



Executive Committee of the UNHCR

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Resolution adopted by the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees on April 15, 2021

Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees,

Deeply concerned with the morbidity and mortality posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the impact on physical and mental health, as well as human welfare, the overall consequences imposed by this epidemiological problem in general,

Extending solidarity to all nations suffering from the COVID-19 pandemic,

Recognizing the efforts of WHO, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), and all partners contributing to enhancing the effectiveness of vaccination services, improving immunization coverage, and promoting vaccines in developing countries

For all states, we propose:

1. To urge countries to add refugees in national and international vaccination programs:
 - a. Vaccination is mandatory in refugee camps;
 - b. Relevant information about COVID-19 and vaccination must be provided in refugee camps;
2. To prioritize vaccination programs for seniors, people suffering from innate diseases and frontline health workers (including refugees). The specific age is determined by every country by their social and economic situation and overall population age;
3. To recommend limiting movement in places with a large number of COVID-19 infections and high spread-rates;

4. Encourages the host countries to provide for men and women the possibility to attain equality as frontline workers, including midwives, nurses, and community health workers, as well as support staff;
5. Urges the UN member states to insist on ensuring equal access to incentive and social security plans for all refugees as well as to all health care programs provided by the host countries;
6. Strongly recommend to assure the possibility of distant working during the pandemic COVID-19;
7. Urge the international community to soften financial procedures and impose the possibility to postpone tax- and debt payments for refugees, including those who have lost their jobs to the pandemic;
8. Encourages to provide conditions and, but not only, equipment needed for implying new educational programs for refugee kids and the displaced and help with requalification to whom it is needed;
9. Call upon the mitigation of the risks associated with discrimination and the lack of inclusivity by including special points that assure the equal access of refugees to vaccine distribution programs, assessed by the host country;
10. Encourage to provide refugee-host countries with humanitarian aid and to supply refugees with hygiene products;
11. Strongly recommend to supply refugees with accessible legal assistance;
12. Encourage to create special quarantine zones in refugee camps for the ill and permit resettlement in extreme cases of urgency for the heavily ill and provide them with all medical equipment and vaccines Sputnik V;
13. Encourage to prohibit refugees from crossing the country's borders more than once every six months to prevent pressure on the health care of the so-called transit countries between two destinations and to reduce the spread of coronavirus in the world and allow exceptional cases to be resettled within and out of their borders to ensure that life-saving help is available;
14. Strongly recommend to provide vaccine to refugees when their application has already been accepted to host countries;
15. Welcome providing benefits to pharmaceutical companies producing the COVID-19 vaccine, which distribute them to refugees at minimal cost or free of charge, such as, but not limited to:
 - a. Reduced taxation;

b. Subsidies;

c. Provide assistance in increasing production capacity and renting land or premises.

16. Encourage all member states who supply other countries with vaccines to facilitate customs procedures and reduce duties;

17. Urge all member states to grant the right to early acquisition of citizenship for those who have taken the initiative in testing new vaccines against COVID-19;

18. Strongly recommend to prohibit refugees from crossing the country's borders more than once every six months to prevent pressure on the health care of the so-called transit countries between two destinations and to reduce the spread of coronavirus in the world and allow exceptional cases to be resettled within and out of their borders to ensure that life-saving help is available;

19. Strongly recommend to provide vaccine to refugees when their application has already been accepted to host countries;

20. Calls upon all UN member states to provide benefits to pharmaceutical companies producing the COVID-19 vaccine, which distribute them to refugees at minimal cost or free of charge, such as, but not limited to:

a. Reduced taxation;

b. Subsidies;

c. Provide assistance in increasing production capacity and renting land or premises.

21. Encourage all member states who supply other countries with vaccines to facilitate customs procedures and reduce duties;

22. Urge all member states to grant the right to early acquisition of citizenship for those who have taken the initiative in testing new vaccines against COVID-19;

23. Urge all member states to initiate the primary medical check-ups for the refugees on the borders;

24. Urge to include the COVID-19 vaccine to the national vaccination program (Calendar);

25. Urges the host countries of refugees to legally support the system of free covid-tests for refugees;

26. Urge all member states to create temporary camps for the refugees who have crossed the borders within a month with obliging them to take COVID-19 tests if the traveling between regions is necessary.