A person wearing a blue protective suit, mask, and gloves is holding a syringe and a small vial of COVID-19 vaccine. The vial has a label that reads "COMIRNATY", "sterile concentrate", "COVID-19 mRNA", "5 doses after", "Discard", and "date/time:". The background is blurred, showing other people in similar attire.

How did Ecuador manage to go from being a COVID-19 hotspot to a leader in vaccination?

Technical workshop on COVID-19 vaccines R&D, Manufacturing and Distribution: Getting Vaccines into Arms

February 11, 2022

Four Ingredients/Messages



01

Leadership and Foresight

at the highest level to launch an ambitious vaccination campaign, guarantee the availability of vaccines, and to strengthen logistical and deployment capacity



02

A Whole-of-Society Approach

to mobilize multiple government institutions, regional and local governments, the private sector, and the population at large to deploy the largest vaccination campaign in history



03

Innovation and Transparency

to address complex technical challenges, overcome data gaps, vaccinate difficult-to-reach populations, and build trust with citizens



04

Collaboration and Trust

with international institutions, vaccine manufacturers, and other stakeholders to overcome financing and technical barriers



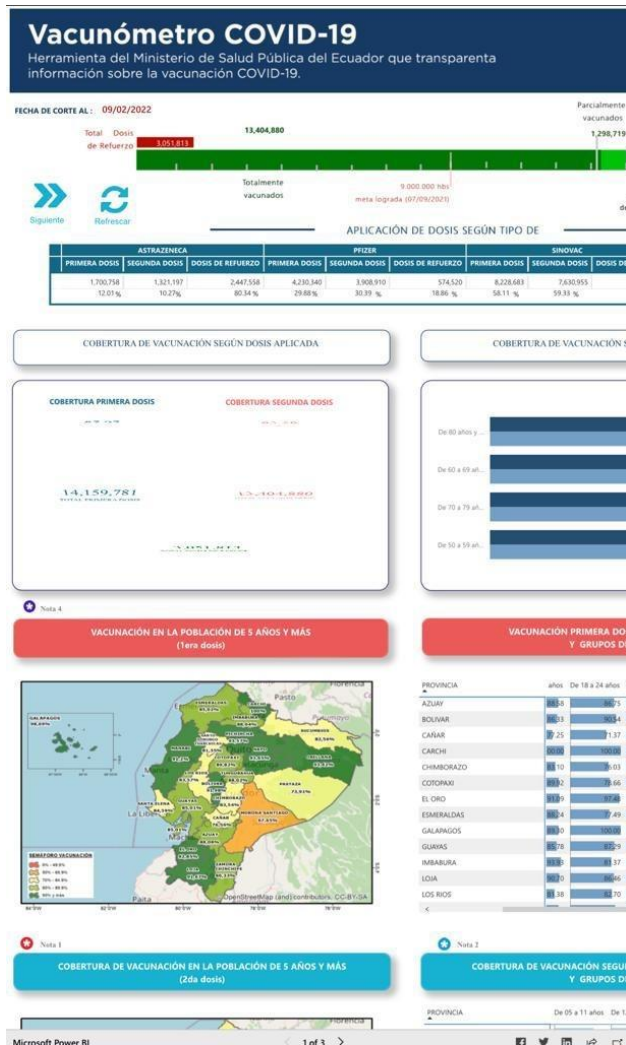
- Making **health a priority**, universal access to vaccines (with prioritization) since the beginning; vaccine made **mandatory** for most citizens as of December 23, 2021
- Ambitious **Plan 9-100** launched by President Lasso in May 2021 to vaccinate 9 million people (50% of the population) within 100 days in office – ***achieved in 93 days!***
- **Foresight and vaccine diplomacy** to ensure access to vaccines: COVAX agreement signed in August 2020, bilateral purchase agreements with AstraZeneca and Pfizer signed in October and December, respectively (total of 33 million doses)
- Investments despite adverse fiscal conditions, recognition that **vaccination is the most effective policy tool** for safe economic reactivation

|| A Whole-of-Society Approach

02

- **Coordination** between public institutions, police and military institutions, regional governments, universities and international organizations
- **Technical leadership** by the Ministry of Public Health for risk communication, case detection and response, overcoming vaccine hesitancy, addressing adverse events
- Partnership with the **private sector** to address logistical challenges and increase the number of vaccination centers (also provided small gifts as incentives to vaccinate!)
- **Multi-pronged communication strategy** to vaccinate hard-to-reach populations, such as indigenous groups and Venezuelan migrants; deployment of 300 rapid response teams for a **door-to-door** approach





- In the absence of a social registry, use of **electoral data** to start the vaccination process equitably, while investing in building the database
- Partnerships with the private sector to deploy **cold-storage trucks**, while ramping up cold-chain capacity
- Frequent briefings to the population and publicly available **"Vacunómetro"** with daily updates to improve transparency and public's trust in government

- **Engagement** of a large set of stakeholders from the onset of the pandemic under the leadership of Ministry of Finance; helped to reduce duplication of efforts
- Weekly meetings of stakeholders **convened by Ministry of Health and PAHO** to take stock of progress made, and to identify and address challenges
- **Streamlined procedures** at the World Bank to rapidly respond to client's pandemic response needs
- **Tripartite meetings** between Ministry of Public Health, International Institutions and vaccine manufacturers to facilitate procurement



Significant progress in vaccination, but much more is needed...



Reaching full vaccination coverage

- Vaccination coverage currently at 73 percent – the remaining population also the most difficult to reach
- Regional variation in vaccination coverage, with lower rates in rural and poor communities
- Need to expand coverage of booster shots, and soon, coverage of children under 5 years of age
- Preparation for the endemic stage of COVID-19



Recoup health and human capital losses

- Significant drop in coverage of the regular vaccination program for children as well as care for chronic conditions
- Loss of social health insurance coverage due to unemployment induced by the pandemic
- High rates of chronic malnutrition threatens human capital accumulation of future generations



Health System Strengthening

- Improve health sector resiliency and pandemic preparedness to respond to future man-made and other natural disasters
- Under tight fiscal conditions, improving the efficiency of the health sector
- Reduce health system fragmentation to enhance efficiency and equity
- Digital transformation and climate-smart investments

The World Bank has committed US\$43 billion towards COVID-19 response, including US\$12 billion towards vaccine acquisition and deployment

63 signed with **46** for a total of **416**
Contracts Countries Million doses



Also deployed **Bank-Facilitated Procurement (BFP)** to facilitate contracts between clients and manufacturers at clients' request

26 with **450**
Suppliers Products





|| Thank you!

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Annex: Relevant links

- Government of Ecuador's Vaccination Tracker (Vacunómetro): <https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoibGxODQyZDI0MTZiYi00ZjhmLWI0MzEtYWJINzAxZDcwNWlzlwiidCI6IjcwNjlyMGRiLTliMjktNGU5MS1hODI1LTl1NmIwNmQyNjlmMyJ9&pageName=ReportSection5e050ac003d0b042a320>
- Further information on World Bank COVID-19 response projects in Ecuador: <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P173773>
- Feature story and video: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2021/10/18/ecuador-the-country-that-vanquished-the-nightmare-pandemic-in-100-days>
- Links to recent blogs: <https://blogs.worldbank.org/latinamerica/why-ecuador-vaccinates-its-population-faster-rest-world>