

Lessons learned from tracking and coordinating donor financing for COVID-19 vaccine delivery

Nik Mandalia
UNICEF Headquarters
New York

Health Systems Research
Conference – Bogota,
Colombia
1st November 2022

COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery Funding | Purpose and Requirements

The creation of COVAX provided a mechanism for countries to gain access to COVID-19 vaccine – further shortening the historic time-lag which has existed between introduction of new vaccines in high income countries and low-and-middle income countries.

Many countries had already stretched their limited health sector resources to support COVID-19 response activities. There was a lack of visibility over the availability of resources to support vaccine roll-out activities.

Donor commitments were made to support in-country vaccine delivery – however there was limited visibility on resources available to each country.

UNICEF played a significant role in mobilizing resources for COVID-19 vaccine delivery through the Access to COVID-19 Tools – Accelerator (ACT-A) Humanitarian Appeal for Children (HAC). However, there was a need to understand which countries needed additional financial support.

Initial outreach to gather funding data
from development partners



Comprehensive - 'top-down' - resource tracking exercise
to quantify available external funding for vaccine
delivery –
COVID-19 Vaccine Financial Monitoring
(C19VFM)

COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery Funding | Objectives

Global Level

- 1 Support coordination of donor funding for COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery.
- 2 Support the development of analysis for resource mobilization and fundraising.

Country Level

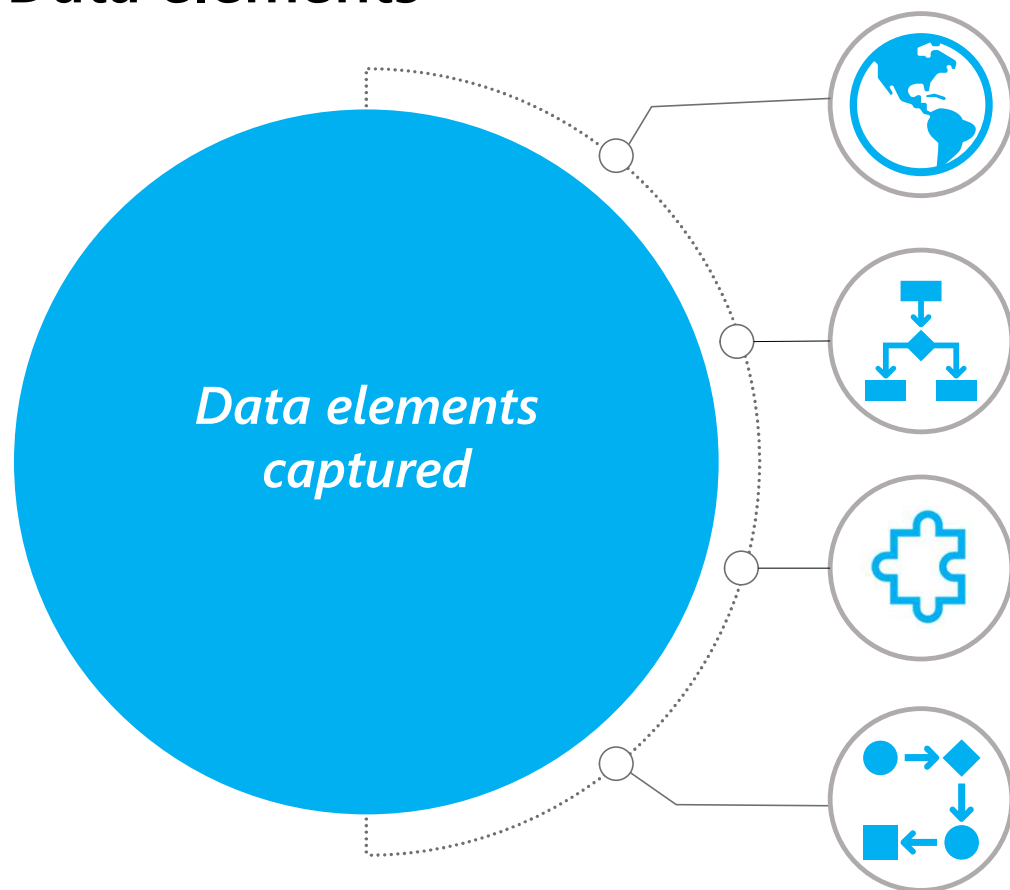
- 3 Improve transparency of resources available to countries in support of vaccine roll-out activities.
- 4 Provide an entry point for country-level donor programming discussions.

Guiding principles

Data should remain up-to-date/ reported in a timely manner

Minimized reporting burden for respondents

Data elements



Country recipient

- Capturing all funding directed to a country regardless of implementing agent – i.e. government, UN agencies, and NGOs

Source of funding

- Capturing the entity which undertook the discretionary action of allocating resources – necessary when capturing multilateral organization funding

Financing type

- Specific focus on resources for vaccine delivery
- Commitments and funds disbursed to countries – composite indicator “Available External Funding”

Mechanism

- The administration method employed to channel funds to countries
- E.g. UNICEF’s ACT-A HAC, direct bilateral engagement, etc.

Financing Sources

Data as of: 29th October 2022

Multilateral Development Banks

World Bank
Asian Development Bank
Inter-American Development Bank

Donor Governments and Agencies

Australia
Africa CDC
Germany (BMZ & AA)
Global Affairs Canada
Czech Republic
Ireland
Japan – Ministry of Foreign Affairs
JICA
New Zealand
Norway
Republic of Korea
Switzerland
U.S. Government
European Commission

UN Agencies

UNICEF
UNOPS
WHO

Foundations

Private Foundations
ELMA
Private Donors

Gavi

Data Collection



Direct engagement with financing sources



Online platforms with publicly available data



Resources channeled through UNICEF

COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery Funding

Total available external funding:

US\$ 4.44 billion

Across 138 low-and-middle-income countries

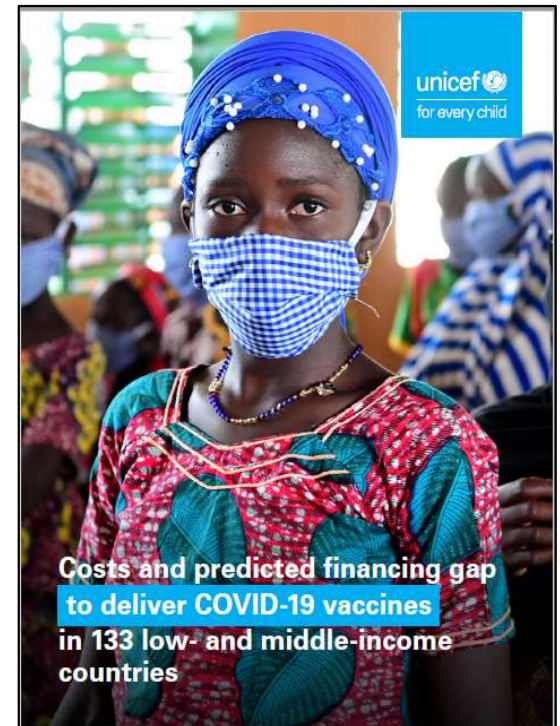
Capturing data from over 25 sources of financing

Informing coordination of donor efforts and programming of funds at global-level

Funding data is consolidated and reported on a weekly basis to development partners through the Implementation Analysis and Insights (IAI) Report

Funding data contributes to analysis for resource mobilization and advocacy

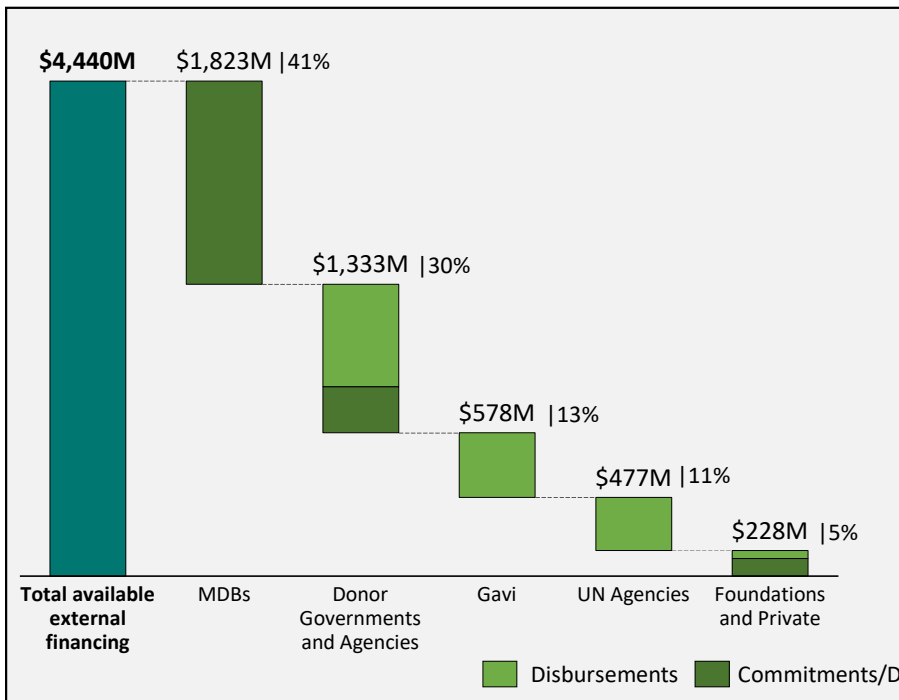
Data supports efforts for country-level planning and development of One Budgets



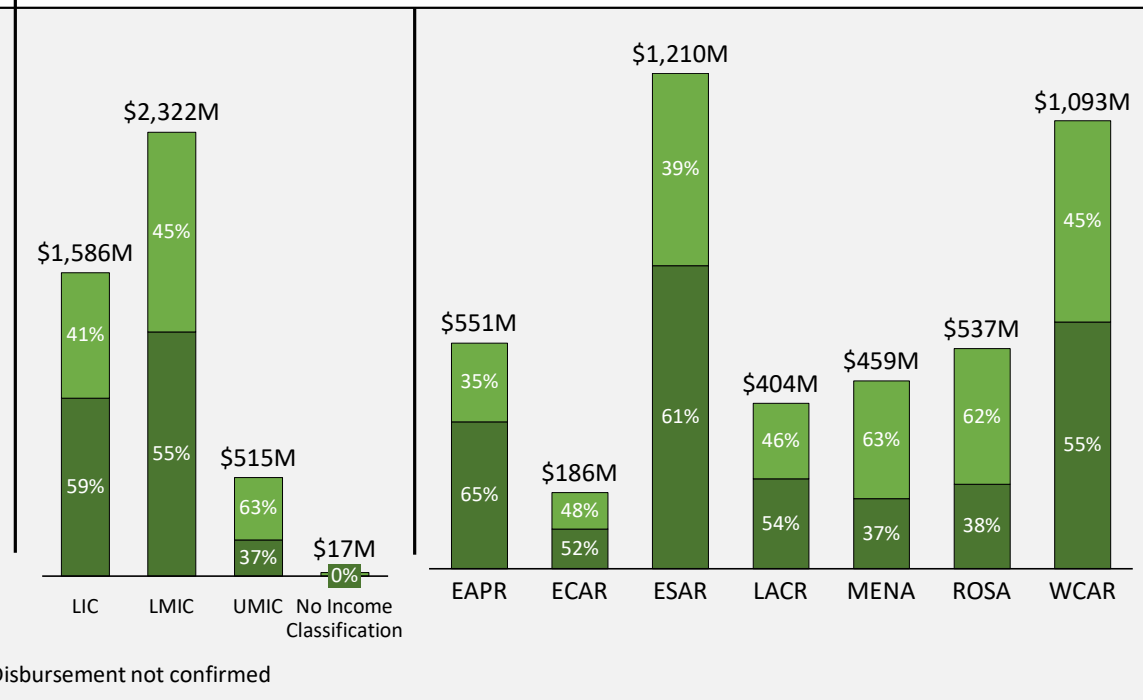
Global | Funding Overview

Data as of: 29th October 2022

Low-and-middle-income Countries (138) | Available External Funding Contributions by Financing Source Type (US\$)



Low-and-middle-income Countries (138) | Available External Funding by Income Classification (US\$) and UNICEF Region

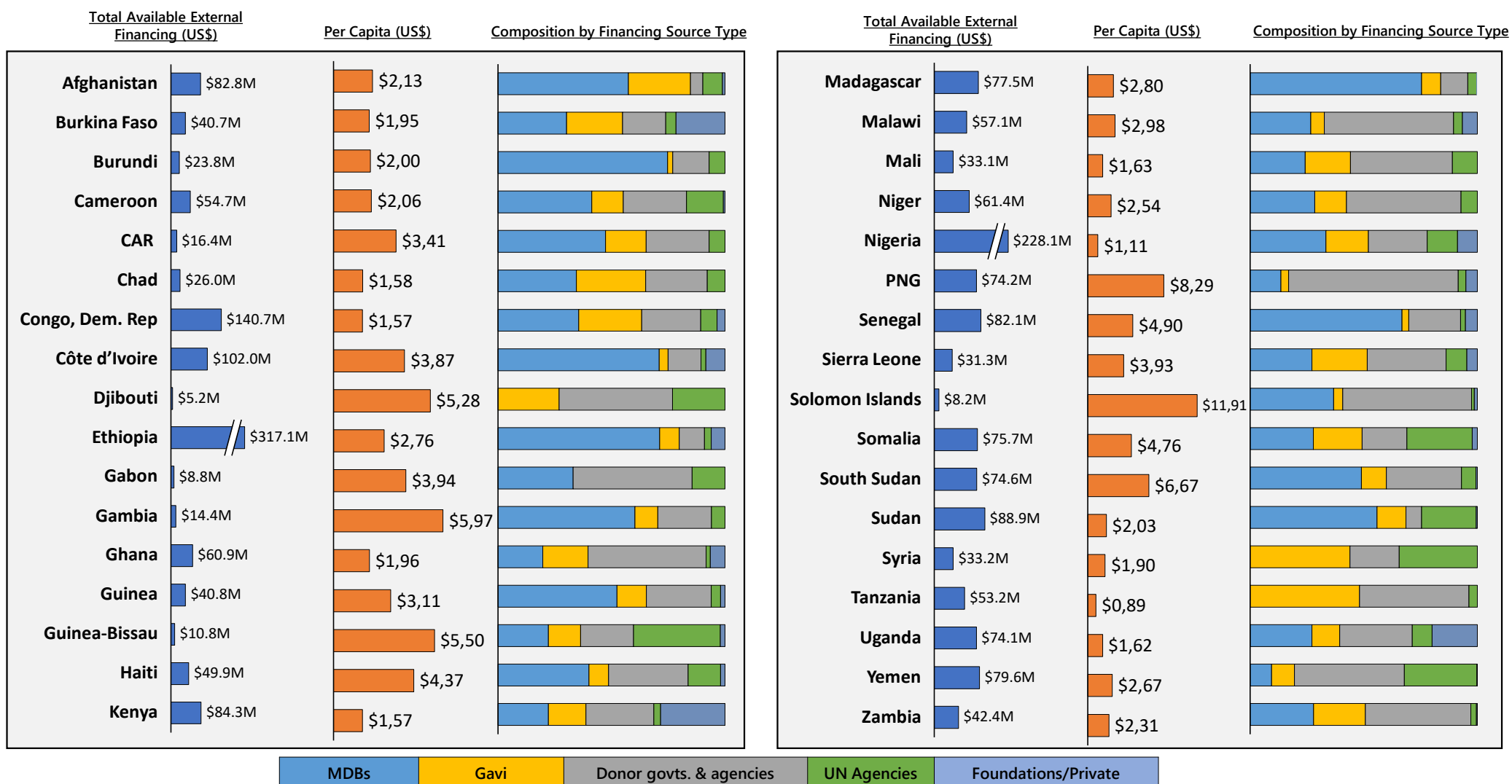


No. of countries	27	55	54	2
% of total	35%	52%	12%	0%
Average per capita (US\$)	2.77	4.92	7.19	5.90

23	21	22	26	14	8	24
13%	4%	27%	9%	10%	12%	24%
16.13	1.09	3.35	4.57	2.22	2.44	4.04

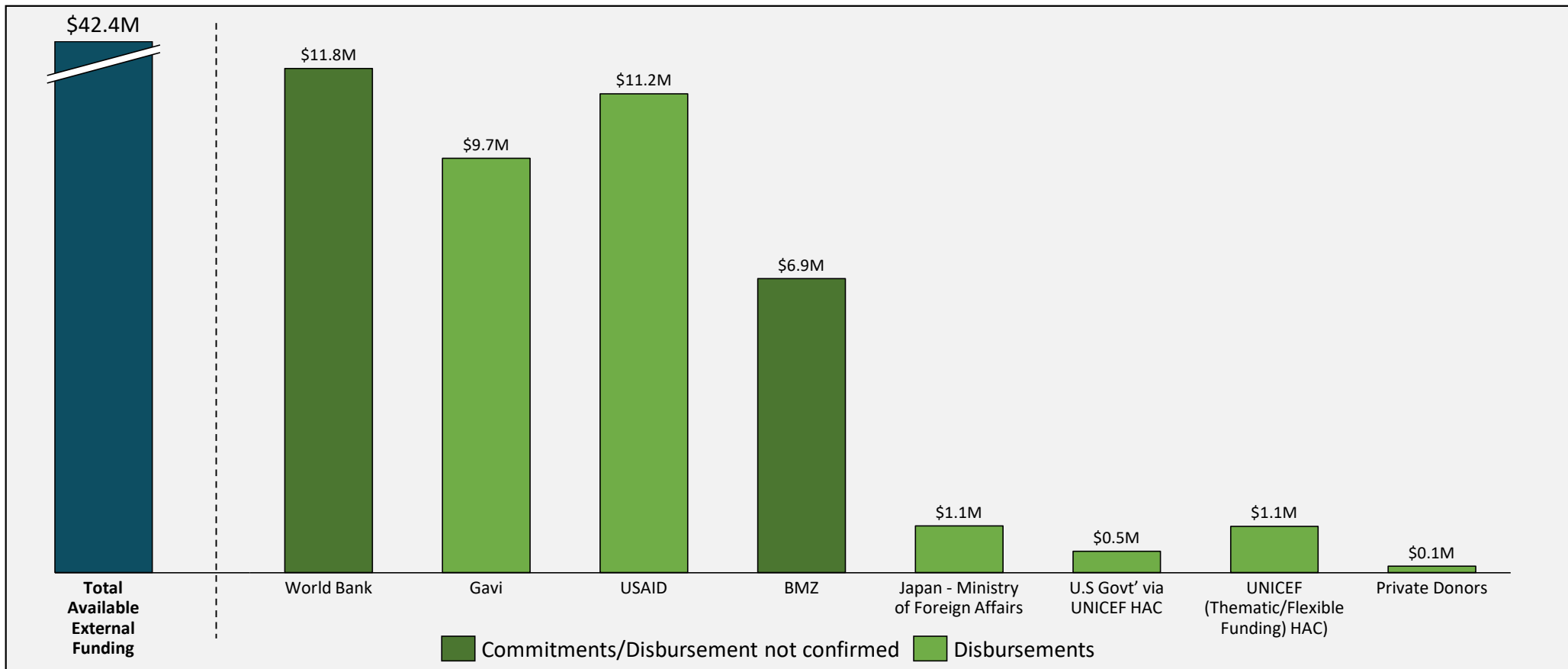
Gavi funding reflects amounts disbursed to countries. Some funding components are aggregated as global allocations, which are not included in the analysis.

Countries Prioritized for Concerted Support | Available External Funding for COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery (US\$)



Country Funding Overview

Country Example | Available External Funding



Data framework and Data Collection



Direct engagement with
financing sources

Donors are identified and
contacted through established
COVID-19 donor coordination
groups and meetings

Guiding Principles

Timely/Up-to-date data

Minimized Reporting Burden

Reporting Entities

Focus on donor entities with
visibility over their allocations
towards countries.

- No data collection from country governments on domestic resources.
- Emphasis placed on understanding on funding available at country level, rather than end-to-end flow of resources

Funding Data Type

Data on commitments or
disbursements is collected – using
both as a composite to provide an
indication of “Available External
Funding”.

- Initial programming of COVID support funds was fast – organizations provided disbursement data.
- Programmatic function of resources is decided once funds are disbursed to country-level.
- MDB funding is substantial – but limited visibility on disbursements.

Limitations

- No emphasis on collecting both commitments and disbursements – limits donor accountability.
- Utilization/absorption data has been difficult to collect – less willingness for donors to make this data available.
- Lack of visibility over domestic resources.

Guiding Principles

Timely/Up-to-date data

Minimized Reporting Burden

Granularity of Data

All vaccine delivery funding available captured - regardless of programmatic function, cost category supported, or implementing agent

- Visibility of disaggregated data is low at global level.
- Programmatic function and cost categories supported are often apparent once funds are disbursed to country-level.
- Allocations to implementing agents is sometimes decided at country-level.
- Time to draw data up from countries can be significant

Frequency of Data Collection

Structured + Flexible approach to data reporting and outreach

- Structured – Routine reporting from donors when new funding decisions are made.
- Structured - periodic outreach for follow-up with donors who no recent reporting.
- Flexible – based on donor ability to report comprehensive data.
- Active outreach vs. passive donor engagement.

Limitations

- Lack of granularity limits depth of analysis – difficult to determine gaps across cost categories at country-level .
- Additional information is required to have significant discussions on country-level programming – available data can only provide an ‘entry point’.
- Variation in reporting frequency across financing sources – aligning with donor programming timelines presents challenges.

Guiding Principles

Timely/Up-to-date data

Minimized Reporting Burden

Reporting Period

Flexible approach to period of reporting for available funds with no specified 'cut-off' date.

- Donor reporting of additional funding availability is recorded cumulatively.
- Initial funding was short-term/for immediate use (i.e., UCC) – little need for specific reporting periods.

Obtrusive vs. Unobtrusive measures of data collection

Desirable to use unobtrusive data collection methods – drawing from routine reporting outputs from financing sources.

- No reporting template – financing sources report according to their own systems.
- Variation in donor grant management systems – some can easily report on COVID vaccine delivery funding, others require significant effort.

Limitations

- Flexible reporting periods - can cause difficulties in quantifying what funds are remaining at country-level.
- For organizations who require additional efforts to extract relevant information – frequency of reporting is reduced.
- Challenges supporting organizations to extract relevant data.

Lessons Learned for Future Pandemic Preparedness and Response (PPR) Resource Tracking

Guiding Principles

Timely/Up-to-date data

Minimized Reporting Burden

- Allowed the resource tracking exercise to meet its objectives.
- Indicates requirements for future pandemic preparedness and response resource tracking
- The timelines of the data was supported by the actions taken to minimize the reporting burden.

Coordination Structures and Governance

The exercise was effective in capturing data due to its proximity to vaccine delivery coordination across development partners.

- PPR - resource tracking must be integrated into donor response coordination mechanisms and governance structures.
- Personnel – requires engagement in programmatic areas of donor response – not just data/finance experts.
- Resource tracking needs to be sufficiently resourced to ensure active outreach vs. passive data collection

Data Framework

The exercise was effective in fulfilling its objectives – however the lack of more granular data impedes the depth of analysis possible.

- PPR – Data uses, and data framework should be prospectively agreed by development partners.
- Balance between granularity of data and frequency of reporting needs to be agreed according to use cases.
- Data framework should be used to orientate donor financial systems to provide relevant data through routine, 'unobtrusive' reporting.

Lessons Learned for Future Pandemic Preparedness and Response (PPR) Resource Tracking

Donor Transparency

Donors showed a willingness to provide relevant data to ensure effective coordination of resources across partners. However, there were challenges which limited donor accountability

- Lack of utilization data impedes the ability to diagnose financial bottlenecks at the country-level.
- Greater transparency is needed to track end-to-end resource flows (commitments – disbursements – expenditures).
- PPR – governance should include data sharing agreements for resource tracking purposes