



UiO : **University of Oslo**

International cooperation to increase access to COVID-19 vaccines

Public hearing by the German Ethics Council -

International Perspectives on Pandemic Preparedness and Response

27 May 2021

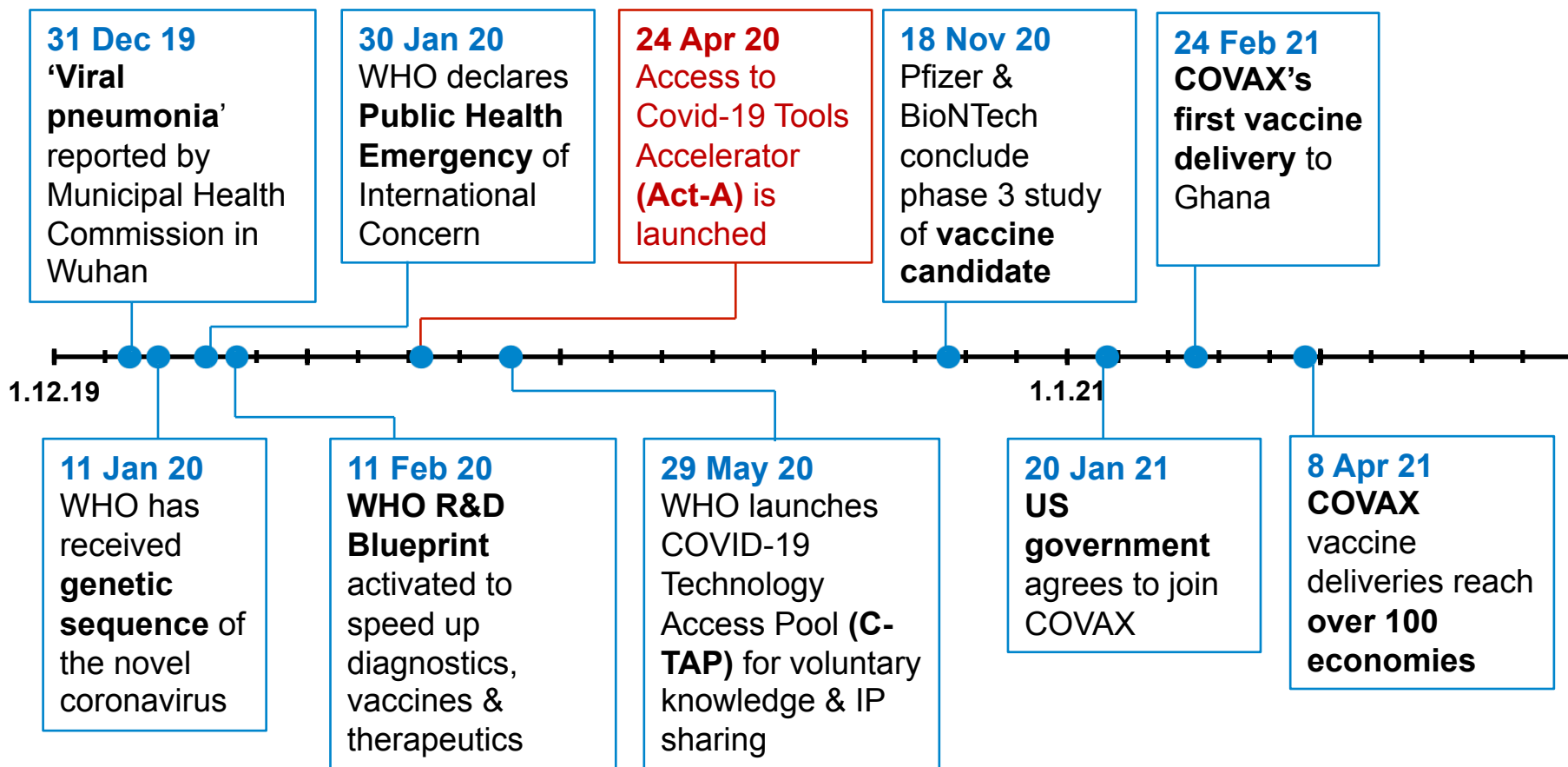
Dr Felix Stein

Centre for Development and the Environment (SUM)

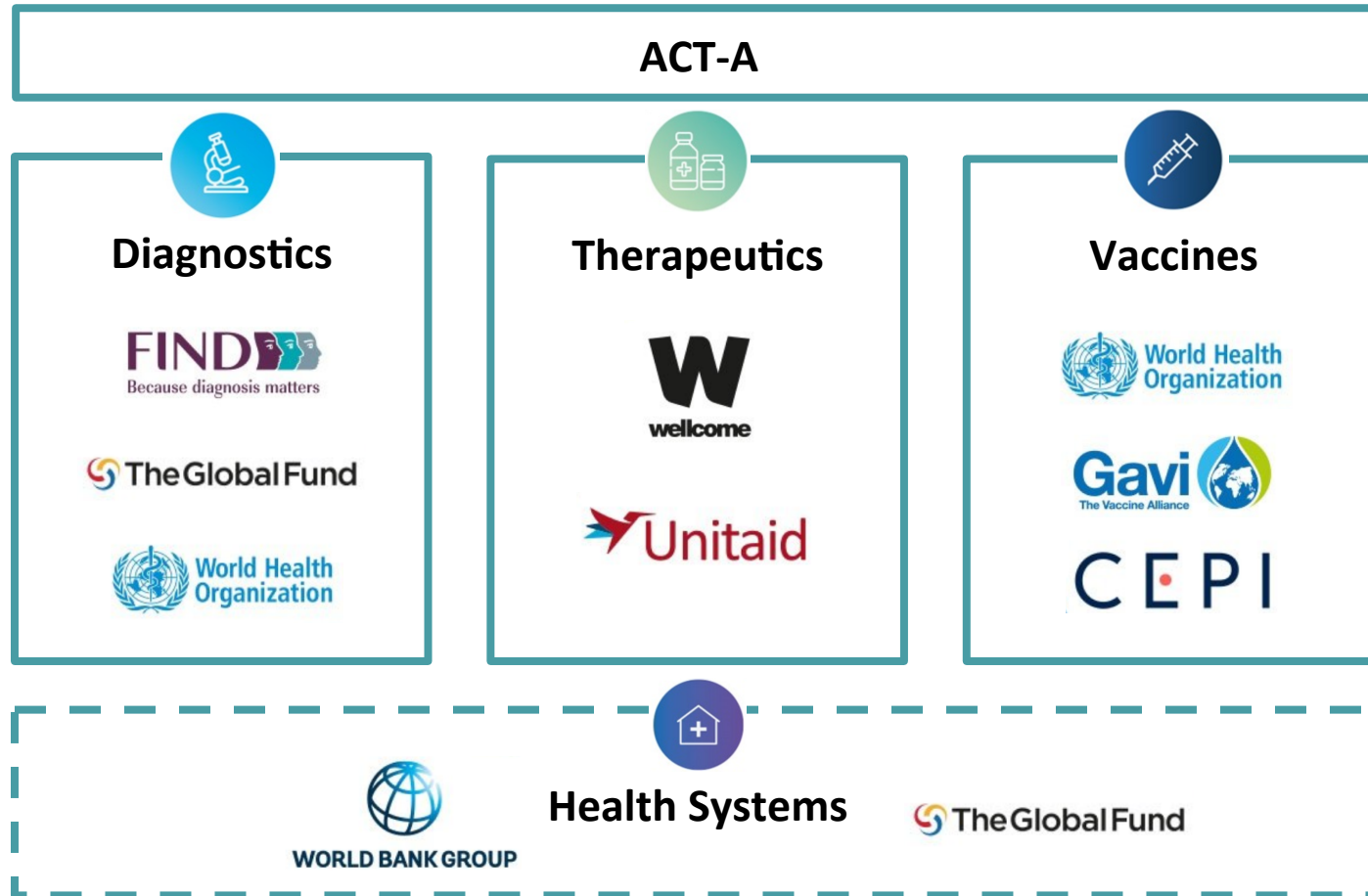
University of Oslo



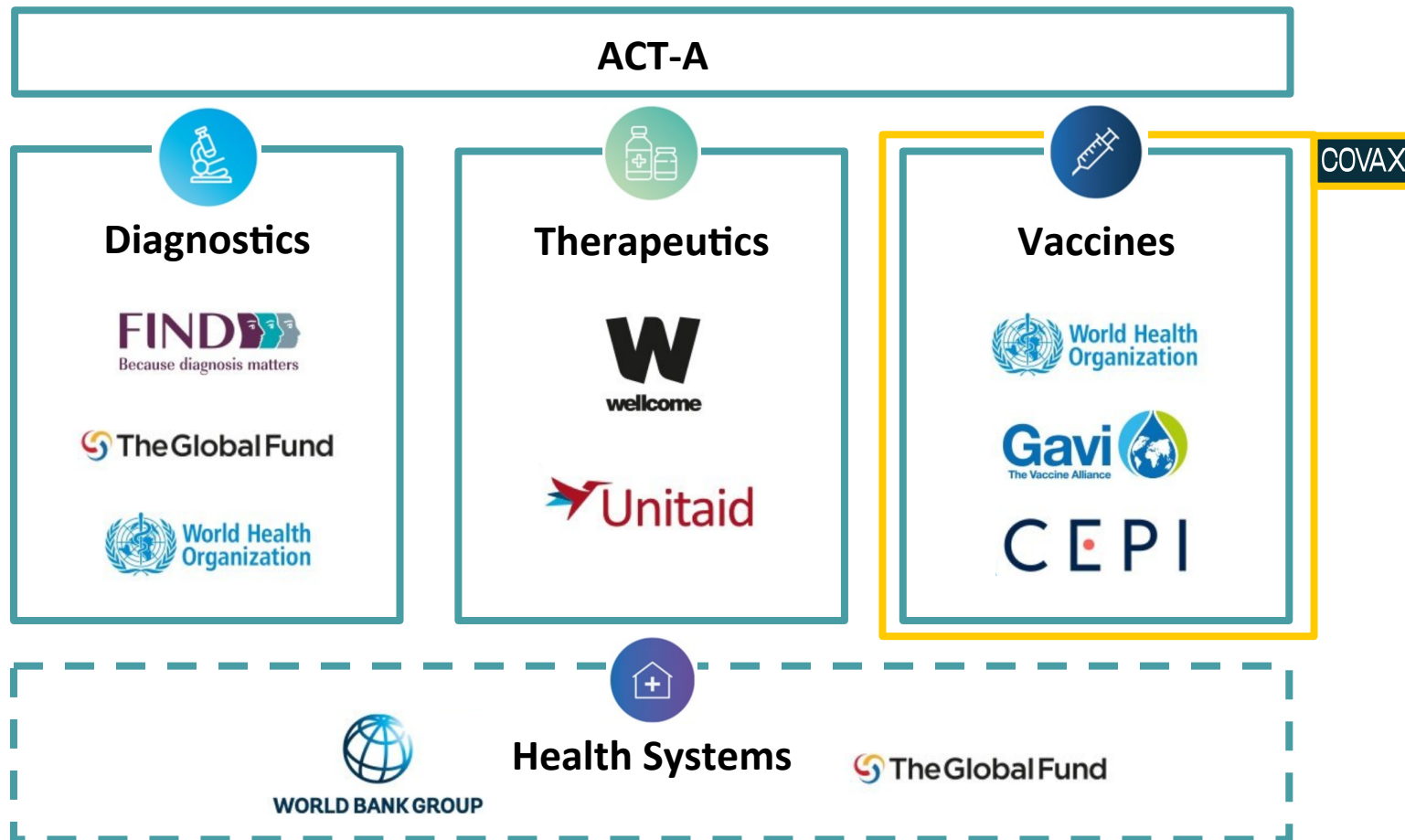
Vaccine cooperation has focused on Act-A and COVAX



To fight COVID-19, Act-A focuses on three sets of technologies



COVAX is Act-A's vaccine pillar



COVAX's goal is twofold

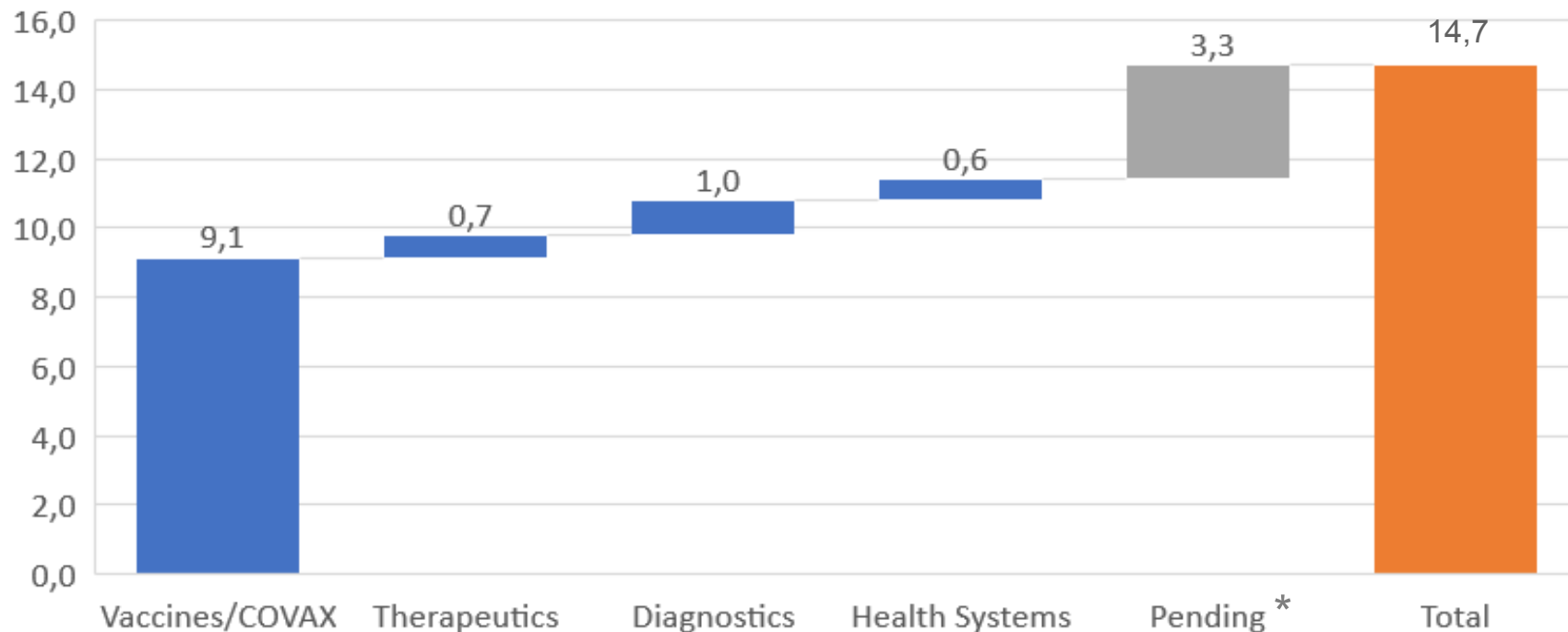
“[COVAX's] aim is to **accelerate the development** and manufacture of COVID-19 vaccines, and to guarantee **fair and equitable access** for every country in the world.”



COVAX is by far the best-funded pillar of Act-A

Contributions to Act-A

In billion USD (21 May 2021)



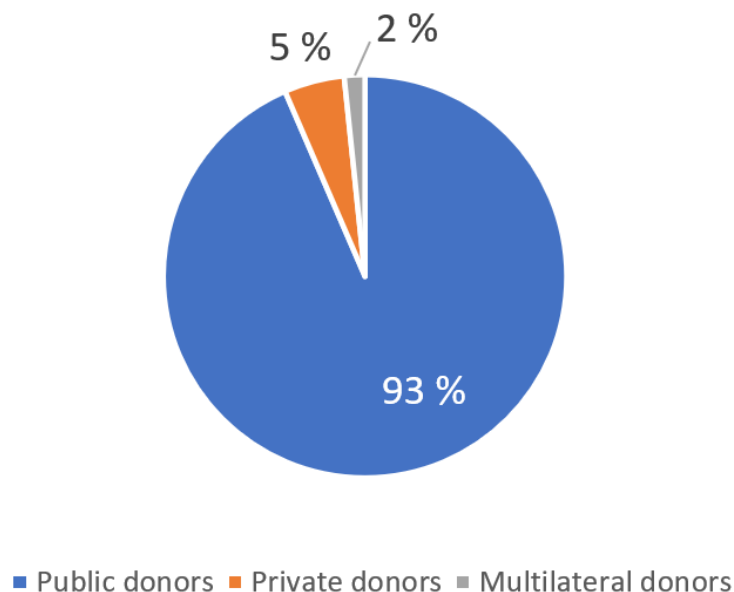
*Pending contributions are still to be allocated

Source: Act-A Commitment Tracker <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/access-to-covid-19-tools-tracker>

Most COVAX donors are public institutions

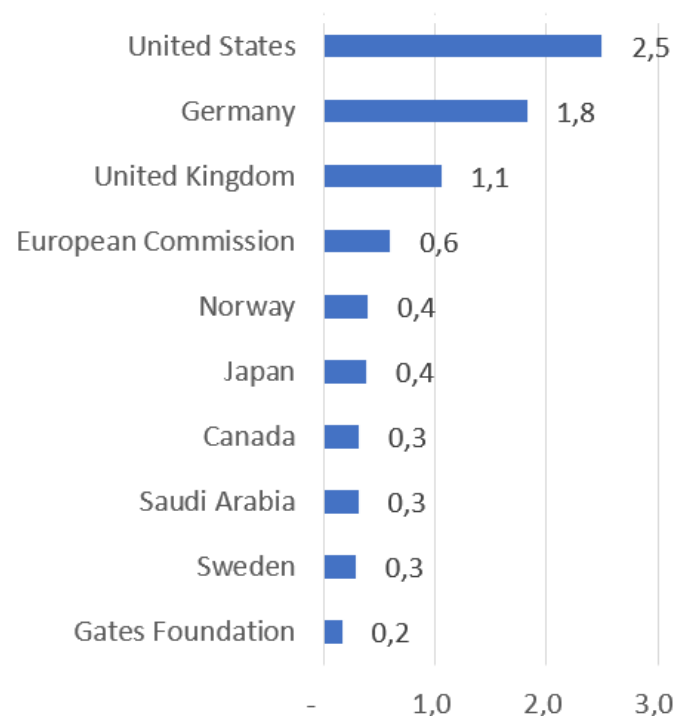
COVAX contributions overall

In percent (21 May 2021)



Top ten COVAX donors

In billion USD (21 May 2021)



COVAX is a buyers' and distribution club

Advantages

- **Equity:** Distribute first to the world's health workers, then the world's vulnerable, then others
- **Public sector efficiency:**
 - Lower **prices**
 - Reduced **country risk**



COVAX subsidizes vaccine development and distribution

COVAX provides

- **Push** subsidies (R&D and manufacturing)
- **Pull** subsidies (demand guarantees)
- Country **distribution support** (demand)

Advantages: Speeds up vaccine production and distribution



 Das Bild kann nicht angezeigt werden. Dieser Computer verfügt möglicherweise über zu wenig Arbeitsspeicher, um das Bild zu öffnen, oder das Bild ist beschädigt. Starten Sie den Computer neu, und öffnen Sie dann erneut die Datei. Wenn weiterhin das rote x angezeigt wird, müssen Sie das Bild möglicherweise löschen und dann erneut einfügen.

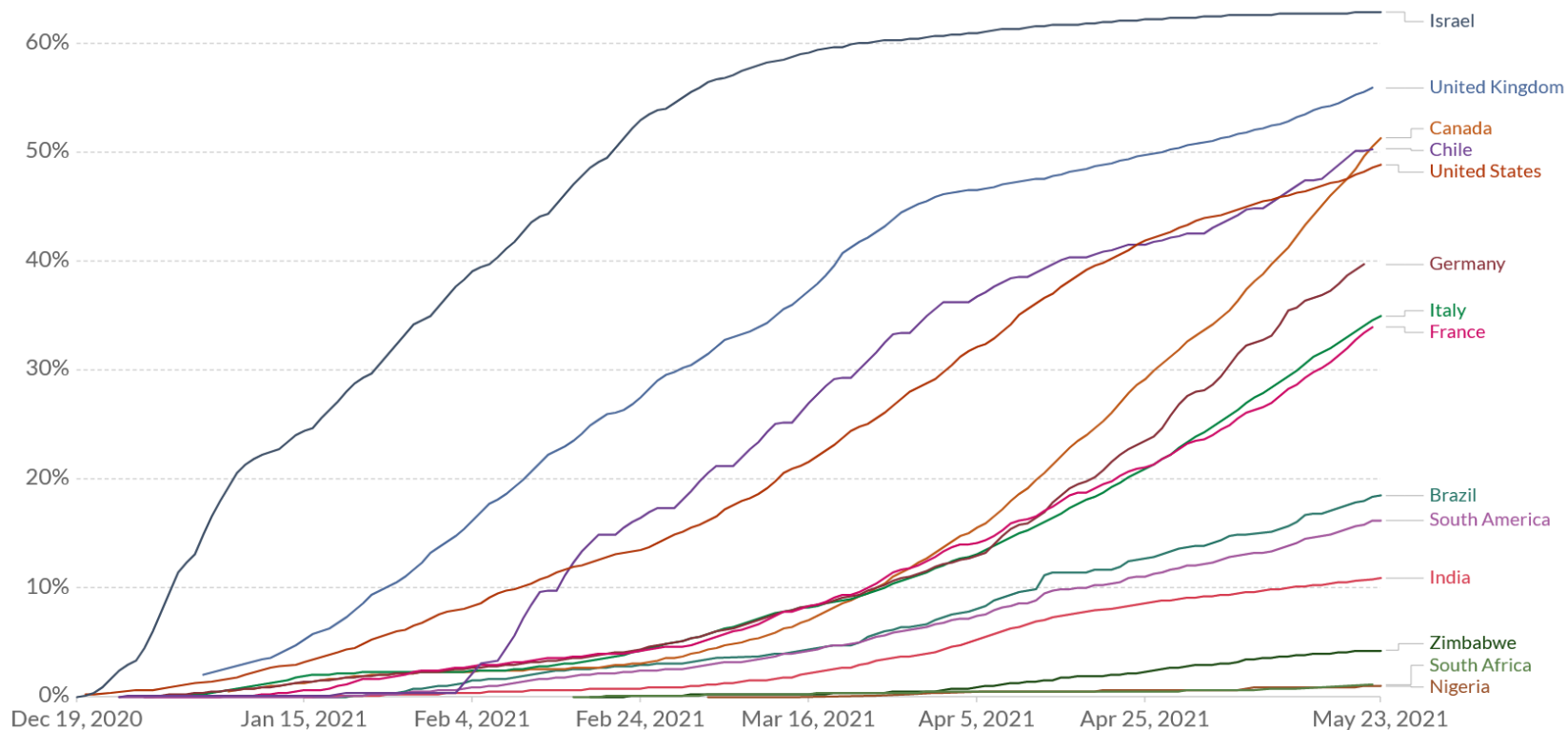
COVAX has not ensured global vaccine equity

Share of people who received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine

Share of the total population that received at least one vaccine dose. This may not equal the share that are fully vaccinated if the vaccine requires two doses.



LINEAR LOG

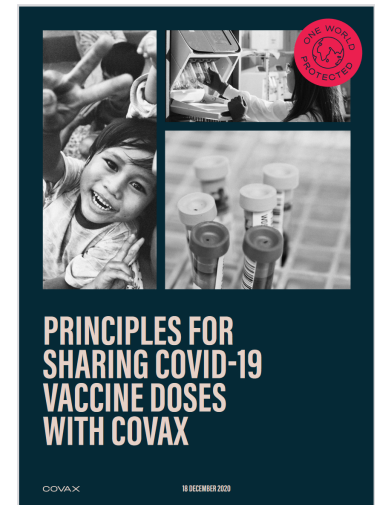
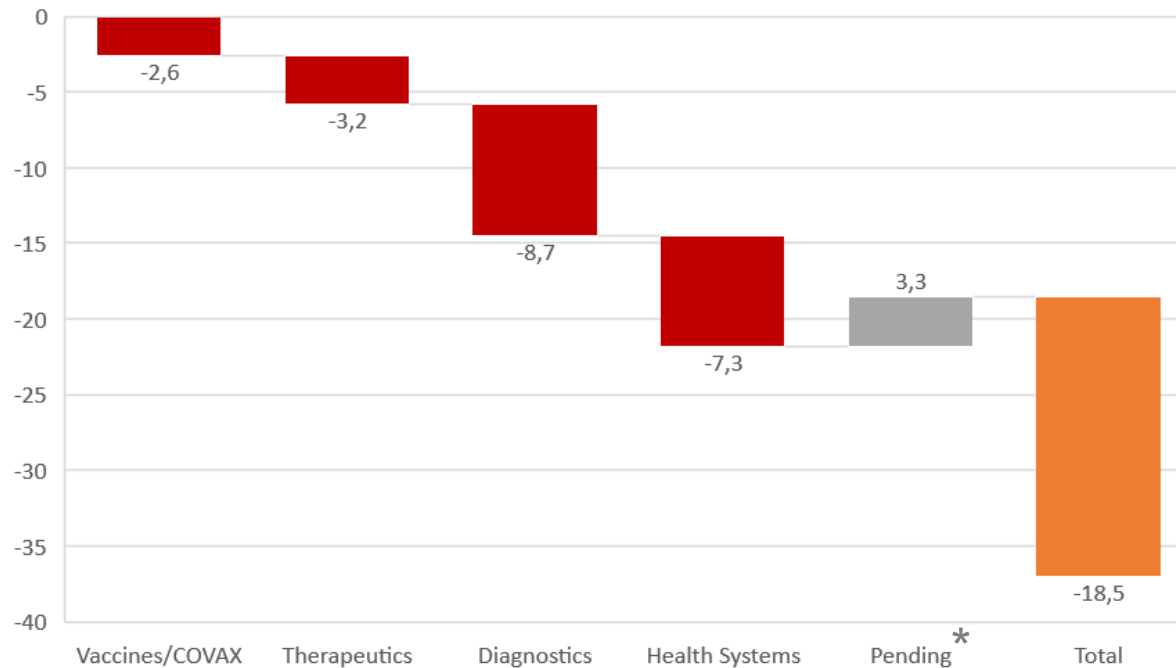


Source: <https://ourworldindata.org/covid-vaccinations> (accessed 25/5/2021)

COVAX changes from solidarity to charity

Funding gap for Act-A

In billion USD (21 May 2021)



*Pending contributions are still to be allocated

Source: Act-A Commitment Tracker <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/access-to-covid-19-tools-tracker>

Ethical questions raised

1. Equity:

- Saving **lives abroad vs saving lives at home?**
- What constitutes a **fair vaccine price** in times of crisis?

2. Social contract: What are the rights and obligations of corporations producing life-saving vaccines?

3. Relationship to the environment?





UiO : **University of Oslo**

Thank you

Contact: felix.stein@sum.uio.no

Funding: Norwegian Research Council, PANPREP project (grant #301929)

<https://www.sum.uio.no/english/research/projects/norways-public-private-cooperation-for-pandemic-p/>





UiO : **University of Oslo**

Backup



COVAX has been split into two buyers' clubs

