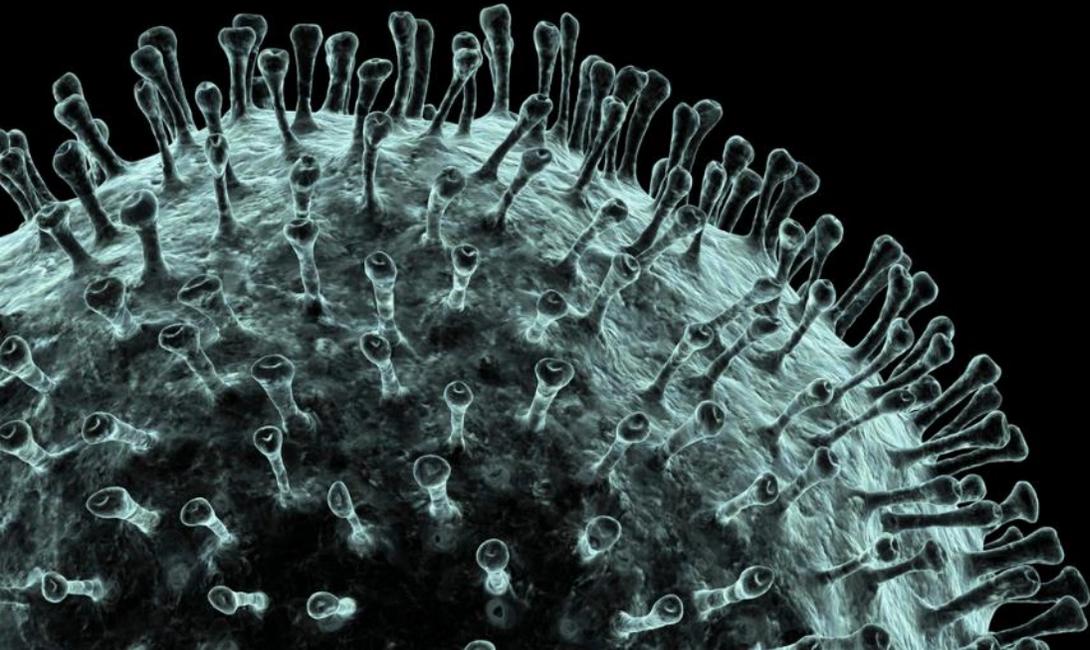


COVID-19 Conversations



Salim Abdool Karim

Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in
South Africa (CAPRISA)
Columbia University



COVID19Conversations.org

[#COVID19Conversations](https://twitter.com/COVID19Conversations)





Covid-19 & Vaccine Inequity in Africa

NAM-APHA Webinar

A Tale of Two Pandemics: COVID-19 & Global Vaccine Equity, 23 June 2021

Salim S. Abdool Karim, FRS

Director: CAPRISA

CAPRISA Professor of Global Health, Columbia University

Adjunct Professor in Immunology and Infectious Diseases, Harvard University

Adjunct Professor of Medicine: Cornell University

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research): University of KwaZulu-Natal

Associate: Ragon Institute of MGH, MIT and Harvard University

Covid-19 in Africa

- **5.1 million** cumulative cases (2.9% of global cases - up to 21 June 2021)
- **136,030** deaths (CFR: 2.7%; ~3.5% of global deaths in 15% of world's population)

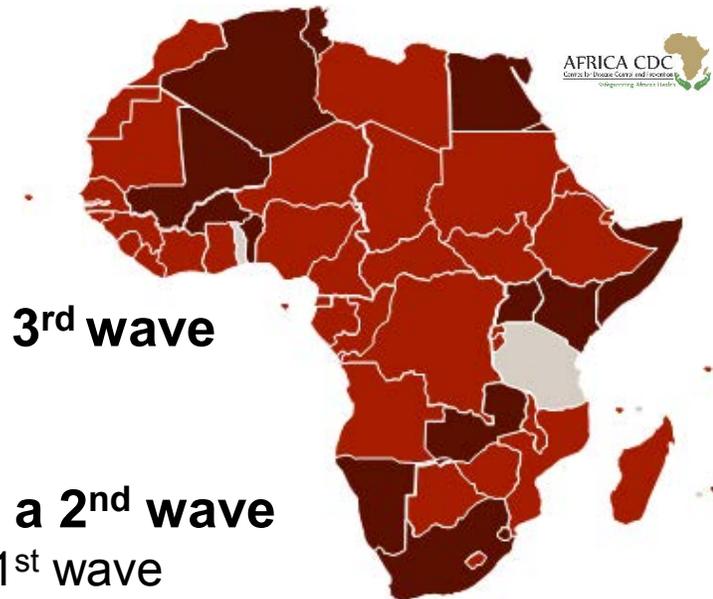
The New York Times June 22, 2021

Covid Surge in Africa Raises Fears of a Calamity Like India's

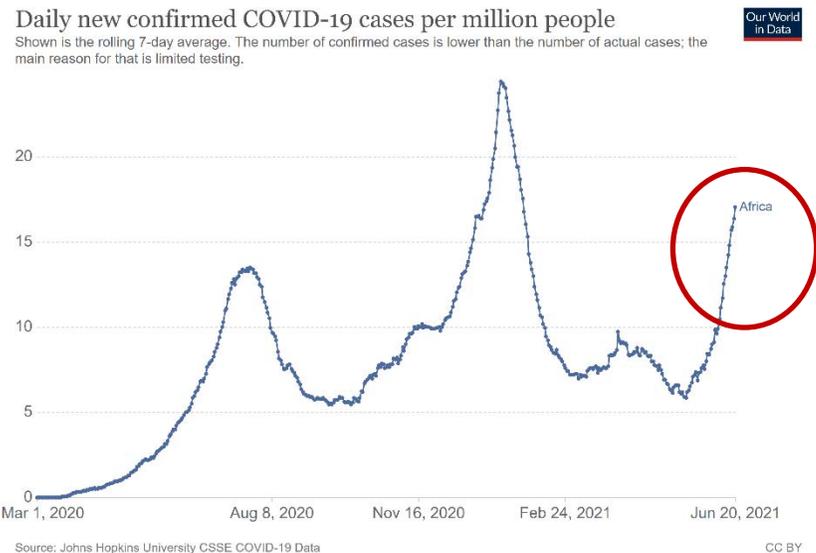
The pandemic is worsening in Africa as more contagious variants spread, vaccinations lag and hospitals in some places are pushed beyond their limits.

Key: Country reporting COVID-19 cases

- No Report / Only 1 wave
- 2 waves
- 3 waves



Daily new confirmed Covid-19 cases per million people



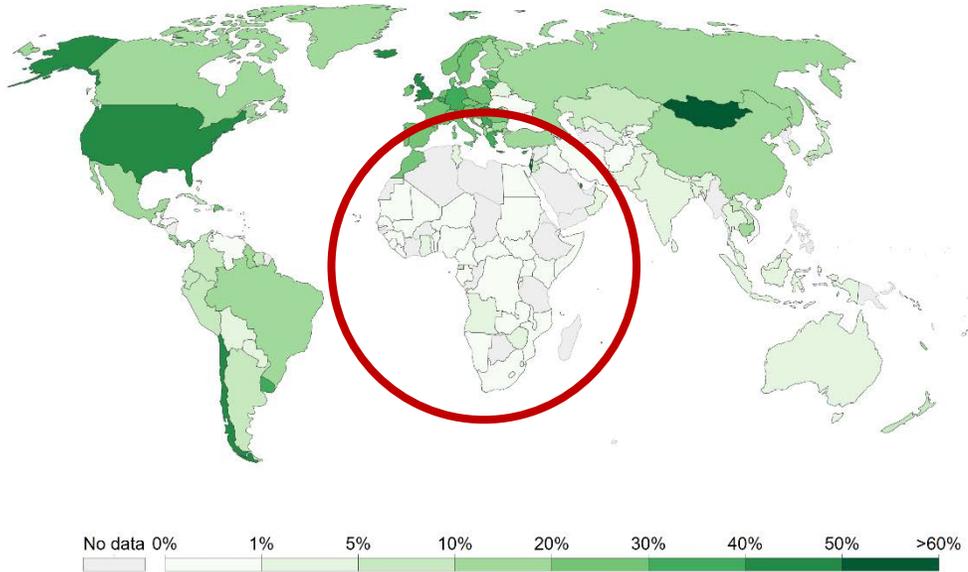
- **14 (25%) countries in a 3rd wave**
 - 64% more severe
- **53 (96%) countries had a 2nd wave**
 - 74% more severe than 1st wave

Vaccine coverage: Africa's 10-fold ↓ access to doses

Share of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19

Share of the total population that have received all doses prescribed by the vaccination protocol. This data is only available for countries which report the breakdown of doses administered by first and second doses.

Our World
in Data



Source: Official data collated by Our World in Data

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- **Total vaccinations:**

- World: **2.6 billion**
- Africa: **43 million** (1.6% of all vaccinations)

- **10-fold difference in vaccine access**

- World: **21.8** per 100 people
- Africa: **2.4** per 100 people

- It is unconscionable that wealthy countries are vaccinating children (low risk) when Africa has not yet completed HCW vaccinations



“I understand why some countries want to vaccinate their children and adolescents, but right now I urge them to reconsider and to instead donate vaccines to Covax,”warned that the vast global gap in vaccine access is not only a “catastrophic moral failure” but a threat to public health that could extend the pandemic by giving the virus new places to spread and mutate.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, 15 May 2021

Why Africa suffers vaccine inequity:

1. Lack of local manufacture of vaccines



Current African manufacturers
of human vaccines

The
Economist

Home brewing

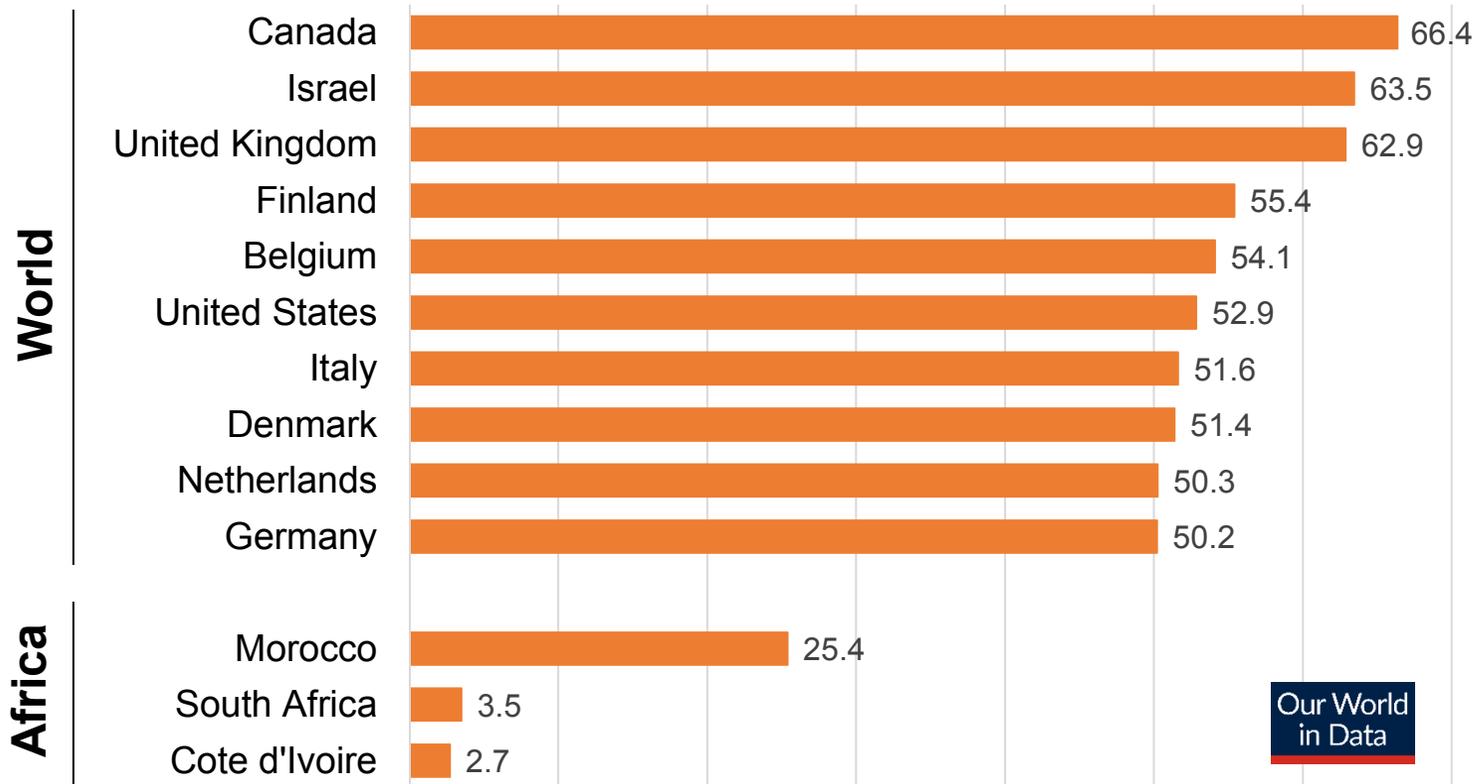
Covid-19 has exposed Africa's dependence
on vaccines from abroad

- **Only 1% of all the continent's vaccines are made in Africa**
- **No Covid-19 vaccines are being manufactured in Africa**
- **Africa depended on COVAX -
joined back of the queue for doses**

Why Africa suffers vaccine inequity:

2. Lack of timely access to doses

Countries with highest % population vaccinated
(only countries with populations >5 million)



Our World
in Data

Medscape

US Vaccine Surplus Grows by the Day as Expiration Dates Loom

Lindsay Whitehurst and Leah Willingham, Associated Press
June 14, 2021

In Tennessee and North Carolina, demand for the COVID-19 vaccine has slowed down so much that they have given millions of doses back to the federal government, even though less than half of their total populations are vaccinated.



Oklahoma has not asked for new doses from the government for more than a month, spurning its 200,000-a-week allotment. Around the country, states

Why Africa suffers vaccine inequity:

3. Variants have made vaccine choices difficult

Clinical trials in:

Substantial reduction in vaccine efficacy

Minimal reduction in vaccine efficacy

AstraZeneca 

NOVAVAX

Johnson & Johnson

Pfizer

USA / UK

Pre-existing variants

70% (UK)

89%-90% (UK, US)

72% (USA)

91-95% (USA)



South Africa

Beta variant (n)

10%

(2,026)

43%

(2,684)

64%

(6,576)

100%

(800)

Qatar real world efficacy = 75%

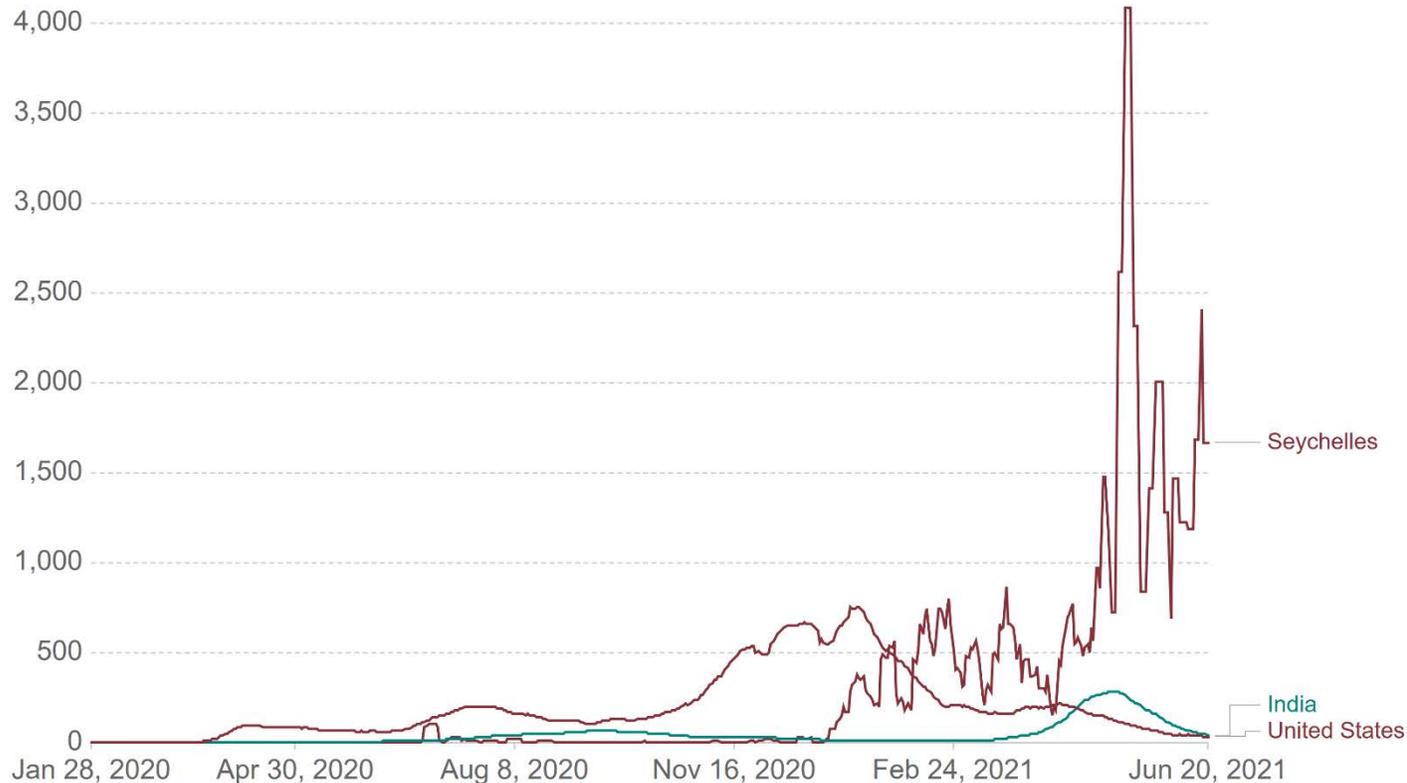
No clinical efficacy data on Beta variant available for Moderna, Sinovac, Sinopharm and Gamaleya
Source: *Abdool Karim SS, et al. NEJM; 2021:10.1056/NEJMc2100362*

Africa's highest vaccinated is the Seychelles, but cases increasing despite high vaccination

Daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases per million people

Shown is the rolling 7-day average. The number of confirmed cases is lower than the number of actual cases; the main reason for that is limited testing.

Our World
in Data



Source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE COVID-19 Data

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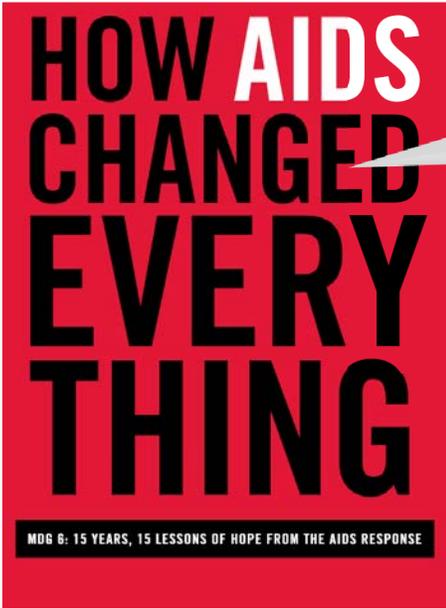
- **Population: 98,340**
- **Almost 100% of adults >18 years (68.2% of population) fully vaccinated**
 - AstraZeneca (all ages)
 - Sinopharm (18-60 years)
 - Sputnik V (only 1,000 doses)
- **80% of infections in current wave are among locals**
- **Beta variant predominant**

Overcoming the challenges: some thoughts....

1. Partnership for African Vaccine Manufacturing (**PAVM**) – an African CDC initiative on 13 April 2021
2. African Vaccine Acquisition Task Team (**AVATT**) secured 0.8 billion (mostly J&J – delayed) of 1.5 billion with Afrexim Bank & World Bank loans
3. **No to vaccine diplomacy** – piecemeal efforts by some to assist poor countries - political imperatives over-riding public health imperatives
4. Need to **get Covax back on track** doing what it was originally intended to do – foster vaccine equity
5. Low African vaccination coverage is not merely an African problem (leading to ↑ variants) but a **global problem**, requiring a global solution



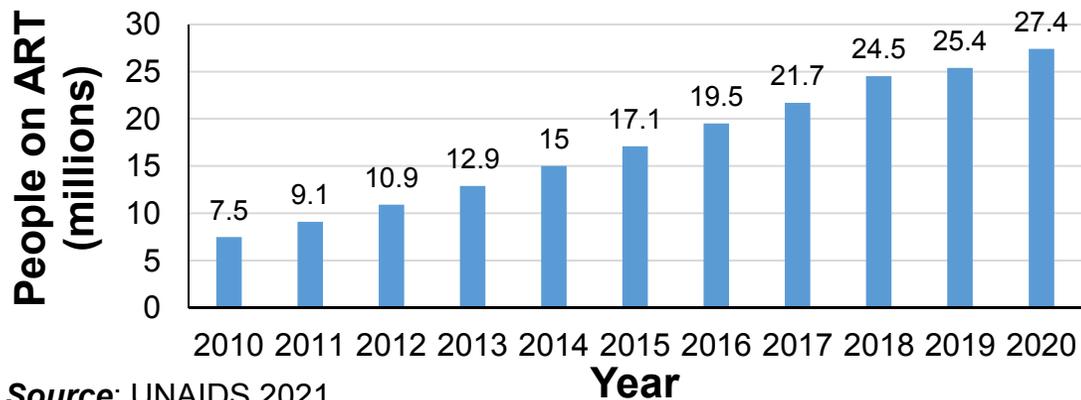
Importance of global solidarity: from HIV → Covid-19



“The AIDS movement demonstrates that with a shared vision, shared responsibility and through global solidarity and leadership of people living with HIV, affected communities and individual action, we can change the course of history.”
– UNAIDS 2015

- **Global solidarity** – essential for access to life-saving medication, e.g. Global Fund, UNITAID, PEPFAR

Number of people receiving antiretroviral therapy, 2003–2020



Source: UNAIDS 2021



The New York Times

Pope Francis: A Crisis Reveals What Is in Our Hearts

To come out of this pandemic better than we went in, we must let ourselves be touched by others' pain.



“The pandemic has exposed the paradox that while we are more connected, we are also more divided....

“To come out of this crisis better, we have to recover the knowledge that as a people we have a shared destination. The pandemic has reminded us that no one is saved alone. What ties us to one another is what we commonly call solidarity. Solidarity is more than acts of generosity, important as they are; it is the call to embrace the reality that we are bound by bonds of reciprocity.”

- *Pope Francis, head of the Catholic Church*