



RPQ Vision: essential role in ensuring Universal Health for All

*From pandemic response into supporting global regulatory strengthening,
a critical role to provide affordable access to quality-assured medical products*

Joint UNICEF-UNFPA-WHO meeting with manufactures and suppliers

08 March 2022

Access to Medicines and Health Products (MHP)

ADG - Mariângela Simão



Health Products Policy and Standard (HPS)
Clive Ondari

Regulation and Prequalification (RPQ)
Rogério Gaspar



Prequalification (PQT)
Deus Mubangizi

Regulation and Safety (REG)
Hiiti Sillo

Local Prod. & Assist. (LPA)
Jicui Dong

Office of the Director

Office of the Unit Head

Inspection Services
Joey Gouws

IVD Assessment
Irena Prat

Medicines Assessment
Matthias Stahl

Vaccines & Immunization Devices
Assessment
Carmen Rodriguez

Vector Control Products Assessment
Marion Law

Medical Devices
TBD

Office of the Unit Head

Regulatory Systems Strengthening
Alireza Khadem Broojerdi* & **

Regulatory Convergence and
Networks
Samvel Azatyan

Facilitated Product Introduction
Samvel Azatyan* & **

Laboratory Network and Services
Gaby Vercauteren

Pharmacovigilance
Shanthi Pal

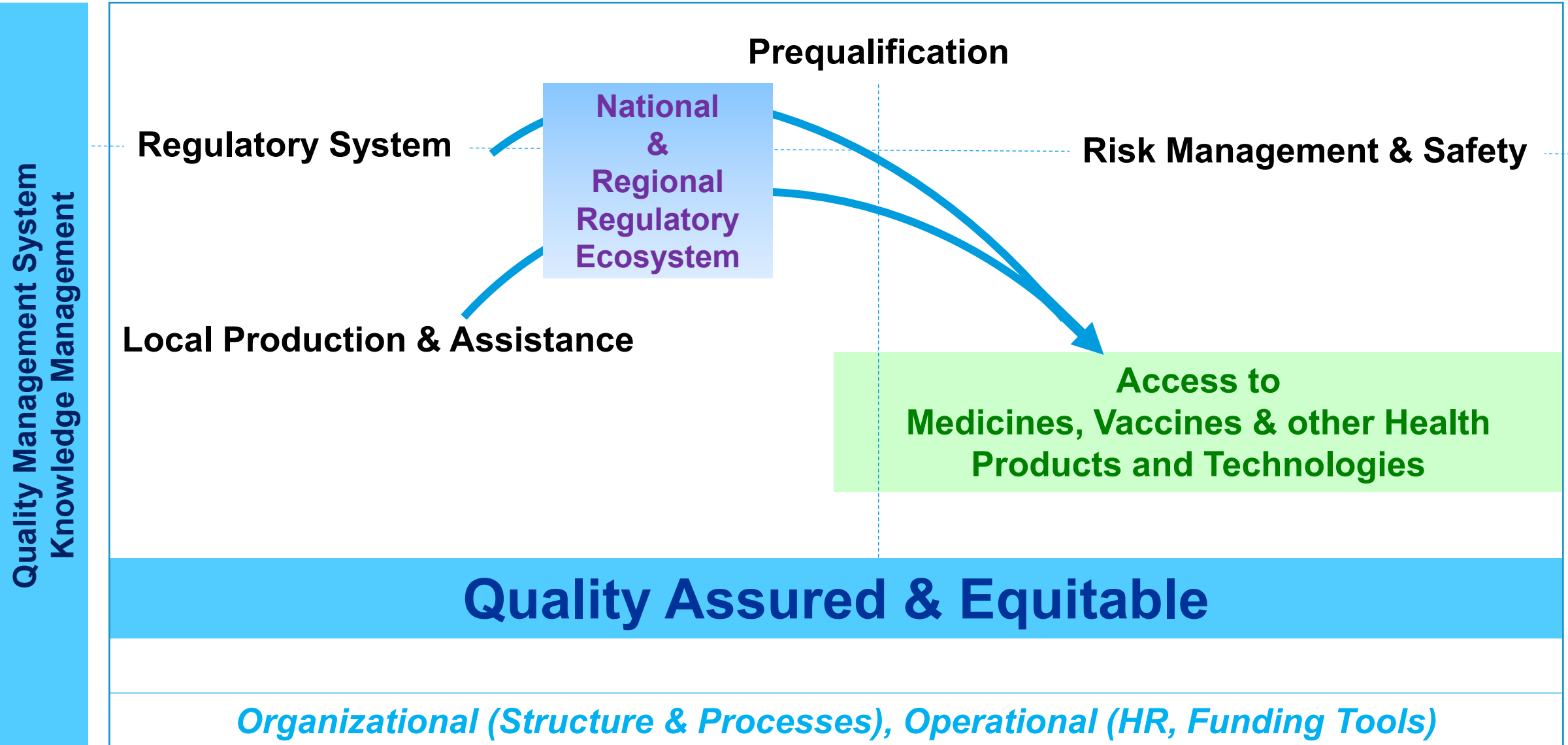
Incidents and SF Medical Products
Rutendo Kuwana

Quality Management
Systems**
(Jan-Anton Norder)

Knowledge
Management**

* acting
** under recruitment

Regulation and Prequalification (RPQ)





- 1 Strengthen country and regional regulatory systems
- 2 Improve regulatory preparedness for public health emergencies
- 3 Reinforce and expand WHO prequalification & product risk assessment
- 4 Increase the impact of WHO regulatory support activities

These strategic guide WHO regulatory activities

- ✓ Benchmarking and technical assistance to address regulatory gaps
- ✓ Promoting regulatory convergence, harmonization, work-sharing and reliance mechanisms
- ✓ Improving countries' ability to carry out risk-based post-marketing surveillance to securing supply chains against SF products
 - Includes strengthening national quality laboratories
- ✓ Broaden the prequalification programme
- ✓ Leverage political attention and commitment to advance accountability
- ✓ Promote and support sustainable and quality-assured local production through technical assistance

Moving towards a single RPQ-wide QMS in compliance with *ISO9001:2015 standards*
from teams with differently structured operational QMS to a single harmonized QMS

2 nd half 2021	✓	Developed Quality Policy and Quality Manual with quality objectives based on GPW13 and RPQ Strategic plan 2019-2023
1 st half 2022	□	Developing overarching general and administrative SOPs
1 st half 2022	□	Determining cross-cutting and team-specific SOPs • Cross-cutting SOPs to be 'owned' by relevant teams with associated KPIs
2 nd half 2022 to 1 st half 2023	□	Developing cross-cutting and team-specific SOPs
As SOPs are introduced	□	Implementation through generic training, on-the-job coaching and continuous improvement mechanisms, particularly: • change management • quality management review • internal audit

A reminder: WHO Regulatory Activities

Ensuring normative and technical excellence drives impact at country level

Technical Standards & Specifications

- Set global norms and standards (written & physical) and nomenclatures
- Increase common understanding on regulatory requirements by authority & manufacturer
- Standardize approach used by quality control labs

Prequalification

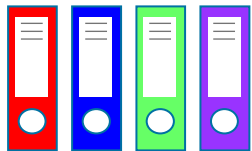
- Assure safety, quality efficacy & appropriateness of medical products used in LMICs, including medicines, vaccines, medical devices, cold chain equipment, vector control products & in vitro diagnostics
- Increase competition to shape the market

Regulation & Safety

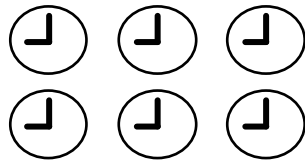
- Strengthen regulatory systems in countries and regions
- Increase knowledge of real-life adverse events and coordinate actions taken against adverse events
- Mitigate risks and protect against substandard / falsified products

Local production & assistance

- Provide holistic & coordinated support to strengthen local production and technology transfer
- including
 - guidance tools, situational analyses for sustainable quality local production
 - strengthening local production, capacity building and specialized technical assistance



Decreased
regulatory burden



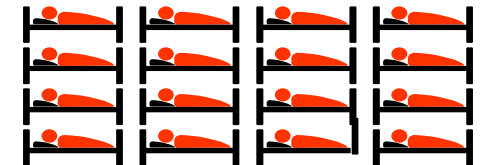
Reduced time
for regulation



Increased regulatory
capacity in LMIC

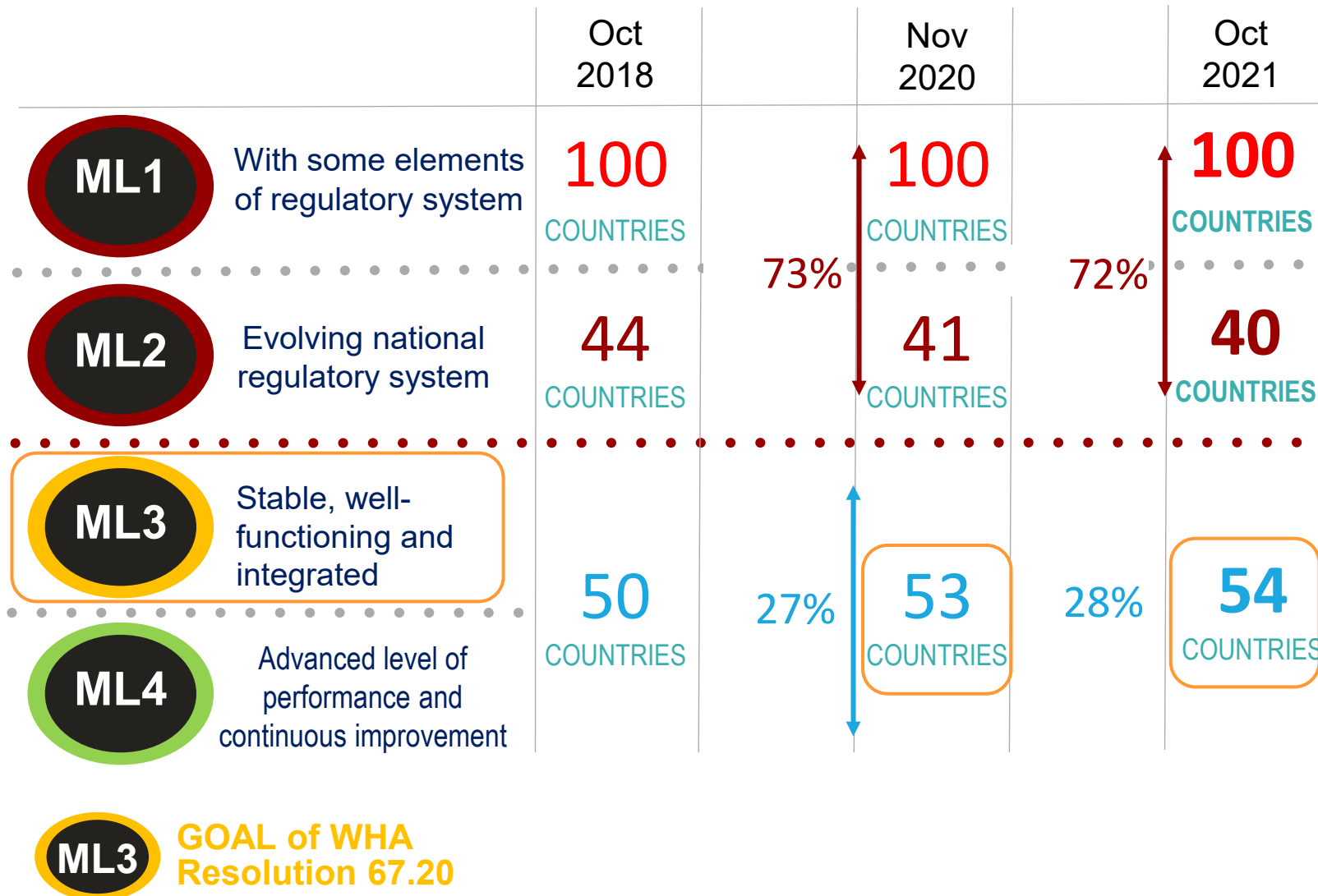


Decreased cost
of regulation



Reduced mortality
and morbidity

>70% of countries have weak national regulatory systems



Vaccines developed in countries with weak regulatory systems, i.e., ML1/ML2, are not eligible for EUL or prequalification

Singapore medicines regulator world's first to achieve highest maturity level in WHO classification (28 Feb 2022)

Background to WHO-Listed Authority (WLA)

01

To provide a transparent and evidence-based pathway for Regulatory authorities to be globally recognized

To promote access and the supply of safe, effective and quality medical products

02

03

To optimize use of limited resources by facilitating reliance

Policy document:

The Policy describes the purpose, definitions and high-level operating principles related to the evaluation and public listing of authorities



Link: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240023444>

Benefits of WHO-Listed Authority (WLA) framework

Enable efficient use of regulatory resources

by providing a robust framework to promote **trust, confidence** and **reliance**

Encourage continuous improvement of regulatory systems and

regulatory convergence

Help procurement decisions

on medical products by UN and other agencies, as well as countries (especially LMICs)

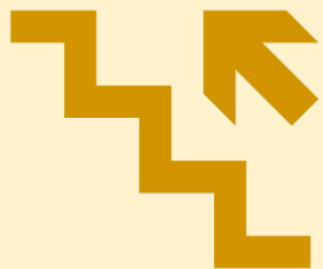
Contributes to WHO PQ programme

by expanding the pool of trusted regulatory authorities

Fosters health equity

by enabling an environment for innovation and local production, and accelerating access to medical products

Transitional Arrangements: *OBJECTIVES*



Recognize the achievements and work of all RAs on the Interim lists



Protect the global supply of prequalified products



Provide a clear and transparent path forward for RAs on the Interim list that wish to become WLAs



Ensure processes are feasible and efficient with respect to WHO and RAs capacity

PRINCIPLES AND KEY STEPS OUTLINED IN THE DRAFT DOCUMENT
A 5 YEAR PERIOD

Increase regulatory convergence and harmonization

- WHO guidance on Good regulatory and reliance practices
- Implementation guidance on quality management systems for NRAs
- Sharing information / expertise: (assessment, inspection and testing results or expertise) that serve as basis for national decisions – avoiding duplication
- Voluntary participation – reference authorities, participating authorities and manufacturers/sponsors



WHO Collaborative Registration Procedure (CRP)

- Vaccines: 2004
- Medicines: 2012
- HIV medicines Pilot: Nov 2018 as CRP-Lite with FDA
- Diagnostics: Pilot 2019
- Vector control: Pilot 2020



Facilitated Registration "SRA" CRP

- Initiated in 2015
EMA and MHRA with
20 African NRAs

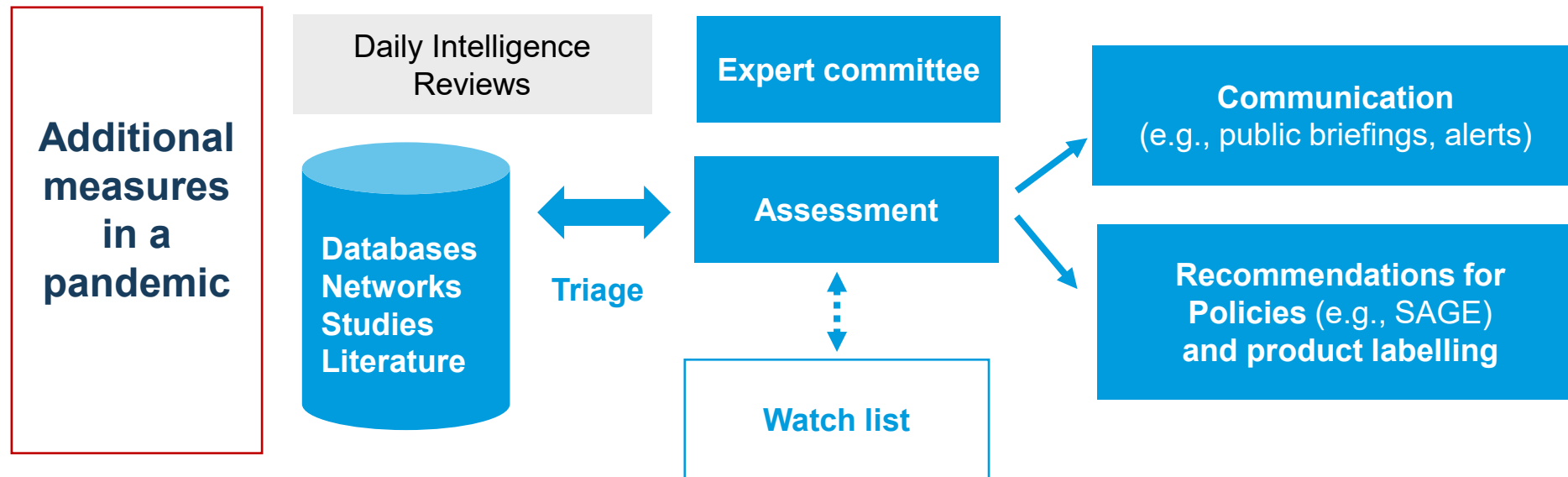
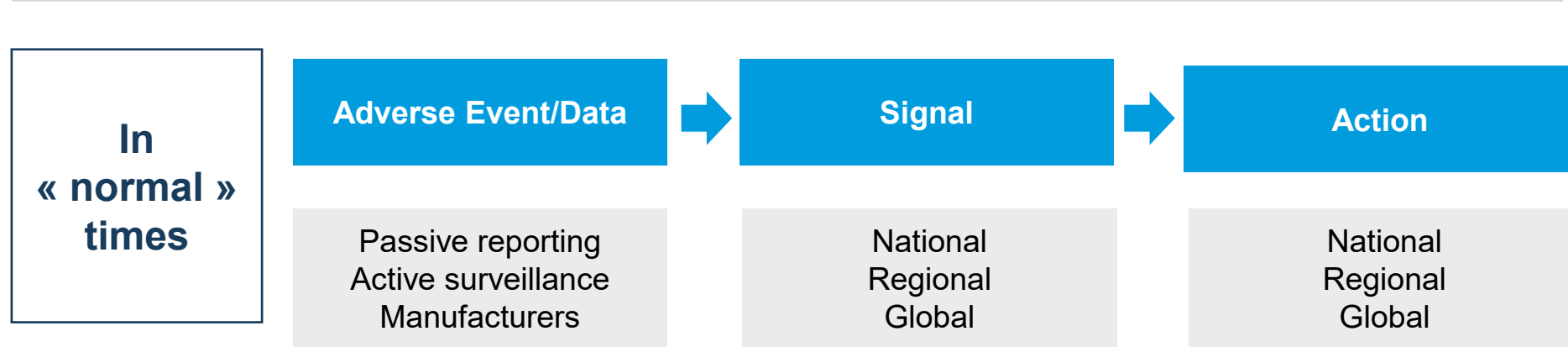


Regional networks

- AVAREF
- AUDA-NEPAD
- ASEAN SIAHR project
- CARPHA
- ZAZIBONA

Pharmacovigilance System at work

Safety surveillance of vaccines



Key take-aways

- **More pro-active**
- **Enabling real-time data collection and assessment**
- **Leveraging more data sources** (incl. informal sources such as social networks)
- **Greater coordination and joint action** (e.g., through regulatory networks)
- **Ongoing evaluation and adjustment** to meet evolving needs

RPQ Strategic priorities:

DELIVERING QUALITY-ASSURED MEDICAL PRODUCTS FOR ALL

2019–2023



WHO's five-year plan to help build
effective and efficient regulatory systems

1

SP 1:

**Strengthen country
and regional
regulatory systems**

2

SP 2:

**Improve regulatory
preparedness for
public health
emergencies**

3

SP 3:

**Reinforce and expand
WHO prequalification
and product risk
assessment**

4

SP 4:

**Increase the impact of
WHO regulatory
support activities**

Overview of SARS-CoV-2 IVDs: WHO EUL status as of 21 Feb 2022

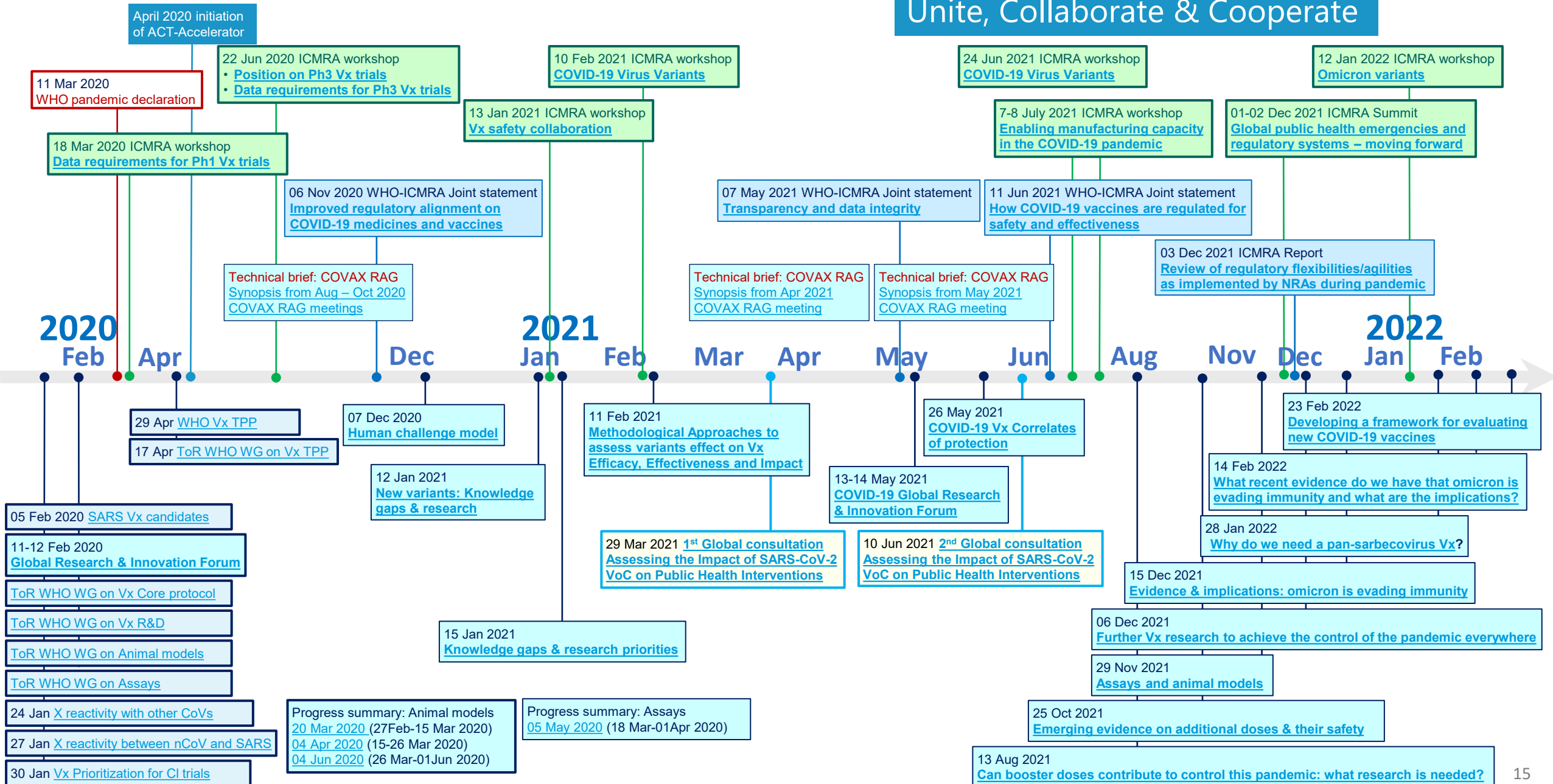
IVD products	Total #	Nucleic acid	Antigens	Antibodies
EOIs	172	69	62	41
Active Applications	51	18	33	On hold
Awaiting dossier	6	2	4	
Dossier received	45	16	29	
• Pre-screening		2	1	
• Screening		5	12	
• Under assessment		9	16	
In renewal process		19	3	1
Not Renewed		2*	0	0
EUL listed	30 (-2)	24 (-2)	5	1
EUL not accepted	61	27	24	10

Activity 01 – 21 Feb 2022	
Dossier screening Round 1 completed	11
Dossier screening Round 2 completed	3
Dossiers for review by assessors	4★
Applications closed at screening	5
EUL listed	1

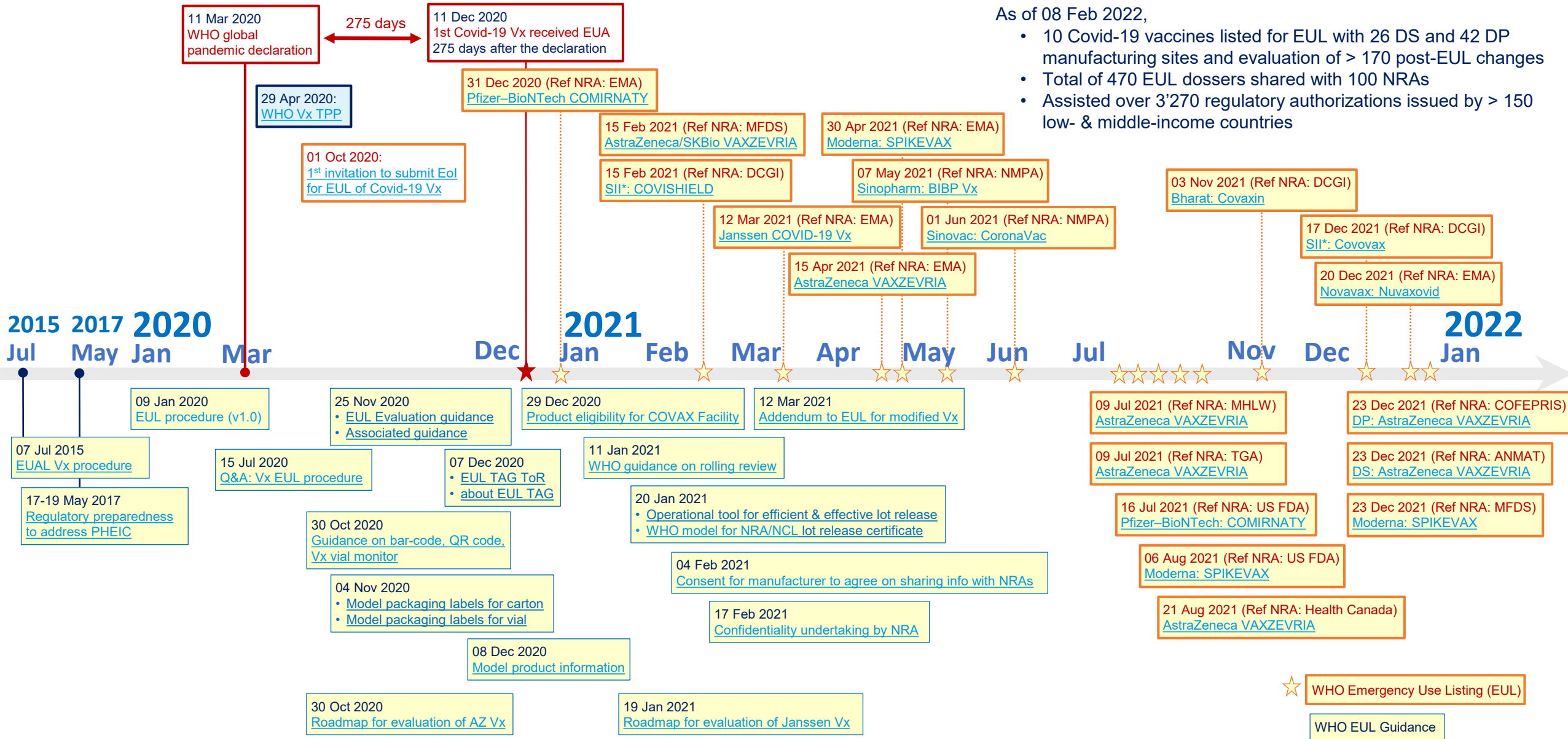
★ 4 dossiers under review by assessors at HSA Singapore & PEI Europe

Timeline of events: ICMRA, COVAX RAG and R&D Blueprint

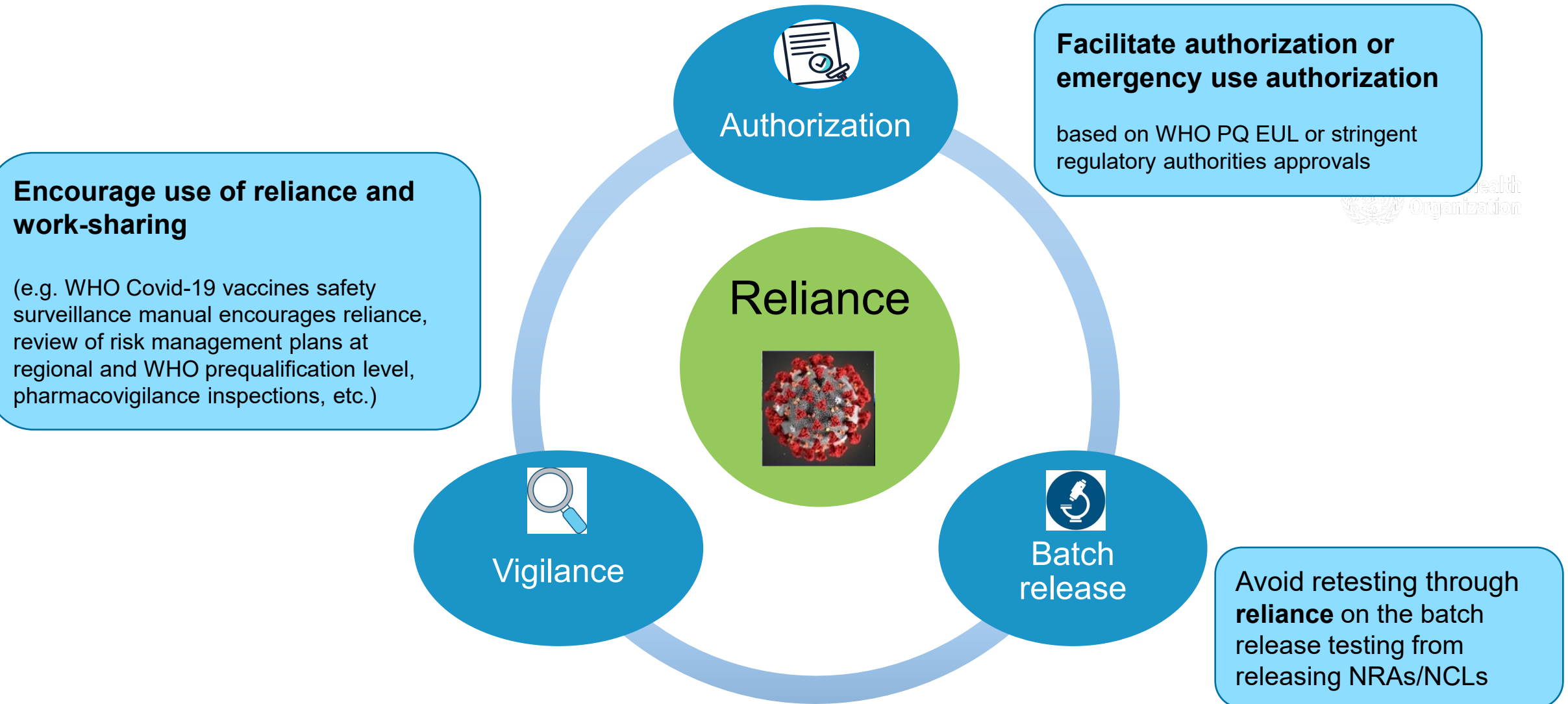
Unite, Collaborate & Cooperate



Timeline of events: WHO Emergency Use Listing (EUL) of Covid-19 vaccines



How can reliance help in case of public health emergency?

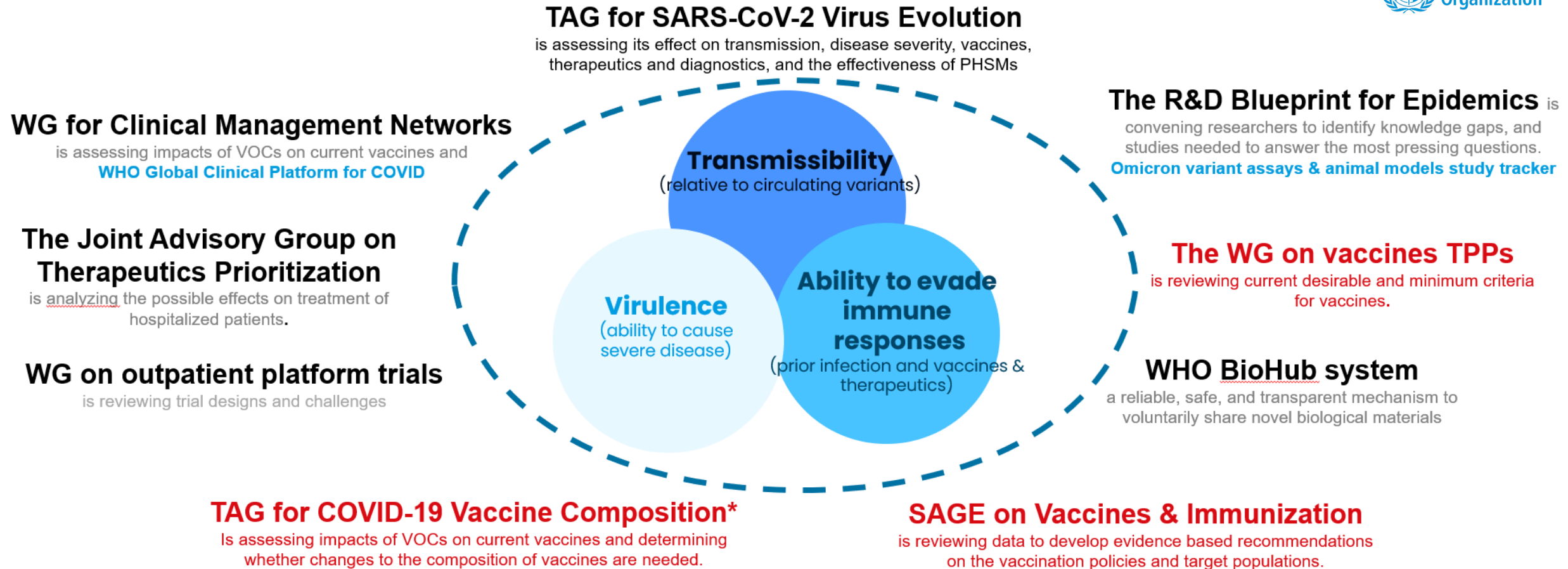


Emergency regulatory authorizations issued by >150 LMI countries/territories

update: as of 25 February 2022

mRNA	Viral vector			Inactivated			Recombinant adjuvanted		
Pfizer <u>COMIRNATY</u> 299 regulatory clearance in 156 countries/territories Shared EUL reports with 60 NRAs 4 DS sites 12 DP sites Ref NRA: • EMA • US FDA	Moderna <u>SPIKEVAX</u> 502 regulatory clearance in 78 countries/territories Shared EUL reports with 51 NRAs 2 DS sites 3 DP sites Ref NRA: • EMA • US FDA • MFDS	AZ <u>VAXZEVRIA</u> 1'331 regulatory clearance in 142 countries/territories Shared EUL reports with 81 NRAs 8 DS sites 12 DP sites Ref NRA: • EMA • MFDS • MHLW • TGA • DS: COFEPRIS • DP: ANMAT	SII <u>COVISHIELD</u> 140 regulatory clearance in 114 countries/territories Shared EUL reports with 58 NRAs 2 DS sites 2 DP sites Ref NRA: • DCGI	Janssen <u>Covid-19 Vx</u> 795 regulatory clearance in 115 countries/territories Shared EUL reports with 67 NRAs 3 DS sites 7 DP sites Ref NRA: • EMA • US FDA	Sinopharm <u>BIBP Covid-19 Vx</u> 80 regulatory clearance in 80 countries/territories Shared EUL reports with 60 NRAs 1 DS site 1 DP site Ref NRA: • NMPA	Sinovac <u>CoronaVac</u> 90 regulatory clearance in 61 countries/territories Shared EUL reports with 47 NRAs 1 DS site 1 DP site Ref NRA: • NMPA	Bharat <u>Covaxin</u> 1 regulatory clearance in 1 country/territory Shared EUL reports with 17 NRAs 1 DS site 1 DP site Ref NRA: • DCGI	Novavax <u>Nuvaxovid</u> 34 regulatory clearance in 34 countries/territories Shared EUL reports with 20 NRAs 2 DS sites 1 DP site Ref NRA: • EMA	SII <u>Covovax</u> 1 regulatory clearance in 1 country/territory Shared EUL reports with 9 NRAs 2 DS sites 2 DP sites Ref NRA: • DCGI

Assessment, monitoring, and adjustments to variants is critical



Thousands of researchers around the world are contributing data and expertise to the deliberations

*Interim Statement on COVID-19 vaccines in the context of the circulation of the Omicron SARS-CoV-2 Variant from the WHO Technical Advisory Group on COVID-19 Vaccine Composition (TAG-CO-VAC) <https://www.who.int/news/item/11-01-2022-interim-statement-on-covid-19-vaccines-in-the-context-of-the-circulation-of-the-omicron-sars-cov-2-variant-from-the-who-technical-advisory-group-on-covid-19-vaccine-composition>

WHO Therapeutics and COVID-19: Living Guideline*

Latest update issued on 03 March 2022

*WHO Therapeutics and COVID-19: Living Guideline

2022 03 03	conditional recommendation for use of Molnupiravir **	for patients with non-severe COVID-19, conditional for those at highest risk of hospitalization
	conditional recommendation to use a combination of neutralizing monoclonal antibodies (casirivimab and imdevimab) **	on-severe COVID-19 patients at the highest risk of severe disease
2022 01 14	strong recommendation for the use of baricitinib ** as an alternative to interleukin-6 (IL-6) receptor blockers	patients with severe or critical COVID-19
	conditional recommendation against the use of ruxolitinib and tofacitinib	patients with severe or critical COVID-19
	conditional recommendation for the use of sotrovimab	patients with non-severe COVID-19, conditional for those at highest risk of hospitalization
2021 12 07	Strong recommendation against convalescent plasma	patients with non-severe COVID-19
	Recommendation not to use convalescent plasma	patients with severe or critical COVID-19 except in the context of a clinical trial
2021 09 24	conditional recommendation to use a combination of neutralizing monoclonal antibodies (casirivimab & imdevimab)**	severe and critically ill COVID-19 patients with seronegative status
2021 07 06	strong recommendation to use IL-6 receptor blockers (tocilizumab or sarilumab)**	patients with severe or critical COVID-19
2021 03 31	recommendation not to use ivermectin	patients with COVID-19 except in the context of a clinical trial
2020 12 17	strong recommendation against hydroxychloroquine	patients with COVID-19 of any severity
	strong recommendation against lopinavir/ritonavir	patients with COVID-19 of any severity
2020 11 20	conditional recommendation against remdesivir	hospitalized patients with COVID-19
2020 09 02	strong recommendation for systemic corticosteroids**	patients with severe and critical COVID-19
	conditional recommendation against systemic corticosteroids	patients with non-severe COVID-19

Original products approved by SRA and generic/biosimilar are invited		Eoi issued	PQ status
Direct-acting antivirals	Nirmatrelvir 150 mg tablets plus ritonavir 100 mg tablet, co-packaged for oral administration	17 Dec 2021	Meeting with one manufacturer
	Molnupiravir* 200 mg capsules for oral administration	15 Nov 2021	4 applications for API under assessment
Neutralizing antibodies	Sotrovimab solution for infusion, 500 mg/8ml Baricitinib 2 mg tablets	25 Nov 2021	
Janus kinase inhibitors	Baricitinib 2 mg tablets	14 Jan 2022	
corticosteroid	Dexamethasone** • tablet, 1.5mg, 2mg, 6mg • oral solution, 2mg/5ml or 10mg/5ml, as the base or sodium phosphate • solution for injection, 3.3mg/ml or 6.6mg/ml, as the sodium phosphate	10 July 2020	PQed products: 4 FPPs 2 APIs 2 for injection (Sep & Dec 2021)
IL-6 inhibitors	Tocilizumab IV 20mg/ml for further dilution	19 May 2021	11 Feb 2022: 3x 20mg/ml prequalified
	Sarilumab 200mg/ml 1.14 ml for further dilution prior to IV Sarilumab 150mg/ml 1.14 ml for further dilution prior to IV	19 May 2021	

Abridged assessment will be used for products approved by SRA

* for generic products, Global Fund issued a call for Expert Review Panel (ERP) on 09 Dec 2021

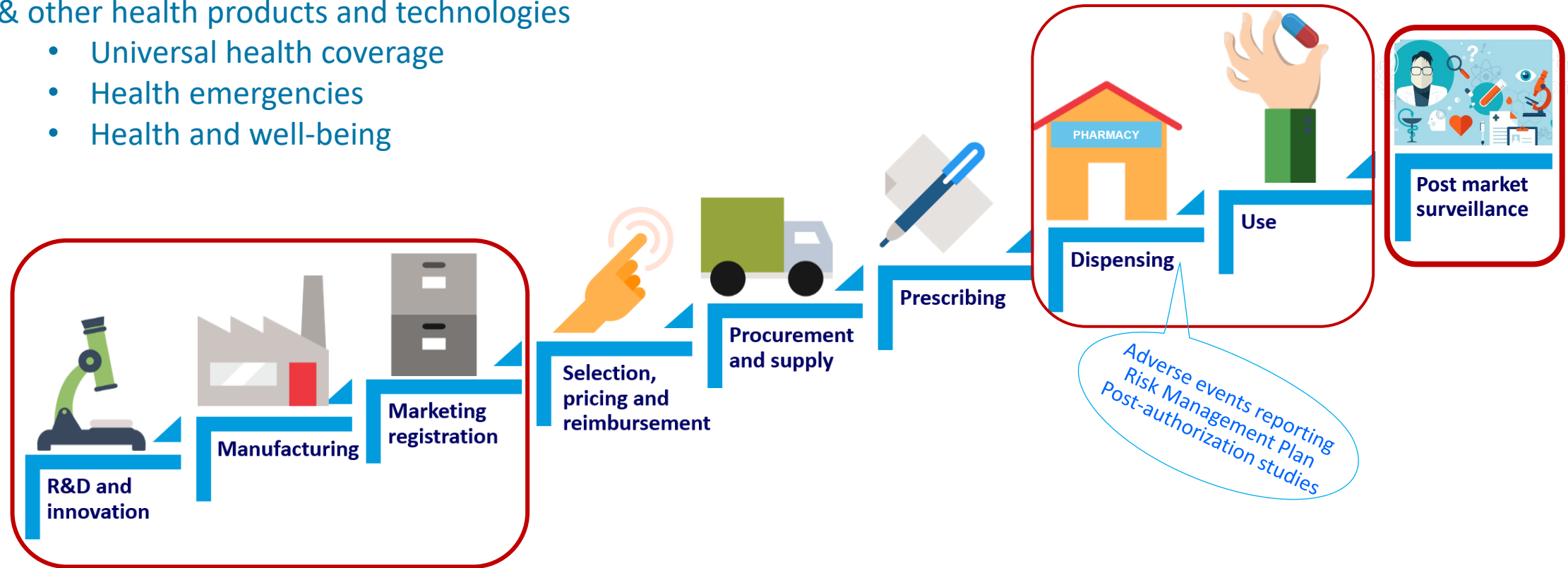
Where do we go from here?

“End-to-end” health products’ management: shared responsibilities

Legislation, regulation, governance, monitoring

Access to quality-assured medicines, vaccines & other health products and technologies

- Universal health coverage
- Health emergencies
- Health and well-being



Joint reviews & assessments of clinical trials

Long term Good Regulatory Practice

Regulatory Reliance, Collaboration and Harmonization

**WHO VACCINE MANUFACTURING
WORKSHOP for SOUTHEAST ASIAN
and WESTERN PACIFIC REGIONS**



**MEMBER STATE SUPPORT IN
STRENGTHENING LOCAL PRODUCTION**
DZA, EUC, EGY, ETH, GHA, KAZ, NGA, SEN,
SRB, etc.

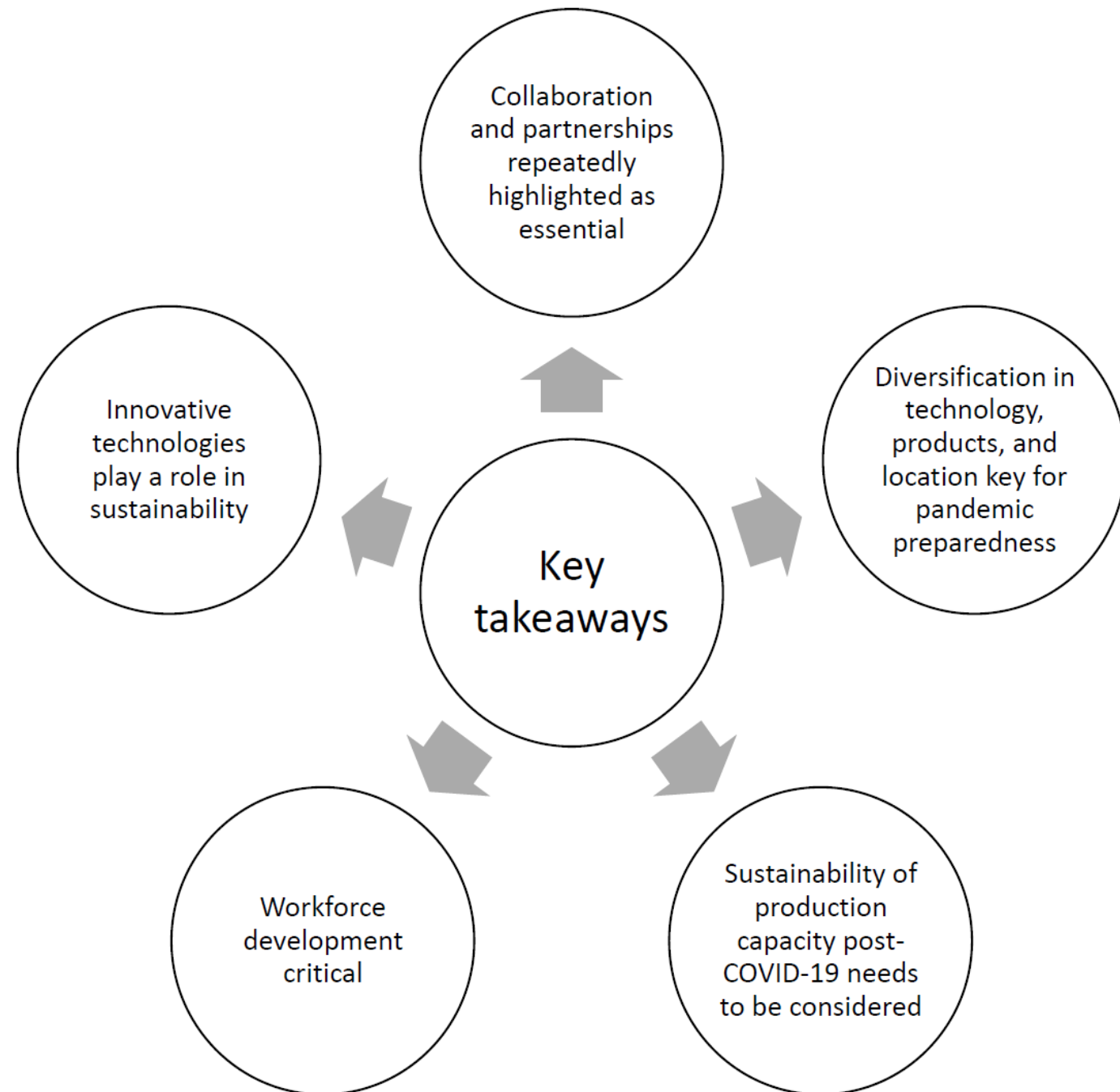


**ONGOING PQ/EUL-RELATED
SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**



**IMPLEMENTATION OF
WORLD LOCAL PRODUCTION FORUM
RECOMMENDATIONS**

World Local Production Forum (WLPF)



Covid has provided important lessons

- Since early 1960s, national regulations have been built as stand-alone systems, **but**
- Covid-19 pandemic has brought many stakeholders to work together, enabling **cooperation**, allowing for increased standards **convergence** and promoting **reliance** concepts in regulatory as well as public health thinking

Taking this opportunity and lessons learned so far to:

- further elaborate **cooperative and flexible** approaches
- respect **international standards and best practices**, and
- adopt an approach that focuses on what cannot be done by others while leveraging the work of other trusted regulators and institutions for the rest

Where do we go from here?



WHO Mission:

- **Promote Health**
- **Keep the World Safe**
- **Serve the Vulnerable**



backup

Regulatory convergence, harmonization, networking and reliance

- Technical assistance in establishment and operationalization of the African Medicines Agency (AMA) and continued support to AMRH Initiative
- Facilitation of production introduction in countries through CRP and in-country regulatory authorizations of COVID-19 vaccines & therapeutics
- Revision of the WHO Model Regulatory Framework for medical devices including *in vitro* diagnostics
- Support the implementation of GRP, GRelP, QMS guidelines by NRAs, including e-learning modules and reliance examples repository
- Global Competency Framework for Regulators
- ✓ continue support for online skills management system to facilitate ongoing pilot and updating draft competency framework for public consultation



Regulatory Systems Strengthening

Benchmarking of regulatory systems in priority countries

- ✓ Planned: Egypt, Republic of Korea, China, Kenya, Rwanda, Philippines, Turkey
- ✓ Follow up visits (towards ML 3): Nigeria, South Africa



Undertake capacity building and technical assistance in priority countries

- ✓ Includes Uganda, Sri Lanka, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Kazakhstan, others

WLA Framework - Operationalization

- ✓ Finalization of operational guidance, transitional arrangements of interim lists of NRAs
- Piloting the Research Ethics Committee tool & GBT+ medical devices & IVDs
- Strengthening regulatory capacity to respond to public health emergencies

CIP Network: operationalization and roll out to regions and countries

Challenges and lessons learned:

- Wide variety of platforms: 12 candidates under EUL assessment out of 144 candidates in clinical phase
- Managing an increasing number of post-EUL changes
 - Changes in stability data, formulation, storage condition, extension of shelf-life, etc. and corresponding changes in labeling and package insert
- Close intersectoral cooperation and collaboration at national, regional and international fora
- Building trust and confidence: key to implementation of reliance, effective and efficient authorization
- Frequent and open dialogues: assisting to achieve regulatory alignment and conversion
- Joint assessment / inspections: increasing efficiency

Vaccines currently under EUL assessment:

- CanSinoBio
- Clover
- Russian Direct Investment Fund
- WIBP Sinopharm
- Sanofi
- Zhifei Longcom
- Shifa Pharmed
- CureVac
- Vector state research centre of virology and biotechnology
- CIGB
- IMBCAMS,
- BioCubaFarma