



## **IFEH STATEMENT ON UNIVERSALITY OF VACCINE DISTRIBUTION**

Global concern began in late 2019 about a newly emerging coronavirus, and since the beginning of 2020, as it started to spread around the world, it gained particular attention from the World Health Organization (WHO) until considered COVID 19 a Pandemic, on March 11, 2020, based on "alarming levels of spread and inaction".

Having become a global problem, with alarming levels of deaths and infections worldwide, without distinguishing the poor or the rich, the global scientific community has come together to make it possible to find a solution in a short period of time.

Dr. Tedros, Adhanom Ghebreyesus, General Director from WHO, recently spoke of the need to use a vaccine worldwide emphasizing that the vaccine should be given to, "some people in all countries, rather than all people in some countries". He also indicated the need to prioritize vaccination (like some governments are doing advancing the vaccine for essential workers and those at risk including senior citizens and those with co-morbidities) while more vaccines are being produced, until everyone in the world can be vaccinated.

An universal vaccine distribution has the ability to save lives and reduce mortality. Vaccine manufacturers are encourage to work with emerging countries and provide vaccines on a timely and affordable scale and at the same time the governments, around the world, should make the vaccine available free of cost to those who cannot pay, or distribute that at affordable rates.

A good example is the European Union who bought the vaccine for all European countries, ensuring that both the poorest and the richest countries have access to the same quantities (in percentage based on the number of inhabitants) at the same time and that vaccination campaigns start at the same time day in all countries belonging to the European Union.

The world is in the midst of a Covid-19 pandemic. The novel coronavirus has killed, until now, more than 2 million globally, according to the data available by Johns Hopkins University (<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>) . Is moral and ethical imperative besides of a public health good sense to make sure the vaccine is available to all.

Meanwhile, the Environmental Health work force, should help the governments to act together on developing a policy specific to the COVID-19 vaccine; from preparing resources — both material and human — for storage, distribution and delivery, with the best safety and hygiene conditions.

“The coronavirus pandemic is taking a heavy toll on human lives and businesses across the globe. Rapid access to vaccine doses can bring outbreaks under control and also help avert economic shocks that may send more people back into poverty.”

Based on the above, IFEH supports the universality of the vaccine for COVID 19 distribution, with great conviction and commitment.

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