

PUTTING PEOPLE

ACT Alliance's efforts towards equal access to COVID-19 vaccines

SINCE THE BEGINNING of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have

- responded to urgent needs,
- developed safe guidance for staff,
- provided pastoral care and materials,
- produced programmatic resources, and
- called out for justice and solidarity.

Promoting vaccine equity

With the aim of tackling the profit-seeking behaviour and self-serving practices that undermine equal access to COVID-19 vaccines, we:

- published a global vaccine equity brief,
- hosted regional workshops on Vaccine Equity and [Hesitancy in Africa and Asia Pacific](#) regions, and published a series of global and regional resources aimed at mobilizing members, partners and external stakeholders.

ACT member Kerk-in-Actie mobilized about 100 of their parishes to write

"The issue of vaccine inequity must never be justified by low uptake, as many of us working at grassroot levels have seen that uptake often rises when vaccines become available in a predictable, reasonable and efficient manner."

—Rudelmar Bueno de Faria,

General Secretary of ACT Alliance

letters to the Dutch government to lobby for improvements in vaccine donations and vaccine-justice. Nordic ACT members issued a [joint opinion article](#) in March 2022 asking the Scandinavian countries to share vaccines with the COVAX facility; ensure that COVAX is not pushed to the back of the queue for access to vaccines; and that more must be done to leave no vulnerable groups behind.

Improving pandemic preparedness and response

ACT Alliance has:

- called on governments to support the process for the creating of a binding treaty on pandemic preparedness,
- noted that all processes related to the development of the treaty content must involve civil society and faith actors in the promotion of health and wellbeing.

Strengthening global coordination through dose delivery

ACT's General Secretary is a [civil society representative to the COVAX Facility Advance Market Commitment Engagement Group](#). ACT Alliance:

- participates in meetings of the COVAX AMC Engagement Group,
- collaborates with Gavi (The Vaccine Alliance), and
- collaborates with civil society through the Platform for Civil Society and Community Representation to ACT-Accelerator.

ACT pushes for funding geared towards COVAX to be flexible to accommodate for investment in:

- strengthening public health systems,
- donating cold storage facilities, and
- enabling a cold chain structure and transport system that reaches those furthest behind.

ACT has also been monitoring inappropriate reporting and illegitimate efforts to count excessively priced vaccines as Official Development Assistance (ODA).

Increasing vaccine confidence

"Faith actors have a fundamental role to play in tackling misinformation, enhancing confidence and calling out vaccine apartheid."

ACT has:

- supported members to increase vaccine confidence,
- worked with local organisations, community leaders and faith actors in dealing with hesitancy/acceptance/prevention and creating active and safe spaces for listening and for sharing scientifically-sound information.

The issue of vaccine inequity cannot be disentangled from the issue of vaccine hesitancy and vice-versa. Lack of confidence in COVID-19 responses often erodes people's trust in vaccination campaigns and official information on vaccines.

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