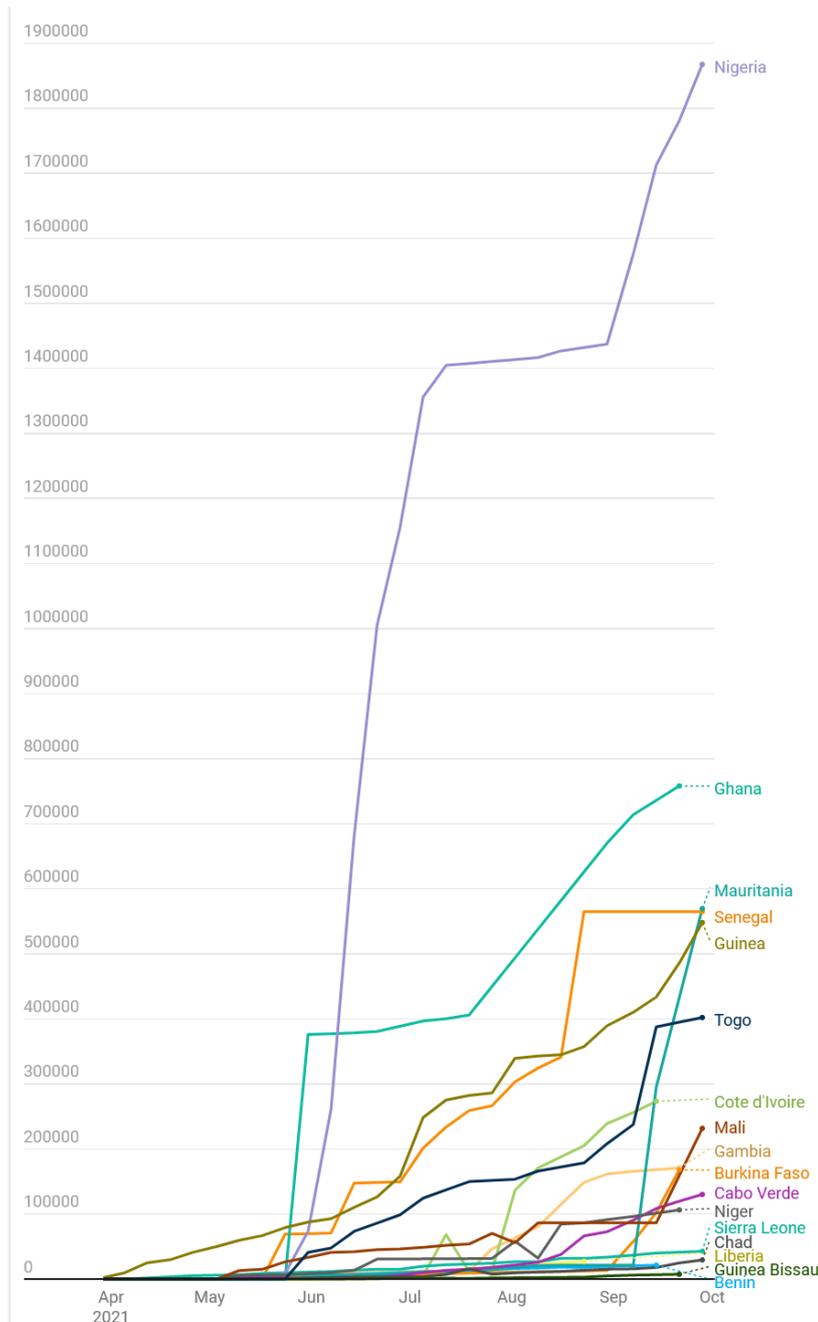


COVID-19: THE CURRENT STATE OF VACCINATIONS IN WEST AFRICA

Progress in terms of people fully vaccinated between March and September 2021



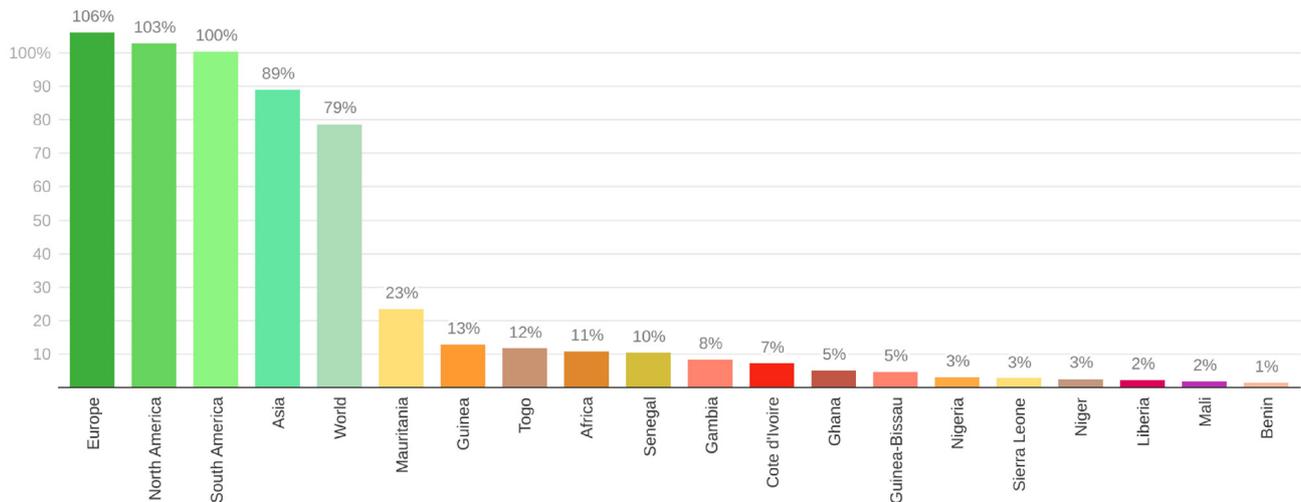
Source: Johns Hopkins University & Medicine (2021).
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Within the framework of the **COVAX Facility**¹, the Advance Market Commitment (AMC) mechanism was created to provide middle- and low-income countries with 1.3 billion doses by the end of 2021. One year later, the large discrepancy in vaccination rates between wealthy states and middle- and low-income countries manifests the difficulties in meeting these objectives.

The challenges to operationalising the AMC became evident early on in the pandemic. As infections rose, the world's richest countries bought up and used most of the available vaccine doses. These bilateral procurement contracts bypassed the COVAX mechanism and inhibited a multilaterally co-ordinated rollout. Additionally, the biggest contributor to COVAX, the Serum Institute of India (SII), experienced several setbacks in delivering the one billion Covishield doses it had committed to produce for the AMC. After a fire broke out in facilities in January², India experienced a severe Covid-19 outbreak in March, which prompted an export ban on Indian vaccines by the government. Despite these constraints, SII was by far the biggest supplier to West African countries in the first months, delivering more than 7.5 million doses until mid-June. Since then, the delivery of vaccines by other countries through COVAX has increased. In West Africa, the United States, the United Kingdom and France have been the most prominent donors since the G7 announced³ it was increasing donations to poorer nations.

1 <https://www.gavi.org/fr/facilite-covax>
2 <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-57135368>
3 <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-57461640>

Total administered doses per 100 people: Comparison between West African countries and the rest of



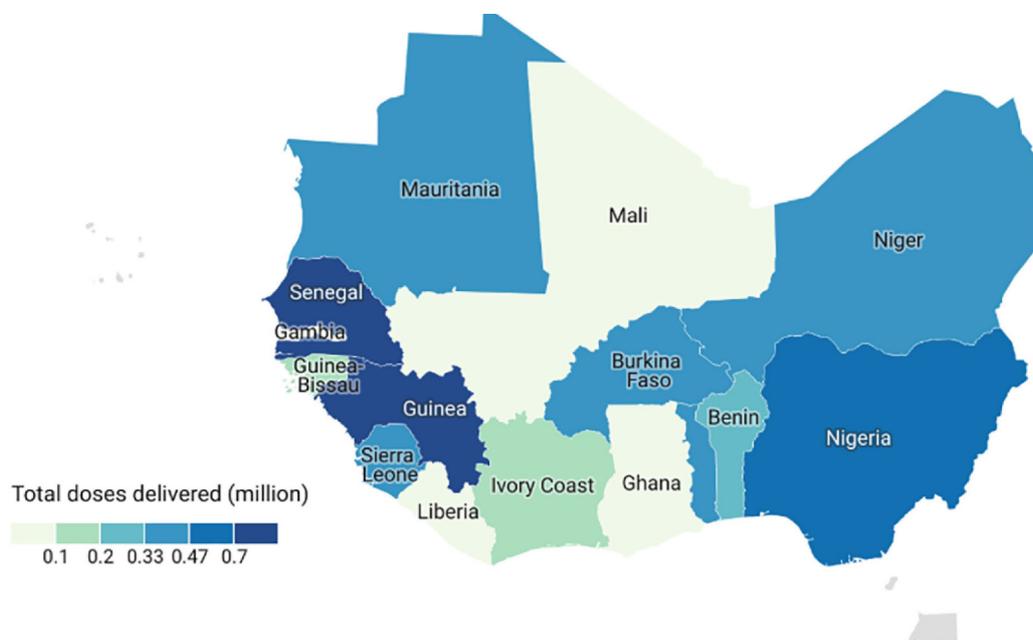
Note: Updated on 15 September 2021

Source: Mathieu, E., H. Ritchie and E. Ortiz-Ospina (2021), A global database of COVID-19 vaccinations, Nature Human Behaviour.

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To diversify their vaccine procurement, African countries have also engaged in other, mainly bilateral partnerships. In West Africa, bilateral donations accounted for a little less than 6 out of almost 23 million delivered doses in September. China as one of the main bilateral donors has supplied 44 African countries with 61 million out of 91 million pledged doses⁴. Of these, 11 million were donations and around 4.5 million were allocated to West African countries. Russia's ambitious commitments to supply African countries with vaccines and financial support, failed to materialise and by the end of August, only 60 000 of Russia's Sputnik V vaccines had been delivered to Guinea, which subsequently cancelled its contract. Finally, the African Union created **the African Vaccine Acquisition Trust (AVAT)**⁵ to support vaccine campaigns on the continent. By September, it had purchased and delivered 800 000 doses to West African countries.

Chinese vaccines delivered to West



Note: Only includes bilaterally allocated doses

Source: Bridge Beijing, "Chinese Vaccines in Africa."

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Both bi- and multilateral vaccine rollouts have so far taken place in an ad-hoc manner and have lacked sufficient support strategies to address issues of poor transport and health infrastructure, as well as insufficient monitoring and tracing capacities. In addition to reinforced vaccine delivery, these structural challenges must be addressed to prevent further spread of the virus and the development of new Covid-19 variants.

⁴ <https://bridgebeijing.com/our-publications/our-publications-1/china-covid-19-vaccines-tracker/>

⁵ <https://www.unicef.org/supply/african-unions-african-vaccine-acquisition-trust-avat-initiative>