

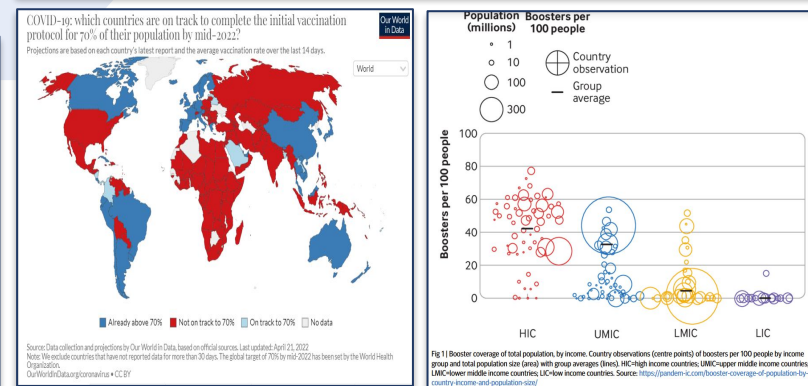
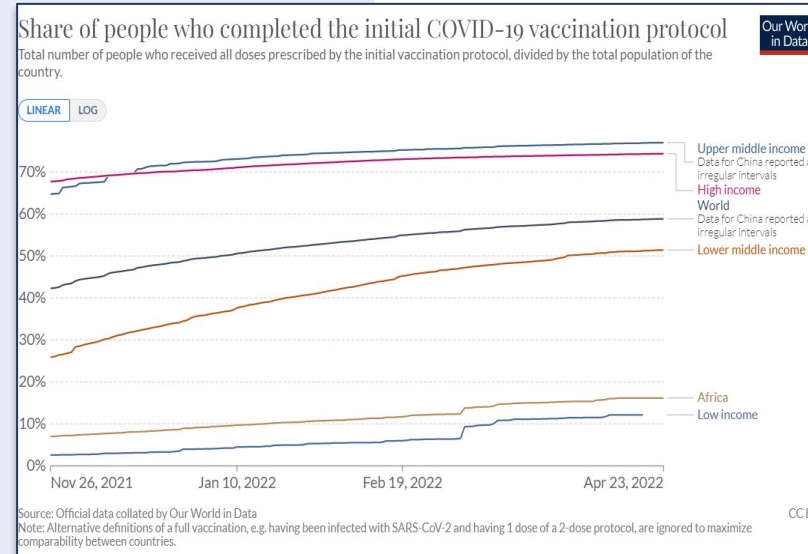
A National Campaign for Global Equity in SARS-CoV-2 Vaccination: Lessons for Pandemic Preparedness

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Background

- Vaccination remains the single most effective intervention for protection against severe disease and death due to SARS-CoV-2 infection.
- Only 7% of people in low income countries have been fully vaccinated, compared with 73% in high income countries.**
- Fewer than 1% of people in lower income countries have received a booster.**
- The majority of countries world-wide will not meet the WHO target to achieve 70% population vaccination by mid-2022**
- In many low income countries, healthcare workers have not yet been vaccinated
- Here we report on our experience within a national campaign for equitable global vaccination.



Methods

- Doctors for Vaccine Equity (DVE) group was formed in September 2021 under the umbrella of the People's Vaccine Alliance.
- We worked in partnership with other civil society groups and academics in diverse fields such as business, law, human rights advocacy and global health professionals.
- We launched an online campaign via our website and social media to garner support from medical communities across Ireland

Results

Outcome 1: raising awareness in the medical community

- We launched an online platform with our mission statement - 358 individuals and multiple organisations/medical societies signed their support.
- We organised an inter-disciplinary webinar including representatives from medical, scientific, population data, law and business fields.

Outcome 2: raising public awareness

- We published opinion pieces and letters in national press
- We provided interviews for national media including radio & television

Outcome 3: political engagement

- We garnered cross party support for our overall aims which contributed to the passing of a motion in the Seanad (Dec 2021)
- We provided evidence at an Oireachtas Select Committee hearing for the Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment (May 2022)

Conclusions

Doctor-led advocacy is an effective tool in influencing the national debate up to policy level. Working across disciplines enabled more effective advocacy and provided key learning points for areas such as pandemic preparedness. Future work in this area should consider:

- Implementation of strategies that overcome systemic barriers to technology sharing
- Proactive inclusion of global health perspectives in national policy making structures



References: 1) [Our World in Data](https://ourworldindata.org/covid-vaccines), 2) Yamey G, Garcia P, Hassan F, Mao W, McDade K K, Pai M et al. It is not too late to achieve global covid-19 vaccine equity *BMJ* 2022, 3) WHO: <https://www.who.int/campaigns/vaccine-equity>.

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