



World Health  
Organization  
Ghana



# ADVANCING GHANA'S HEALTH SECURITY: THE VAX & PHARM-GHANA INITIATIVE



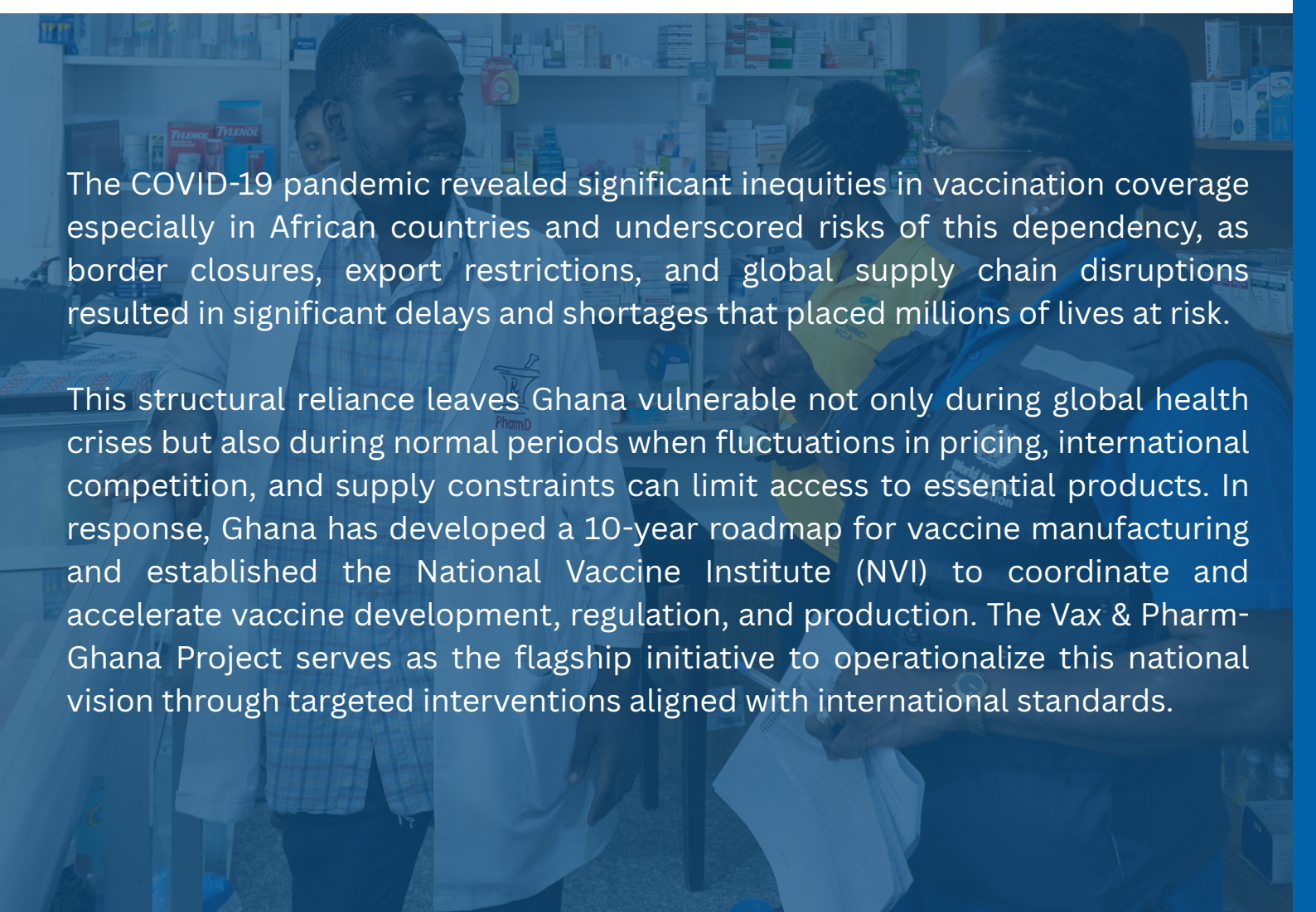


# INTRODUCTION

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Ghana is undertaking a strategic initiative to strengthen its capacity for local production of vaccines and essential medicines through the Vax & Pharm-Ghana Project. This program represents a collaborative effort between the Government of Ghana, the World Health Organization (WHO), and the European Union (EU) to address critical gaps in health security and pharmaceutical manufacturing.

For decades, Ghana has relied heavily on imports for most of its commodities, with approximately 70% of all medicines sourced from outside the country. At present, Ghana does not manufacture any human vaccines, meaning that every childhood vaccine, routine immunization antigen, and emergency outbreak vaccines must be procured internationally.



The COVID-19 pandemic revealed significant inequities in vaccination coverage especially in African countries and underscored risks of this dependency, as border closures, export restrictions, and global supply chain disruptions resulted in significant delays and shortages that placed millions of lives at risk.

This structural reliance leaves Ghana vulnerable not only during global health crises but also during normal periods when fluctuations in pricing, international competition, and supply constraints can limit access to essential products. In response, Ghana has developed a 10-year roadmap for vaccine manufacturing and established the National Vaccine Institute (NVI) to coordinate and accelerate vaccine development, regulation, and production. The Vax & Pharm-Ghana Project serves as the flagship initiative to operationalize this national vision through targeted interventions aligned with international standards.



# Project Goal



The overarching goal of the initiative is to promote equitable access to safe, effective, quality-assured, and affordable medicines and vaccines for all Ghanaians, consistent with the country's Universal Health Coverage (UHC) agenda and contributes to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being).



# Strategic Objectives



**The project is structured around three core objectives:**

## **i. Strengthen Research and Development (R&D)**

Enhance national capacity for clinical trials and facilitate technology transfer to support sustainable vaccine and pharmaceutical production.

## **ii. Ensure Compliance with Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP)**

Assist local manufacturers in achieving current GMP standards, enabling WHO pre-qualification eligibility and improving product safety and efficacy.

## **iii. Create an Enabling Policy Environment**

Collaborate with government and stakeholders to implement regulatory and policy reforms as well as fiscal incentives that promote sustainable local production.





# PARTNERS



World Health  
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Ghana



Deutsche Gesellschaft  
für Internationale  
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURERS  
ASSOCIATION OF GHANA



# EXPECTED IMPACT



**Health System:**  
Improved supply chain resilience, reduced stockouts, and enhanced emergency preparedness.



**Enhance Ghana's industrialization and technology transfer landscape, contributing to economic diversification**



**Strengthen outbreak preparedness through rapid local production of targeted countermeasures**



**Population Health:**  
Increased availability of affordable, quality-assured medicines and vaccines, contributing to improved health outcomes and pandemic preparedness.



**Local Industry:** Access to advanced technologies, improved compliance with international standards, and opportunities for regional export.



**Research Community:**  
Expanded clinical trial infrastructure, strengthened partnerships, and capacity-building initiatives.







# GHANA'S BIG LEAP HAS BEGUN

The Vax & Pharm-Ghana Project represents a turning point in Ghana's journey toward health security, economic independence, and scientific excellence. With strong political commitment, strategic partnerships and local innovation, Ghana is moving closer to a future where the nation produces what it needs, protects its people, and contributes proudly to global health.

