



© Asafuzzaman Captain/CARE Bangladesh

CHOICE IS CLEAR: INVEST NOW IN FAST & EFFECTIVE VACCINE DELIVERY OR FACE SEVERE ECONOMIC DAMAGE

Even as vaccinations ramp up and things return to normal across the United States, the threat of a new COVID-19 variant erasing recovery progress remains high. Comprehensive global vaccination efforts are essential to achieving herd immunity and economic recovery here at home. If the pandemic continues outside of the U.S. - with new variants popping up unchecked across the globe - **leading economists estimate the damage to the U.S. economy could reach as high as nearly \$700B.** Vaccine procurement is only a start as vaccines are useless without proper delivery systems. Getting this right means both providing adequate funding and taking an approach to delivery that is smart and effective. Simply put, the U.S. faces a clear choice - **pay our fair share to support effective vaccine delivery globally or run the risk of a prolonged pandemic that causes severe economic damage.**

A new policy paper released by CARE and Booz Allen Hamilton demonstrates what it will take to prevent severe economic damage:

- CARE’s analysis shows that for every \$1 spent on vaccine acquisitions, \$5 is necessary to support effective delivery. With that knowledge and assuming vaccine dose needs are met, the policy paper assesses the total cost of vaccine delivery from tarmac to shots in arms to achieve herd immunity in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) at close to **\$190B.** Using a GDP insurance model and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development’s recommended calculation, **the U.S. burden share of that cost is between \$15-26B.**
- Conversely, the cost of inaction is much higher. A study commissioned by the International Chamber of Commerce Research Foundation found that if advanced economies are fully vaccinated but the current uncoordinated approach to global vaccine distribution continues, **the world risks a global GDP loss of as much as \$9.2 trillion in 2021 alone.** Up to 49% of these GDP losses will be borne by advanced economies regardless of their own vaccination rates.
- The paper further projects that of the \$9.2 trillion in global economic losses, not achieving equitable vaccine delivery globally could **cost the U.S. economy between \$207B - \$671B in damage.**

What will it take to avert further economic disaster?

Provide at least 11.3 billion, or \$3.7 billion per year, over the next three years to meet the U.S. fair share of global vaccine delivery to support herd immunity in low- and middle-income countries. Assuming vaccine dose procurement needs are met, the U.S. fair share of equitable delivery is \$15-26 billion, as outlined above. Fortunately, through the 2020 Omnibus package and the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act, the U.S. has already made a down payment of approximately \$3.7 billion to support delivery. This leaves a remaining gap of \$11.3 billion, or \$3.7 billion a year over three years. The U.S. must stay the course and commit to investing a minimum of \$3.7 billion a year to **both fully fund the Access to COVID-19 Tools-Accelerator (ACT-A) vaccine and health system connector pillars as well as complementary investments in direct development and humanitarian assistance that support frontline and community health workers ensuring delivery to the last mile.**

Make strategic investments in health systems that ensure fast and effective delivery of vaccines to the last mile. ACT-A was never designed to cover the full costs of vaccine delivery on the ground and many low-and middle-income countries with already weak and chronically underfunded health systems will not be able to cover all the costs of vaccine delivery, particularly critical support for frontline and community health workers, through domestic financing. To ensure efforts to acquire vaccines in LMICs are not wasted due to an inability to deliver them, future U.S. investment in vaccine delivery must support health-systems strengthening efforts, with a focus on investments in frontline health workers that ensure their effectiveness in building vaccine acceptance and in ensuring equitable vaccine delivery to the last mile.

Our Best Shot: Women frontline health workers around the world are keeping you safe from COVID-19



CARE Policy Report March 2021. Learn more at care.org/OurBestShot

- Women health workers contribute US \$3 trillion annually to the global economy, but HALF of this work is unpaid and unrecognized.
- At least 70% of global health care workers are women yet hold only 25% of leadership positions.
- To benefit globally from vaccines, we must pay, protect and respect women frontline health workers and their rights.

Failure to take these steps could cost the global economy \$9.2 trillion. The U.S. alone risks losing up to almost \$700 billion while putting at risk the \$6 trillion already spent to shore up the economy and combat the pandemic. Conversely, making these wise investments now promises a return on investment of over 30x and protects our recovery here at home.

THE TIME FOR FAST AND EFFECTIVE GLOBAL VACCINE DELIVERY IS NOW.

Read the full report at care.org/FairShare