

EMERGING MARKETS: Covid-19 Vaccination Strategies and Challenges

Our Covid-19 vaccination table includes updated information on the immunization strategies selected EMs are pursuing and the challenges they face. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you want to discuss any of the countries mentioned in more detail.

Please click on 'View PDF' below to see the table.

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Emerging Markets Covid-19 Vaccination Strategies and Challenges

Rating of countries' vaccine rollout (as of 17 February 2020):



Between 0% and 1% of the total population have received at least one Covid-19 vaccine dose Between 1% and 10% of the total population have received at least one Covid-19 vaccine dose More than 10% of the total population have received at least one Covid-19 vaccine dose

	Vaccination strategy	Current state of vaccine rollout	Procurement	Latest developments and challenges
Israel	Initially targeted at health care workers and those over 60, Israel is now targeting youth 16-18 and adults over 40.	Israel has the highest vaccination rate in the world, with more than 78.09 doses per hundred people. 47.04% of population has received a single dose of the vaccine, and 31.05% the two doses.	Pfizer – Israel is administering the Pfizer vaccine, in exchange for giving Pfizer extensive patient data. Moderna – Israel has received around 100,000 doses of Moderna vaccines but have not been administered yet.	Israel went into another lockdown in January and is just emerging from it now. Infection rates are falling as immunizations rise, especially among the older population.
UAE	Priorities vary by Emirate, but they generally emphasize the elderly, the medically compromised and health care and front-line workers.	As of 17 Feb, about 5mn shots have been given to a population of about 10mn – 53.43% of population. Dubai has emphasized the Pfizer vaccine, Abu Dhabi the Sinopharm vaccine. Target is to inoculate 50% of population in Q1/2021.	Sinopharm and Pfizer/BioNTech are the two approved vaccines.	The UAE has the second- highest vaccinatioin rate in the world, after Israel. Cases spiked in January after Dubai opened up too quickly. Curfews have been reimposed but are being reduced.
Chile	Target to vaccinate 5mn people (ca. 26% of population) by end-Q1/2021 and 15mn people (80% of population) by end H1/2021. Medical workers first to receive vaccinations, to be followed by elderly in care homes; over 65s; key workers in public bureaucracy; people with other co-morbidities.	Pfizer vaccinations started in late-December but mass campaign using Sinovac vaccine started 3 February. 2.38mn people (12.43% of population) vaccinated as of 14 February, with daily rate of 200,000 inoculations, government is hopeful of reaching 4mn people by 25 February.	Pfizer – agreement for 10mn doses; Sinovac – agreement for 60mn doses over three years; AZ – agreement for 14.4mn doses. COVAX – agreement for 8mn doses. Local regulatory approval for J&J vaccine reported to be imminent. Talks ongoing with Russia's Gamaleya Institute (Sputnik V).	Highly successful vaccine roll- out so far. Future of vaccination campaign will depend on avoidance of supply bottlenecks, though diversified contracts should help. Vaccinations of teaching personnel to start 22 February to enable resumption of schooling in March.
Greece	Priority given to healthcare workers, key government personnel & care home residents and staff. In Stage 2, elderly over 70 will be vaccinated, prioritized in 5-year brackets, to be followed by those in high-risk groups, other key government workers. In Stage 3, general public will be called forward.	As of 17 Feb, 575,766 people (5.52% of population) have been vaccinated – 177,926 (1.71% of population) of those have received both doses. The daily rate is at around 18,000. Greece also began vaccinating under 65s with the AZ jab on 13 Feb.	Greece is bound to the EU's procurement process. 815,000 Pfizer jabs expected by end- Feb and 1.4mn total by end March. Greece expects 240,000 Moderna vaccines by the end of March. AZ, which has been approved for under 65s, due to deliver 410,000 jabs in Feb and another 330,000 in March.	Two new, large vaccination centers opened in Greece's two largest cities – Athens and Thessaloniki – on 15 Feb. In the short-term, they will be able to administer 3,400 vaccines a day. The aim is to ramp this up to more than 12,000 a day in the coming weeks.
Poland	Vaccine rollout envisaged in four stages: Stages 1 and 2 include medical and administrative staff in healthcare institutions; residents and employees of care homes; lecturers and medical students; elderly aged 60+; and teachers.	Vaccination started on 27 Dec. As of 16 Feb, more than 2.23mn residents vaccinated (5.89% of population), of which 638,235 received two doses. Target – 3mn residents in Q1.	Procurement exclusively via the EU. Expected delivery of 6.7mn doses from AZ (1.2mn), Moderna (744,000), Pfizer (4.8mn) in Q1. Overall, around 100mn doses contracted. As of 15 Feb, 3mn doses delivered.	Vaccination of teachers starting. Vaccine skepticism is declining – polls show around 75% of population is willing to get inoculated. Second jabs being postponed over vaccine delivery delays.

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Hungary	Most of medical staff and care home residents/staff have been vaccinated as of 15 Feb. The elderly aged 60+ years, unfirmed services, public servants and people aged 18-59 years with chronic illnesses are the main targets groups now.	Vaccination started on 26 Dec. As of 15 Feb, 473,551 people (4.9% of population) have been vaccinated, of which 131,593 received two doses (mostly medical staff and care home residents).	Procurement via the EU's joint mechanism as well as independent agreements: AZ – 3.3mn doses CureVac – 250,000 doses J&J – 2.2mn doses Moderna – 870,000 doses Pfizer – 3.3mn doses Sputnik V – 2mn doses (200,000 expected in Feb) Sinopharm – 5mn doses (550,000 expected in Feb).	Vaccination with Russia's Sputnik V and China's Sinopharm vaccines set to start in February. Vaccine skepticism gradually declining – around two-thirds of population were willing to get inoculated as of early Feb.
Turkey	Vaccination program divided into four stages, starting with medical personnel, pharmacy workers and the elderly; followed by security forces, teachers, those working in food industry, over 50 age group, those with chronic illness and rest of adult population.	Vaccine rollout started on 13 Jan with China's Sinovac. As of 17 Feb, 4.49% of population had received a first dose – 0.77% of the population have received two doses. Government currently only has sufficient vaccine to inoculate < 8% of population.	Sinovac – approved by regulator and rollout started; agreement for 50mn doses, of which 13mn had been delivered by 15 Feb, but unclear when further deliveries will arrive. Pfizer/BioNTech – agreement for purchase of 4.5mn doses, delivery due end-March. Turkey has not joined COVAX.	Delays in vaccine deliveries likely to result in program falling short of targets of 35% of population (84mn) by end- March, 60% by end-June. Widespread skepticism with more than 36% of population unwilling to be vaccinated. Only 14.7% willing to get the Sinovac's CoronaVac vaccine – the only one available in Turkey.
Singapore	Currently, healthcare and frontline workers nominated by their employers are eligible for vaccination. Appointment slots are being rolled out for seniors above 70 years old. Subsequent priority groups will be notified by mail.	Around 250,000 people have been vaccinated (4.38% of population), with 6,000 of them (0.1% having received the second dose. Moderna vaccinations will start in March.	Government has concluded agreements with three suppliers, with undisclosed quantities: Pfizer , Moderna and Arcturus .	Children under the age of 16, those with weakened immunity and pregnant women are exempted from vaccinations until more data are available.
Czech Republic	Priority is given to frontline medical staff, followed by care home residents and employees; elderly (first over 80s, then over 65s); people with chronic illnesses; rescue workers.	Vaccination started on 27 Dec. As of 15 Feb, 466,578 residents (4.36% of total population) have been vaccinated, of which 173,269 received two doses (1.62% of total population). The capital Prague accounts for 25% of the vaccinated.	So far, procurement conducted exclusively via the EU. Pfizer and Moderna – 12mn doses (440,000 due in Feb) AZ – 3mn doses (130,000 due in Feb) J&J – 2mn doses CureVac – 1mn doses. As of 15 Feb, 96% of immunizations carried out with Pfizer- BioNTech vaccine.	Politicization of vaccination process ahead of Oct 2021 parliamentary elections. The government is negotiating vaccine supplies outside the EU procurement mechanism – namely, Russia's Sputnik V.
China	With local outbreaks contained, Chinese authorities are prioritizing vaccine diplomacy over domestic supply. Eastern Europe, Middle East, and Africa are focus regions for vaccine exports.	40.5mn jabs (2.82% of population) administered as of 9 February. Military, diplomats, construction workers on foreign projects, study-abroad students, airport, and cold-chain logistics workers have priority.	Government has approved two domestic vaccines; three others are in phase 3 trials.	Sinopharm claims 79% efficacy but has not released detailed clinical data. Sinovac's CoronaVac is only 50% effective in preventing infection but 100% effective in preventing severe cases and 78% effective in preventing mild cases.
Russia	Vaccination available to all citizens. Immunization target: 68.6mn people. Priority groups: 1) medical staff, teachers/lecturers, residents and staff of care institutions, citizens with chronic illnesses; 2) uniformed services, transport and energy sector employees, volunteers; service workers; 3) civil servants, students, people subject to conscription.	Vaccination started in early Dec. Gamaleya center estimates that around 2.2mn citizens (1.51% of total population) have received the first dose and 1.7mn got two jabs (1.16% of population) as of 10 Feb.	Russia relies solely on its own Sputnik V vaccine. Second domestic vaccine EpiVac has been approved by the country's regulators. Third domestic vaccine (Kovivak) expected to receive approval in mid-Feb. No foreign vaccines approved. As of 11 Feb, around 6.2mn doses (mostly Sputnik V) have been approved for domestic use.	Limited manufacturing capabilities of domestic vaccines. Sputnik V approved in 27 countries. High vaccine skepticism; logistical challenges given the country's size and varying administrative capacity across regions; limited data transparency.

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Brazil	Phase 1: health workers; indigenous communities in demarcated territories; over 60s in care institutions; over 75s. Phase 2: 60-74s seniors. Phase 3: persons with comorbidities. Phase 4: education workers, homeless population, security and rescue forces, others.	Over 4 million people (2.1% of population) have taken first jab since 18 January – only 0.05% the second jab. Several states suspending vaccination for lack of doses.	 AZ – 2 million imported doses, 15 million locall-produced by March, 100.4 million by July, 210.4 million by year-end. CoronaVac – 8.7 million imported doses in January, 17.3 million locally-produced to end of February. Sputnik V – emergency use rejected but local production in course. COVAX – 10 million doses in a few weeks, no need for approval. 	Heatlh minister Eduardo Pazzuelo investigated for omission and negligence. Regional governors pressuring Congress to pass 5-day fast- track approval of vaccines approved overseas.
Argentina	Health sector personnel first in line for vaccine, to be followed in descending order by over 70s; over 60s; security personnel; vulnerable and at-risk in 18-59 age range; education sector; and strategic or vulnerable groups (e.g. prisoners).	Sputnik V vaccinations started on 29 Dec. 820,000 doses delivered to Argentina so far, well below original agreement for 15mn by end-February. 1.35% of the population have received at least one dose of the Covid-19 vaccine.	Sputnik V – approved by regulator and roll-out started; agreement for 30mn doses, deliveries significantly behind schedule. AstraZeneca – approved by regulator; roll-out expected imminently. Contract for 23.6mn doses. Sinopharm – continued wrangling over contract costs and delivery schedule; government pushing for 1mn dose delivery asap. COVAX – original agreement for 9mn doses; expected to arrive March/April.	AZ vaccine produced by India's Serum Institute (known locally as Covishield) expected to arrive this week. Under revised timetable, 2mn doses of Sputnik V expected to arrive over second half of February.
Saudi Arabia	Phase 1 of roll-out will prioritize those over 65, and phase 2 those over 50.	Vaccinations reportedly started in Dec. The rollout appears to have slowed after fewer than 2% of the population was vaccinated.	Pfizer-BioNTech – only vaccine officially approved for administration; Sputnik V – government has secured an unknown number of doses.	Infections have spiked in recent weeks, prompting the country to close restaurants, bar gatherings, and ban travel from 20 countries. Some internal travel also stopped.
Mexico	Frontline medical workers first in line followed by the over 60s by age cohort; plan to vaccinate all this sector by end-April. Plan is to vaccinate up to 35% of population by June. Plan likely subject to alteration given slow start and supply difficulties.	Vaccinations started 24 December. Rollout stalled with 915,383 doses so far administered – 0.71% of total population. Approx. 2mn AZ doses expected before end-March, and additional 500,000 Pfizer doses to arrive in second half of February.	AZ – agreement for 77.4mn doses, with 870,000 now delivered. Pfizer – 34mn doses ordered. CanSino – 35mn doses agreed. Sputnik V – agreement for 24mn doses, with first 400,000 doses expected during Feb. Covax – 51.5mn doses agreed with first deliveries expected Feb/March; Sinovac – discussions underway.	Slow start to vaccine roll-out; Pfizer supply difficulties; problems with government website to register for vaccines; and question marks over prioritizing remote communities all continue to mark early stages of vaccination campaign. Target of vaccinating 15mn people by end-April in doubt.
India	30mn frontline health, sanitation and security personnel to be vaccinated first. All over 50s and those younger with co-morbidities will follow. No dates available yet about when the next phase will begin	Vaccine rollout started on 16 Jan. As of 18 Feb, 9.1mn people have been vaccinated – 0.65% of population. However, data about the share of first/second doses not available. Government aims to vaccinate 300mn people by end-Aug. At this slow rate, it would take three years to vaccinate the initial target group.	Two vaccines have received emergency approval: AZ vaccine (known in India as Covishield), and India- produced Covaxin . Four more vaccines – including Russia's Sputnik V – could be available soon. Phase 3 trials of Sputnik V are conducted in India.	High skepticism about Covaxin vaccine – still in phase 3 human trials and data on efficacy yet to be published. Polls show ca. 70% of Indians hesitant about receiving Covid- 19 vaccine. Only about 30% of the medical staff offered free vaccines have actually taken the jab. As economic activity resumes, unaffected population is letting the guard down – sparking fears of a second wave.

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Indonesia	Frontline healthcare workers estimated at 1.3mn will be first, followed by security personnel, then teachers of 17mn; working age 15 – 59 will be vaccinated ahead of the elderly. Vaccines procured by central government and distributed; free, not mandatory.	Second phase of vaccination to start this week, with health workers to be included. As of 16 Feb, 1.66mn (0.61% of population) have been vaccinated. Production of additional doses domestically are also commencing; private sector importation and use being considered	Sinovac – 125mn doses; Novavax – 50mn doses; COVAX initiative – 50mn doses; AZ – 50mn doses	Vaccination rate is very uneven – it averages 40,000 – 50,000 per day as of second week of February; availability of refrigeration units and distribution seem to be among the primary challenges.
Peru	Phase 1 to focus on medical and other frontline emergency personnel, including election staff (given proximity of national elections). Phase 2 to focus on over 60s, those with co- morbidities, and indigenous population. Caretaker government wants 10mn people vaccinated by 28 July when handover to new government is scheduled.	Vaccinations using Sinopharm vaccine started 9 February; 1mn doses have been delivered so far. As of 17 Feb, 109,498 people have been vaccinated – 0.33% of population. Nov. 2020 political crisis interrupted procurement process but caretaker government has accelerated negotiations in recent weeks.	Sinopharm – contract for 38mn doses, 1mn of which have arrived. AZ – agreement for 14mn doses to arrive in Sep. Pfizer-BioNTech – agreement for 20mn doses, 25% of which to arrive by June. Covax – agreement for 13.2mn doses but timing of arrival unclear. Ongoing talks with J&J, Russia's Gamaleya Institute, and CureVac.	Political scandal over early and undeclared inoculation of government officials has led to resignation of health and foreign ministers. Risk of disruption to vaccine rollout and ongoing vaccine negotiations. Logistics of roll- out to remain challenging.
Colombia	Plan is to vaccinate 68% of the population (34mn people) by end- 2021. Medical personnel first in line, to be followed by elderly and clinically vulnerable. Target is to vaccinate 1mn people by mid-March, 6.5mn people by end-April, and 26mn by end-July. Roll-out will be based on network of 3,000 vaccination centers.	Vaccination campaign started on 17 Feb following arrival of first batch of 50,000 Pfizer vaccines on 15 Feb; government has come under fire for slow response start to vaccination campaign.	Pfizer – obtained regulatory approval early Jan; agreement for 10mn doses, of which 1.7mn to arrive by early March; AZ – 10mn doses agreed; delivery to start Feb; J&J – agreement for 9mn doses; Sinovac – agreement for 2.5mn doses. Moderna – agreement for 10mn doses but arrival not expected until mid-2021. COVAX – agreement for 20mn doses.	Dec-Jan government survey says 40% would prefer to wait to see safety/efficacy of vaccine before receiving vaccination themselves. Poor infrastructure in rural areas, could create distribution challenges.
Egypt	Medical staff, elderly and those with chronic conditions will be prioritized, but plan is not fully elaborated.	Vaccinations of medical staff began in late January, but numbers are still very low. The government claims it will receive 5-8 millon doses from COVAX in the second half of February.	COVAX – agreement for 20mn doses of AZ vaccine. Sinopharm – agreement for 40mn doses. Pfizer – contracts reportedly signed for 20mn AZ – agreement for 30mn doses Sputnik V – 25mn have been secured but vaccine still under evaluation.	The government claims infection rates are low and falling; skeptics say rates are low because testing is very limited.
Kenya	Details still unclear. Kenya is seeking 24mn doses to vaccinate about 20% of population in 2021. Priority to be given to frontline medical workers, essential workers (police, teachers, students), people with comorbidities and those aged 50+.	Not yet started.	Kenya seems heavily reliant on COVAX . To date, Kenya has mainly ordered AZ vaccines (first arrivals expected mid- Feb). Negotiations also reported with Pfizer and Sinopharm . Additional allocations from African Union's African Vaccine Acquisition Task Team.	Logistical and infrastructure challenges. Transparency and corruption concerns. Possible politicization ahead of mid-year constitutional referendum.

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South Korea	First doses will be distributed to medical workers and elderly. Government has signed preapproval agreements for enough doses to vaccinate entire population.	Vaccinations of frontline workers and vulnerable populations will begin on 26 February. AstraZeneca vaccine will be the first approved, but government has decided that it will not be distributed to anyone 65 or older due to insufficient data. Delays in delivery of vaccines could mean a slower pace in the first quarter.	Government was slow to conclude purchasing agreements, believing it could wait due to low case numbers. AstraZeneca: 20mn doses; Pfizer-BioNTech: 20mn doses; Moderna: 40mn doses; Janssen: 6mn doses; COVAX: 20mn doses.	After cases surged in late 2020, government rushed to conclude purchasing agreements. South Korea is expected to receive its first shipment – enough doses for 60,000 people – from Pfizer in Feb.
Malaysia	Frontline medical workers, police and army officials will be prioritized in vaccine rollout.	Pfizer-BioNtech vaccines expected to be administered starting late February or early March.	AZ – 6.4mn doses via COVAX facility and another 6.4mn contracted directly; Pfizer- BioNTech – 25mn doses secured. Final negotiations with China's Sinovac for 14mn doses, CanSino Biologics Inc. for 3.5mn, and Russia's Sputnik V for 6.4mn.	First batch of Pfizer vaccines expected end February. Roll- out could be slowed by logistics at rural level and political weakness at top.
Nigeria	Vaccination targets: 40% of population in 2021, 70% by end-2022. Healthcare personnel; people over 50; people with underlying health conditions to be prioritized. Most heavily affected states will be prioritized in allocation of doses.	Roll-out is supposed to start in Q1/2021.	20% of vaccines supposed to be supplied through the COVAX initiative. Government expects total of 58mn vaccine doses from COVAX (16mn by end-Feb) and the African Vaccine Acquisition Task Team (AVATT, 42mn tbc). Government also expressed interest in procuring Sputnik V and/or Sinovac/Sinopharm vaccines.	Vaccination roll-out could be hampered by mistrust of state institutions, particularly across majority Muslim north. Lack of cooling facilities and poor road networks will pose major challenges.
Pakistan	Those above 65 and frontline workers being vaccinated first. About 40,000 people have got the jabs so far in the program that started on 2 February. Those above 65 have to register first.	Half a million doses of China's Sinopharm arrived on 1 Feb. AZ 's vaccine could be rolled out by March.	Emergency use permission given to AZ , Sinopharm and CanSino . Both Chinese vaccines currently undergoing clinical trials. Four more vaccines in the pipeline.	Given low testing capacity, the pandemic's scale is difficult to assess. Fatalities continue to rise. The government wants to permit over the counter import of the vaccine, but is grappling with the issue of pricing.
Philippines	Vaccine roll-out will prioritize healthcare workers; workers in education, social welfare agencies; law enforcement and military personnel; the poor; senior citizens; other vulnerable population.	Vaccinations could start by March using Sinovac for around 600,000 doses. Some Pfizer may arrive in March or April. Bulk of vaccinations will be using AstraZeneca and Sinovac, but only in the second half.	Sinovac will donate 600,000 vaccines in late February. 2.6mn doses of AZ procured for Q2 delivery; Pfizer-BioNTech in Q1/2021. Local governments are procuring on their own. Other vaccines such as Moderna and Novavax are being negotiated and could be available by June or July.	About 600,000 doses of donated Sinovac expected in February. Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines expected at the end of March. Vaccine skepticism remains high, especially for Sinovac.
South Africa	Ambitious plans to vaccinate 40mn South Africans in 2021. Phase 1: ca. 1.2mn frontline health workers; Phase 2: ca. 16mn essential workers, people in institutions (care homes), people above 60, people with comorbidities; Phase 3: ca. 22.5mn remaining adult population.	Rollout delayed as AZ vaccine suspended over scientific findings suggesting limited efficacy against variant 501Y.V2. J&J vaccine to be rolled out instead.	Procurement lagging but 40- 50mn doses in pipeline. Covax – 12mn vaccine doses (2mn in Mar) AZ – 1.5mn (Feb), use suspended for now J&J – 9mn (first 500,000 doses expected in Feb-Mar) Pfizer – 20mn (starting Q2) African Vaccine Acquisition Task Team - ca. 12mn	Vaccine procurement. Vaccine efficacy amid strain 501Y.V2. Procurement centralized but private sector participation will be essential for rollout. Opinion polls suggests at most two-thirds willing to get vaccinated.



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Taiwan	First phase (1mn people): Health care personnel, workers essential for "normal functions of society;" nursing home staff; military; social welfare workers .	Vaccinations expected to begin in March.	10mn doses ordered directly from AstraZeneca and a further 5mn AstraZeneca doses expected through COVAX , but delivery dates are unclear.	Health officials have expressed skepticism about Chinese- made vaccines and will require quarantine for those returning to Taiwan from the mainland, even if they have been vaccinated.
Thailand	Vaccine rollout strategy still being formulated but elderly people, frontline healthcare and social workers, and people with higher-risk health profiles will likely receive priority.	Sinovac and AstraZeneca vaccinations expected to start on 14 Feb., depending on arrival.	Sinovac – 2mn AstraZeneca – 61mn (imported and local joint venture)	Slow procurement because of preference for domestic manufacturing. Opposition is criticizing selection of local manufacturer, which has links to the monarchy.

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