

Executive Summary | APEC Action Plan on Vaccination Across the Life-Course 2021-2030


APEC endorsed the Action Plan on Vaccination Across the Life Course in August 2021.
Access the Action Plan here: <https://bit.ly/3w5nQjY>

Introduction

- **APEC Health Ministers agree that vaccination is one of the most important and cost-effective public health measures.** By taking a *life-course approach*, APEC economies can better prevent infection and disease for all populations, foster a sustainable health system, improve economic and social inclusion, and enable economic growth.
- **The APEC Action Plan on Vaccination Across the Life-Course** is a comprehensive strategy for enhancing the resilience and sustainability of life-course immunization programs in APEC member economies from 2021-2030. This action plan aims to enable APEC economies to achieve the WHO Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030), with a focus on fostering vaccination across the life-course and thereby protecting the health and wellbeing of all populations..
- **A life-course approach to vaccination** requires that immunization schedules and access to vaccination respond to an individual's stage in life and specific vulnerabilities/risks to infectious disease that they may face. This comprehensive approach to disease prevention can improve equity in health outcomes – across gender, age, and social group – while also making an impact that goes far beyond improved health.

Pillars

Context, targets, indicators, and actions for each pillar may be found in the Action Plan



The core goals of the APEC Action Plan on Vaccination are to:

- ✓ Promote recognition of the **value of vaccination & vaccine innovation** by policymakers and key decision-makers
- ✓ Prioritize **access to and uptake of vaccination across the life-course** for all individuals
- ✓ Build whole-of-government capacity in **health security and pandemic preparedness**
- ✓ Strengthen **confidence** in vaccination & build **resilient immunization programs**
- ✓ Enable investment and innovation in **vaccine R&D, manufacturing and delivery**
- ✓ Accelerate **regulatory harmonization** for vaccines across APEC economies
- ✓ Establish proven & innovative mechanisms for **sustainable immunization financing**

The life-course approach to vaccination provides for all stages of life:



Executive Summary | APEC Action Plan on Vaccination Across the Life-Course 2021-2030



APEC endorsed the Action Plan on Vaccination Across the Life Course in August 2021. Access the Action Plan here: <https://bit.ly/3w5nQjY>

★ Background

- Vaccines save between 2 and 3 million lives every year, and are expected to keep millions of people out of poverty over the coming decade, clearly indicating a strong societal return on investment.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly disrupted routine immunization services. In 2021, 25 million children globally were reported to be un- or under-vaccinated, 6 million more than in 2019 and the highest amount since 2008. Continued declines in vaccination rates are contributing to outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases, including measles and polio.
- The value of vaccines is expansive – in addition to direct impacts on morbidity and mortality, vaccination also has a broad impact on overall health and development, and is associated with improved economic stability, productivity, educational outcomes, healthy physical development, and equity.
- Given our aging populations and the rising prevalence of chronic diseases, renewed and reenergized efforts are needed in order to improve access to vaccination services across the life-course; disseminate accurate information about the value, safety, and essential benefits of vaccination; and mitigate the impact of health crises in APEC economies.

▶ About APEC

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is a regional economic forum established in 1989 to leverage the growing interdependence of the Asia-Pacific. APEC's 21 members aim to create greater prosperity for the people of the region by promoting balanced, inclusive, sustainable, innovative and secure growth and by accelerating regional economic integration.

To learn more about the *Action Plan*, please visit <https://www.apec.org/vaccinestaskforce>

APEC Action Plan on Vaccination across the Life-Course. <https://bit.ly/3w5nQjY>
Health Affairs, Return on investment From Childhood Immunization in Low-And Middle-Income Countries, 2011-20: <https://bit.ly/3poylWh>
VoICE, Possibilities: The Far-Reaching Benefits of Immunization” <https://bit.ly/3JWzV0g>
WHO, Immunization Agenda 2030: <https://bit.ly/3w5uflW>
WHO, COVID-19 pandemic fuels largest continued backslide in vaccinations in three decades: <https://bit.ly/3QJGe9F>
WHO, Guiding Principle for Immunization Activities During the COVID-19 Pandemic: <https://bit.ly/3zR0peY>
The Health Partnership, Life-course vaccination: <https://bit.ly/3CFESiS>

SOURCES

Executive Summary | APEC Action Plan on Vaccination Across the Life-Course 2021-2030



APEC endorsed the Action Plan on Vaccination Across the Life Course in August 2021. Access the Action Plan here: <https://bit.ly/3w5nQjY>

Pillars

PILLAR 1: Promote recognition of the value of vaccination and vaccine innovation by policymakers and key decision-makers

Target 1.1: By 2030, all APEC member economies have introduced standardized systems, based on the respective needs and priorities of economies, to generate data on direct and indirect benefits of vaccination that meet quality standards, including the full societal value, to drive policy decisions and prioritization

- **Indicator:** % of APEC economies that have in place a facility to generate data on both the direct and indirect benefits of vaccination

Target 1.2: By 2030, all APEC member economies have introduced value assessment frameworks, taking into account both the direct and indirect economic and societal value of vaccination, to help drive policy and decision-making processes in conjunction with other policymaking priorities

- **Indicator:** % of APEC economies that utilize comprehensive value assessment frameworks for the evaluation of immunization programs' health, social, and economic impact to drive vaccine policy and decision-making

Target 1.3: By 2030, all APEC economies commit to incorporating the latest knowledge and data on the value of vaccination as part of the decision-making processes of leaders in conjunction with other policymaking priorities

- **Indicator:** % of APEC economies that have established a communications plan to translate data and analysis of value of vaccination into policy recommendations accessible to stakeholders

PILLAR 2: Prioritize access to and uptake of vaccination across the life-course for all individuals

Target 2.1: By 2030, each APEC member economy has established comprehensive domestic immunization calendars and immunization programs that cover all stages of life (including all ages) to provide broad access to protection against vaccine-preventable diseases for all populations

- **Indicator:** Vaccine coverage rate for routine immunizations in each APEC economy, and across the region as a whole

Target 2.2: By 2030, all APEC economies maximize vaccine coverage for all populations where appropriate – including foreign residents, migrant workers, refugees and stateless persons – through immunization programs that ensure equitable access across the life-course

- **Indicator:** # of new vaccines, underutilized vaccines, and

vaccines with expanded indications introduced into the public immunization programs of each APEC economy over the decade, including booster programs and travel-related vaccinations

Target 2.3: APEC economies regularly and creatively engage in impactful partnerships with stakeholders to encourage vaccination

- **Indicator:** % of APEC economies that have put in place a team and/or process dedicated to maintaining stakeholder partnerships to incentivize vaccines uptake

PILLAR 3: Build whole-of-government capacity in health security and pandemic preparedness

Target 3.1: By 2030, all APEC economies have established mechanisms to effectively mobilize resources in order to deliver vaccines during health emergencies

- **Indicators:** Establishment of cross-sector dialogue mechanisms or fora to develop strategy for emergency resource mobilization; Regular participation by APEC economies in the mechanism

Target 3.2: By 2030, all APEC economies have established recovery strategies for their immunization programs in the aftermath of acute health emergencies situations and/or humanitarian crises

- **Indicator:** # of APEC economies that have established not only a pandemic preparedness strategy, but also pandemic recovery strategy with “catch-up” immunization embedded into this strategy

Target 3.3: By 2030, all APEC economies have full surveillance and monitoring capacity to track any risk of health emergencies due to vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks, and to ensure progress towards vaccines uptake across the life-course

- **Indicator:** % of economies that have designed a comprehensive process for collecting and evaluating data on the uptake of vaccines, the status of infectious diseases, changing environmental conditions, and any emerging resistance patterns

PILLAR 4: Strengthen confidence in vaccination and build resilient immunization programs

Target 4.1: By 2030, all APEC economies have established rapid, agile and responsive systems that can assess areas of systemic vulnerability, identify gaps, and mitigate the risk of threats to confidence

- **Indicator:** % of APEC economies that have put in place a team with the necessary skills and/or process designated to analyze system vulnerabilities and address emerging or potential threats to immunization

Executive Summary | APEC Action Plan on Vaccination Across the Life-Course 2021-2030



APEC endorsed the Action Plan on Vaccination Across the Life Course in August 2021. Access the Action Plan here: <https://bit.ly/3w5nQjY>

Pillars

Target 4.2: By 2030, all APEC economies have full monitoring and response capacity to understand crises in vaccines confidence as well as the necessary strategies to address issues

- **Indicator:** % of APEC economies which conduct in depth domestic specific studies to understand barriers to vaccination

Target 4.3: By 2030, all APEC economies have active and productive channels of engagement with healthcare professionals (HCPs) that help to educate and empower them to advocate for vaccination and provide reassurance to patients with doubts about vaccination

- **Indicators:** % of economies that have put in place a communications team and/or process to build skills to manage patients who may be hesitant; Percentage of APEC economies with well-defined scheduled for HCP vaccination

Target 4.4: By 2030, all APEC economies maintain communications strategies – including digital strategies – to ensure the dissemination of clear, accessible, and accurate information about vaccination

- **Indicator:** % of APEC economies that have put in place a communications team with the skills to implement a communications program which promotes confidence in vaccination among the public and HCPs

PILLAR 5: Enable investment and innovation in vaccine R&D, manufacturing, and delivery

Target 5.1: By 2030, all APEC economies establish policies and procedures that foster public-private dialogue between vaccine producers and governments in order to chart an optimal course for encouraging investment in innovation

- **Indicator:** Percentage of APEC economies that have consolidated a private sector strategy to guide engagements with vaccine or broader pharmaceutical producers

Target 5.2: By 2030, all APEC economies maintain mechanisms to enhance producers' understanding of local demand and health needs, in order to inform R&D and reduce the commercial uncertainty of new investments

- **Indicator:** % of economies that have put in place a process for sharing data on vaccines demand and health needs among key stakeholders in the innovation and production pipeline

PILLAR 6: Accelerate regulatory harmonization for vaccines across APEC economies

Target 6.1: APEC-wide endorsement of and adherence to a set of agreed regulatory practices including adherence to

globally recognized regulatory harmonization recommendations and guidelines, in order to ensure effective supply chains and sufficient inventory

- **Indicators:** APEC-wide endorsement and recommendation for members to implement globally recognized regulatory harmonization guidelines for vaccines; APEC workshops and capacity building to support implementation

Target 6.2: By 2030, all APEC economies have undertaken capacity building initiatives to accelerate adoption of globally recognized recommendations and guidance on regulatory harmonization for vaccines

- **Indicator:** % of economies where capacity-building trainings have been designed and initiated, involving coordination between global vaccine producers, local producers, and regulators

Target 6.3: Continuing multisectoral collaboration within and across APEC economies to ensure robust supply chain and access to vaccines across the globe

- **Indicator:** APEC endorsement of recommendations on global vaccine supply chain security and incentives for investment and expanded access

PILLAR 7: Establish proven & innovative mechanisms for sustainable immunization financing

Target 7.1: By 2030, all APEC economies make commitments on economy-wide immunization funding

- **Indicator:** % of APEC economies that have written and introduced an Economy-wide Immunization Plan with provisions for the life-course and concrete proposals for financing strategies

Target 7.2: Establishment of joint platforms within and across APEC economies in order to foster collaboration to identify and resolve financing challenges

- **Indicator:** % of APEC economies with health or other officials participating in an APEC-wide dialogue on financing strategies for immunization programs

Target 7.3: Each APEC economy utilizes decentralized strategies to the extent necessary in its given context, in order to facilitate local alignment of funding and needs

- **Indicator:** % of APEC economies that have conducted an investigation of the feasibility, benefits, and risks of introducing decentralized strategies into their immunization plans