COVAX has indicated that it has sufficient levels of vaccine supplies to meet COVID-19 vaccine demand. This is reflected in its donations having levelled off, which has also been the case for bilateral donations, due to dwindling demand for COVID-19 vaccines from lower middle-income countries (LMIC) and low-income countries (LIC).

The number of produced COVID-19 vaccines has consistently outpaced the number of vaccines administered, demonstrating that production is not the bottleneck. Vaccination rates have dropped since November 2021, reducing vaccine demand. As a result, COVID-19 vaccine production is levelling off. Currently 2.1 billion excess COVID-19 vaccines are available, and – in compliance with shelf-life expiry – at risk of being wasted and destroyed. Low-income countries still face several challenges to vaccinations: healthcare absorptive capacities, vaccine roll-out problems, and low levels of vaccine acceptance.

Vaccine donations and deliveries are levelling off because receiving countries are increasingly requesting to postpone or cancel vaccine deliveries.

COVID-19 vaccine postponements, cancellations and waste

- 01 Dec 2021 South African health officials turn away Pfizer/BioNTech and J&J vaccine shipments (NY times)
- 07 Dec 2021 1 million COVID-19 vaccine doses expired in Nigeria (Reuters)
- 24 Dec 2021 Namibia destroys 150,000 vaccines (CBC)
- 13 Jan 2022 UNICEF shows that 681 million vaccines are unused in 90 poorer nations around the world (Reuters)
- 22 Feb 2022 African CDC asks world to pause COVID-19 vaccine donations (Politico)
- 26 Apr 2022 Serum Institute of India (SII) stops production of AZ vaccine (Brussels Times)
- 27 Apr 2022 Open and closed vial COVID-19 vaccine wastage rates reached 30% in some countries (BMJ Global Health, 2022)
- 05 May 2022 Aspen (S. Africa) to reduce COVID vaccine production capacity by 50% (Reuters)
- 22 May 2022 2.1 billion COVID-19 unused vaccines are at risk of being wasted and destroyed (Airfinity)
INDUSTRY DRIVES R&D AND COVID-19 RESEARCH CONTINUES APACÉ, MAKING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROTECTION VITAL

A COVID-19 TRIPS WAIVER UNDERMINES GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY, DAMAGING R&D FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE PANDEMICS, AND HURTING INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS AND GROWTH IN THE EU, UK, US AND KEY PARTNERS

Share of patent applications for (later) COVID-19 use at EPO* (2015-2020)

Impact of 3-year COVID-19 waiver on pharmaceutical industry R&D

A waiver would destabilise voluntary licencing agreements

European SMEs would be impacted by a TRIPS waiver

THREE PRIORITIES TO URGENTLY INCREASE ACCESS TO COVID-19 VACCINES

87% of all COVID-19 vaccine focused patent applications stem from the US and Europe. Weakening IP undermines the legal basis for the 372 voluntary licensing agreements for COVID-19 vaccines and 155 agreements for therapeutics. Pharmaceutical investments could go down by €43 bn. 94% of this decrease will be borne by HIC and UMIC, like the EU and US.

**Source:** EPO (2021)