

## Needs, not money should guide fair access to COVID-19 vaccine

**LONDON, 18 December:** The roll out of COVID-19 vaccines in high-income countries is threatening to disrupt fair access to vaccines for all, Save the Children warned in a statement today. Even as some of the [first wave of vaccines](#) are now being reserved for all countries, governments of richer countries should not hoard the limited initial supply of available vaccines -- instead they must ensure a distribution based on needs and not on wealth, the organisation said.

Kathryn Bolles, Global Director for Health and Nutrition at Save the Children said:

*“Countries who can afford life-saving vaccines should not have access over countries who cannot – one life is not worth more than another. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to infect hundreds of thousands of people every day, claiming more than 1.6 million lives so far across the globe<sup>[1]</sup>.*

*“That means children are losing their parents, family members, teachers, and health care workers, which is deeply impacting their lives and the lives of their families. The economies they live in are hard hit, pushing them into poverty. It’s unfair that some poorer countries must wait months or possibly longer for the vaccine.*

*“When this outbreak started, there were global commitments that people in lower and middle income countries should have equal access to any vaccine, but it seems that notion has shifted. Wealthier governments should not choose nationalism but instead uphold the spirit of equitable global access, including by supporting [COVAX](#) to urgently provide support to ensure people around the world are vaccinated. As thousands of people continue to die every day from COVID-19, and hundreds of thousands more are infected, time is of the essence.*

*“Governments must commit to expanding the supply, access and availability of vaccines, and all involved need to support the sharing of COVID-19 data and technology by committing to [C-TAP](#), the COVID-19 technology access pool. Investment and collaboration with vaccine manufacturers in developing countries should also be prioritised to unleash supply to local and regional populations.*

*“We understand it will be difficult to ensure equal access of the initial supply of vaccines, but governments must do what they can to make sure it’s as fair as possible and not further accelerate the huge global inequities we face today. This pandemic has stressed that our own protection is rooted in the protection of others - no one safe until everyone is safe.”*

<sup>[1]</sup> <https://covid19.who.int/>

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### **Über Save the Children**

Im Nachkriegsjahr 1919 gründete die britische Sozialreformerin und Kinderrechtlerin Eglantyne Jebb Save the Children, um Kinder in Deutschland und Österreich vor dem Hungertod zu retten. Heute ist die inzwischen größte unabhängige Kinderrechtsorganisation der Welt in über 110 Ländern im Einsatz. Seit über 100 Jahren hilft Save the Children Kindern in Kriegen, Konflikten und Katastrophen und setzt sich ein für eine Welt, die die Rechte der Kinder achtet, in der alle Kinder gesund und sicher leben und frei und selbstbestimmt aufwachsen können.

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