The UAE is playing a critical role to facilitate and accelerate the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to developing countries, and help combat the coronavirus pandemic. With its logistics networks, storage capacity, and central geographic location, the UAE is well-positioned to help ensure countries around the world have equitable access to vaccines against COVID-19.

Emirates SkyCargo, Etihad Cargo, and DP World are working with the United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) to support its Humanitarian Airfreight Initiative and accelerate the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in low and lower-middle-income countries.

The initiative brings together UAE and other global carriers that cover routes to more than 100 countries in support of the WHO’s COVAX Facility – a global effort aimed at equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines. COVAX aims to ship 2 billion doses to developing countries in 2021.

HE Reem Al Hashimy joined world leaders for Global Citizen’s VAX Live in May 2021 and affirmed the UAE’s commitment to global vaccine distribution, including a multilateral pledge to distribute 25 million COVID-19 doses in support of COVAX.
Dubai Vaccines Logistics Alliance

- The Dubai Vaccines Logistics Alliance combines the expertise and global reach of Emirates Airline with DP World’s worldwide network of ports and logistics operations, along with the infrastructure of Dubai Airports and International Humanitarian City (IHC) to distribute vaccines worldwide.
- The alliance will focus in particular on emerging markets, where populations have been hard hit by the pandemic and pharmaceutical transport and logistics are challenging.
- As of late April 2021, Emirates SkyCargo had transported almost 60 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to more than 50 destinations. One out of every 20 vaccine doses administered around the world has transited through Dubai and flown on an Emirates aircraft.

Abu Dhabi Hope Consortium

- The Department of Health - Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi Ports, Etihad, and other partners formed the Hope Consortium, a COVID-19 vaccine storage and delivery hub based in Abu Dhabi.
- The public-private partnership represents a complete supply chain solution providing transport, storage, handling, sourcing, and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines throughout the world.
- The Hope Consortium is working with international partners, including US companies UPS and FedEx Express, to expand the distribution range of the vaccine. The Consortium aims to deliver 18 billion doses in 2021.

Testimonials

Mounir Bouazar, Global Logistics Lead on COVID-19 Vaccines, UNICEF
“We utilized the potential of our partners under the UNICEF Humanitarian Airfreight Initiative and identified the target airline to transport this shipment. Within 15 minutes, Emirates managed to divert the flight that was supposed to go from Shanghai to Dubai, for instance, to make a technical stop in Mumbai to pick up the vaccines and then to Dubai, from where syringes and related-devices were loaded and sent to Ghana.”

Mark Suzman, CEO, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
“The most important priority is to stop the loss of life and the economic scarring as soon as possible. And that means working together to deliver COVID-19 vaccines to all countries, not just the richest ones. The global community has never done anything like this before. It will be a test of our humanity and our ingenuity. But with leadership from countries like the UAE, we can succeed.”

For more information about the UAE’s global vaccine distribution, visit https://www.uae-embassy.org/