



**COVID-19  
RESPONSE  
VACCINES**

# UN SYSTEM-WIDE COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME

## SPONSORSHIP OF NATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

VERSION - 6 DECEMBER 2021

### BACKGROUND

1. The Eligibility Framework of the UN System-wide COVID-19 Vaccination Programme has been amended to include *“All personnel of national non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that are engaged by UN system organizations in the implementation of their respective mandates, provided they are sponsored and validated by a participating UN organization.”* A footnote further explains: *“Participating UN entities have discretion to determine the nature of the implementing or operational relationship when sponsoring NGOs and assume the responsibilities of sponsorship whether the relationship is formal or informal.”*
2. Expansion to include NNGOs was contemplated at the Programme’s inception but originally put on hold due to limited supply of vaccine in early to mid-2021. As with INGOs, NNGOs can be crucial partners to participating UN entities and necessary for mandate delivery. As such, with better supply of vaccine that is anticipated to meet the demands of the eligible population, Phase 2 of the Programme was an opportune time for participating entities to consider additional partners for inclusion.
3. As per the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between and among the Secretariat and the UN entities participating in the Vaccination Programme, it is the responsibility of the sponsoring entity to vet the sponsored National NGO (NNGO), make an agreement, validate the individuals who are eligible under that agreement, and accept the risks and responsibilities associated with sponsorship. Such responsibilities include dealing with any claims arising from the inclusion of the sponsored NNGO personnel into the Vaccination Programme.

### OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR SPONSORING NNGOS

4. UN entities wishing to sponsor NNGOs will send a Note to the Secretariat stating their intent and agreeing to assume the responsibility to deal with any claims arising from their sponsored individuals (template attached). UN entities that are not comfortable with the responsibilities or assumption of liability due to sponsorship may choose not to do so.
5. The sponsorship of NNGOs will follow a centrally controlled approach, whereby the focal points (Task Force members) of the sponsoring UN entities will coordinate with their representatives at the UN Country Team level to determine the NNGOs within the relevant countries who will be sponsored. In particular, sponsoring UN entities at the central level will provide guidance and



delegation of authority on establishing sponsorship agreements with NNGOs they agree to sponsor and keeps records of NNGO sponsorships in each country. The previously shared example template for sponsorship agreements with INGOs can be used as a guide for NNGO sponsorship as well.

6. Activities for the implementation of the NNGO sponsorship can continue to be carried out at the country level by the sponsoring UN entities, for NNGOs they agree to sponsor. Such activities include the collection of identifying information, the upload of such information onto Everbridge if applicable, or the validation of self-registered NNGO personnel directly in Everbridge by the Organization Evaluator (for those organizations that have delegated the Evaluator role to the country level).
7. Once the sponsored NNGO personnel are fully registered in Everbridge, they are assigned to a clinic, scheduled for vaccination, and administered their vaccine(s) by the Local Vaccine Deployment Teams in their respective countries of residence, along with all other eligible individuals.

## DEALING WITH POTENTIAL CLAIMS

8. If a claim arises in connection with the inclusion of personnel of a particular NNGO into the Programme, the UN entity that sponsored that NNGO will be responsible for dealing with the claim in line with Article 8 of the MOU.
9. Furthermore, sponsoring UN entities will collaborate with the Secretariat on dealing with claims brought against vaccine manufacturers from sponsored NNGO personnel, in cases where the Secretariat has agreed to economically indemnify the manufacturers when acquiring the vaccine supply. Sponsoring UN entities will ensure that sufficient funding is available to cover the associated costs (including legal costs pertaining to the defense, resolution, or settlement of such claims brought against manufacturers), proportionate to the number of sponsored NNGO personnel they bring into the Programme.