



African countries, Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Developing Countries Ensuring equal access to vaccines and resources in the poorest countries

6th July at 3-5pm

NGO Major Group statement delivered by Harrison Ngaaje of AJESH, Cameroon

Challenges to access COVID-19 vaccines

Since the detection of the first positive case of COVID-19 in Cameroon on March 6, 2021, there was an upsurge in cases across the country. According to the WHO report, **120,068** confirmed cases of COVID-19 recorded with over **1,931** deaths. As of **26 June 2022**, a total of **1,838,907 vaccine doses** have been administered giving a **6.8%** coverage.

As part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Cameroon subscribed to the COVAX facility launched in April 2020. To this end, Cameroon has developed a National Deployment and Vaccination Plan whose initial vaccination approach provided for a gradual deployment of vaccines through 15 pilot sites identified for the first vaccine allocation.

Although the population is generally well informed, not everyone is aware of all the risks from COVID-19, so not everyone sticks to the prevention measures or are keen to get vaccinated.

Despite the flood of information on COVID-19, there is still fear, doubt and scepticism around vaccination. Rumours and misinformation spreading on social media and dreamed up by certain people sow doubt and reluctance to get vaccinated, which leaves people at greater risk.

Wider impact of the virus and how to support countries like Cameroon to recover better.

COVID-19 has caused devastating socio-economic and environmental impacts such as income loss, business impacts, health concerns, increasing pollution and loss of biodiversity. Limited awareness among communities, in the wake of an unfamiliar crisis, further exacerbated the situation.



Generally there is a misconception about the COVID-19 vaccine wherein people think or believe taking the vaccine will instead expose them to more of contacting the virus. So there is need for robust sensitization toward mindset change on the myth surrounding the covid-19 vaccines and its relating consequences should be made known to the population especially in the rural communities.

In order to build better from covid-19 we the NGO MG are calling on donor agencies and governments to concentrate support to developing and least Developed countries on:

- Supporting integrated and inclusive health care systems / infrastructures.
- Building stronger and sustainable partnership with the CSOs and the Private sector (Public-Private-CSO partnership)
- Enhance good governance in the management of health systems.
- Invest in effective data collection and management in order to be capable to preventing future pandemics
- Ensuring mental and physical health
- Mitigating economic impacts while improving digital technology transformation that will create economic thinking.
- Ensuring continuity of access to quality education
- Communities in crisis areas should be effectively and adequately be involved in decision making on covid-19.

Thank you