BACKGROUND

It is now two years since COVID-19 hit the world - disrupting the lives of people in every country, claiming millions of lives and causing economic havoc. And - as Omicron has shown - this pandemic still isn’t over for any of us. And until it is, we are all stuck in an endless loop of pandemic restrictions, quarantine, struggling businesses, closed schools...

Leaders have promised that 2022 will be the year we finally end this crisis everywhere. But this can only be achieved if they match words with real action and put an end to the vaccine apartheid that defined the global response to the pandemic in 2021.

Governments must face the truth that the only effective national plan to end the pandemic is a global plan to end the pandemic.

**ONE’s Pandemic Report Cards** track how the world’s most developed economies are delivering on their promises to end the pandemic and help economies recover based on the following metrics:

- Fund the global response
- Dismantle barriers to global supply
- Share doses
- Share SDRs

WHAT WE’RE SEEING THIS MONTH

As we ring in year three with COVID-19, some countries are beginning to consider a ‘learn to live with it’ approach to the pandemic, which could come at a huge cost. With Omicron sweeping the globe, the World Bank predicted that global economic growth could be 25% lower in 2022 than in 2021. And backing off global efforts to slow the spread of the virus now leaves the door wide open for the next dangerous variant to emerge, and keeps us trapped in an indefinite cycle of uncertainty. Worse, ‘learning to live with it’ distracts from the fact that there still is a way out: scaling vaccination coverage globally, and ensuring the drugs and diagnostic tools we have to fight the virus are readily available everywhere. Doing so could help prevent many unnecessary deaths globally.

The following trends emerging from ONE’s Pandemic Report Cards show which world leaders are rising to the challenge and which are conceding the fight against COVID-19.

1. **SEVERAL COUNTRIES DELIVERED ON THEIR DOSE SHARING COMMITMENTS IN 2021 (BUT THE BAR WAS LOW...)**

The US, China, and Team Europe all met their 2021 dose-sharing commitments, while France and Germany both made significant progress towards their goals in December. The US has delivered the most doses to low-and-lower middle income countries, approximately 375 million doses as of 18 January (this amounts to one-third of their overall commitment of donating 1 billion doses). This amounts to over 40% of doses shared by G20 countries. Also of note, France is the first and only country to date to publish a dose-sharing calendar to increase predictability on the timing and types of doses it plans to share in 2022.

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While dose-sharing is a necessary tool to redistribute vaccines due to hoarding in some parts of the world, it is among the least effective and least efficient ways to scale up access to vaccination in low- and lower-middle-income countries. In response to Omicron, many rich countries are holding supply to ensure they can administer third and fourth doses to their populations while almost 90% of people in African countries have not even had one dose. And increasingly, there are instances of rich countries sharing doses too close to expiration to be useful to recipients. Existing dose sharing commitments should be fulfilled in the first half of 2022 and donors should adhere closely to COVAX’s dose-sharing principles. To start, all countries should follow France’s lead and increase transparency around their dose-sharing commitments in 2022.

Little improvement was seen on dismantling barriers to supply by waiving intellectual property rights, though some progress was observed at the end of 2021 regarding support for regional manufacturing capacity.

➔ UK Africa Minister, Vicky Ford, declared the UK’s support for investing in vaccine manufacturing in Senegal, South Africa and Morocco, with the broader objective of facilitating COVID-19 vaccine production on the African continent in 2022. Efforts should be made to ensure that these translate into tangible investments this year.

➔ Canada made more concrete commitments, with the Prime Minister announcing investments of $15 million to COVAX Manufacturing Task Force partners, in support of the establishment of the South Africa Technology Transfer Hub. This initiative would help build capacity to develop and produce messenger RNA vaccines and technologies in the region.

➔ Japan has also declared its support for local COVID-19 vaccine production at the Institut Pasteur in Dakar in Senegal, via the Comprehensive Japan Trust Fund at the International Finance Corporation (IFC) within the World Bank Group. With a particular focus on cold chain storage, Japan has invested $890,000 to boost Senegal’s cold chain storage and ensure safe distribution.

While these steps are somewhat encouraging, these countries should also voice their support for the TRIPS waiver.

2. THE ECONOMIC CHALLENGE IS GROWING BUT THE RESPONSE IS PATCHY AND INSUFFICIENT

The emergence of Omicron has also seen an equally widespread and devastating impact on economies and the economic recovery - according to the World Bank, global growth is set to slow dramatically by 1.5% from last year to 2022 and even further in 2023. Developing countries are set for a hard landing on the economic front, with an even bigger expected hit to growth at the same time as continuing fresh threats from COVID-19, rising inflation and a possible rise in interest rates further drives up debt. Progress on at least promising to get SDRs where they are most needed is important - but more action is needed and fast.

Some countries, notably China most recently, made significant efforts to fund the global economic response, committing to share their SDRs with African countries. We know low-and-lower middle income countries desperately need these resources. The new allocations to African countries are already being used to fill critical budget holes and support investment in health, education and social protection. See our data dive on Special Drawing Rights for more details.

➔ Most G7 countries, with the exception of Japan and the US, committed to share 20% of their SDRs. China committed to share 25%.

➔ Rich countries are still at least $45 billion off the $100 billion SDRs they promised last year - and
much more is needed as well as speedier and more effective delivery channels.

African leaders also called for an additional $100bn for the World Bank’s International Development Association replenishment at the end of 2021. But donors fell $7 billion short, with countries such as the UK making huge cuts. Many pledges are still not public, so assessing individual country performance is not yet possible.

3. CHINA IS SHAKING THINGS UP
Among major economies, China stands out as the only country to have met its fair share of $100 billion SDR recycling in 2021. It also met its dose-sharing commitment of 100 million doses by the end of 2021, and has committed another 600 million in 2022. However, the efficacy of Sinovac and Sinopharm vaccines from China are a growing concern as they may be less effective at preventing infection from Omicron than other types of vaccines, and evidence is limited. It’s critical that low-and-lower-middle income countries have access to the most effective and appropriate vaccine for their setting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Q1 2022 is the time for countries to invest** - and invest big - in ending the global pandemic. We kick off 2022 with a balance sheet of $0 for the global pandemic response. Financing efforts to scale up vaccination must be frontloaded in the first half of this year to deliver vaccinations at speed and scale.

2. Intellectual property rights are fundamental in determining access, pricing and availability of medicines. **All G7 countries should support temporary waiver of COVID-19 intellectual property**, with specific limitations on scope, applicability and duration. This would help accelerate scaling up manufacturing of COVID-19 vaccines and tools; improve affordability through increased generic production of therapeutics; and allow for a global solution through cross-country collaboration.

3. **A truly global economic response could help avert an endless cycle of economic turbulence** - in the first months of 2022, global leaders need to deliver on the promises they made last year to recycle $100 billion in SDRs.

See how each country stacks up & detailed analysis at ONE’s Pandemic Response Report Cards.