >18 years of age = ~650,000
(70% of Fiji Population)

Question 1d: Where do you anticipate procuring/accessing vaccines from?

i) Covax Facility
ii) Government to Government Initiative (E.g India)
iii) Procurement – Manufacturers
Question 2a: What are your estimates of costs for providing coverage, and what are the main cost drivers?

- NDVP estimates for the four-tiered approach is FJD 22.85m
- The main cost drivers are:
  - **Unsubsidized vaccine cost:** FJD 13.8m (after the initial COVAX 20% coverage)
  - **Vaccine Impact Assessment:** FJD 3.16m
  - **National roll-out operational costs:** FJD 3.14m
  - **Subsidized vaccines to reach 20% initial coverage:** FJD 1.38m

Question 2b: How is your country/does your country anticipate financing the vaccine coverage [external assistance, domestic health spending]?

- The vaccines are anticipated to be financed from COVAX and bilateral development partners

Question 2c: What challenges do you anticipate with planning and financing COVID-19 vaccine coverage?

- **Specific Distribution Plan of COVAX/**
- **Global supply issue**
- **Increase in cases in specific sites – for e.g India & PNG**
Question 3a: What challenges do you anticipate with implementing the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out?

i) Vaccines trickling in slowing into the country:
   - affecting logistics issues on the ground
   - A start and stop strategy.

ii) Vaccines through the COVAX Facility delayed
   - To a certain level unavoidable due to the supply demand issues globally

iii) Positive cases of COVID19 in Fiji
   - Strategy changes (suiting the situation)

iv) Vaccine hesitancy
   - Overcoming this through communications materials and demand creation
Question 3b: How does the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out affect your country’s national immunization program and access to other essential services?

❖ Separation of teams doing normative and campaign services

❖ Human resource on the ground:

i) **More HR to my COVID19 vaccination team:** (Specific teams for)

   a) Logistics
   b) AEFI
   c) Communications
   d) IT support

ii) **Involvement of Non-Government Organisations (Red Cross/MSP/RFHAF)**
Vinaka Vakalevu- Thank you