

'Estar Preparados' programme initiative

107 Spanish insurers donate 4 million euros to UNICEF Spain to vaccinate 2 million people against COVID-19

- **The contribution promotes equitable vaccine distribution throughout the world through the COVAX mechanism**
- **The donation will fund information campaigns and training for medical teams and will strengthen health systems in vulnerable countries**

10/01/2022 The insurance sector has donated over 4 million euros to UNICEF Spain to fund COVID-19 vaccinations for more than 2 million people in vulnerable countries with fewer resources. The insurance industry has made this contribution, coordinated by UNESPA, to help distribute coronavirus vaccines equitably throughout the world. Vaccine distribution will be channelled through the COVAX mechanism.

The insurance industry's contribution to UNICEF España will help carry vaccines and other essential supplies (like syringes) to lower-income and middle lower-income countries and territories in humanitarian crises. The donation will enable UNICEF to maintain its support for vaccination processes in needy places through information and awareness campaigns, through training for medical teams and by strengthening national local health systems, making the cold chain and vial distribution secure.

The insurance industry's contribution is part of [*Estar Preparados \(para estar más seguros\)*](#) —Being prepared (to be safer), in Spanish—, the donation programme 107 insurers rolled out in June 2020 to palliate the effects of the health crisis. The *Estar Preparados* initiative supports social projects and scientific research projects. The COVAX mechanism brings both these lines of work together into one, since it is getting vaccines (a fundamental tool for stopping coronavirus) to people who have fewer resources.

UNICEF is the world's biggest vaccine supplier. As such, it is the only organisation that has the experience, the structure and the capacity to take on the historic challenge of guaranteeing universal access to COVID-19 vaccines, regardless of a country's income. So far 960 million COVID-19 vaccines have been delivered in over 144 countries through the COVAX mechanism. The objective is to reach 70% of the world's population during 2022.

The COVAX mechanism is being led jointly by Gavi (the Vaccine Alliance), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), with UNICEF and PAHO as key allies for implementation, along with the World Bank, manufacturers, civil society organisations and others.

In the words of the president of UNESPA, Pilar González de Frutos, 'vaccination is the most effective instrument we have right now for fighting the virus. The inoculation process has made great strides in the more-advanced economies, but there's still a lot to do in the countries with fewer resources.

The pandemic is a worldwide challenge, and as such it demands a response from us all. That's why we feel it's fundamental to contribute to the purchase and distribution of vaccines in the less-favoured territories of the planet. UNICEF is highly experienced at doing just that. We in the Spanish insurance industry hope that this contribution will encourage others to do likewise. Only through widespread vaccination can we eradicate this pandemic.'

The chairman of UNICEF Spain, Gustavo Suárez Pertierra, adds, 'To leave the pandemic definitively behind us, we must keep distributing safe, effective vaccines quickly and fairly to every corner of the world, guaranteeing that jabs are also reaching people in the countries that have fewer resources. We are grateful for the great commitment shown by the 107 insurance companies that, through UNESPA, have joined UNICEF's historic challenge to vaccinate the world. An unprecedented challenge that points the way toward a better future for the boys, girls, youths and families of the entire world. Because nobody will be safe until we are all safe.'

Note to the editor:

About Estar Preparados | www.estarpreparados.com

Estar Preparados (Being Prepared, in Spanish) is an anti-COVID-19 donation programme rolled out by 107 insurers. This initiative has a budget of 28 million euros, which will be used to promote scientific research, fund social projects that benefit vulnerable collectives and make Spanish society more aware of the measures that can be taken to deal with the current situation and avert similar situations in future. The initiatives financed by the fund are listed on the *Estar Preparados* website.

About UNESPA | www.unespa.es | @UNESPA

UNESPA is the Spanish insurance business association. Its members include nearly 200 insurers and reinsurers who cover close to 96% of the insurance business done on the Spanish market. Since 1977 UNESPA has represented its members' interests before all kinds of national and international organisations and institutions.

About UNICEF | www.unicef.es | @unicef_es

UNICEF works in some of the toughest places to reach the world's most disadvantaged boys and girls. In 190 countries and territories, we are working for every child, everywhere, every day, to build a better world for all.