A person wearing a blue lab coat and a white face mask is shown in a clinical setting. They are holding a small vial of COVID-19 vaccine in their gloved right hand and a syringe in their gloved left hand. The vial label is partially visible and reads "SOMIRNAT", "sterile concentrate", "COVID-19 mRNA", "5 doses after", and "Discard date/time:". The background is blurred, showing other people in lab coats.

# 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



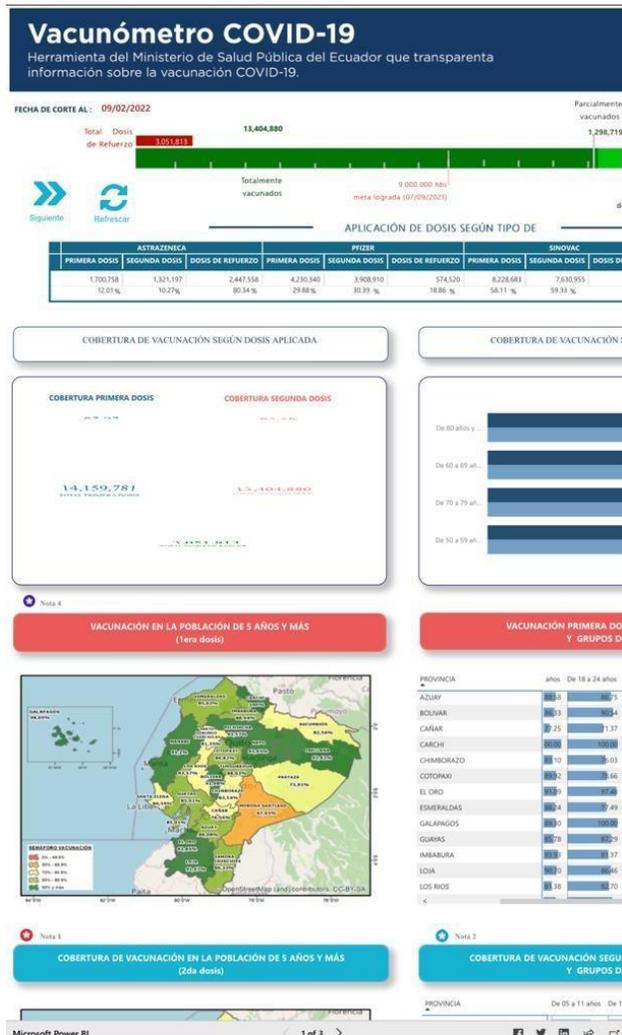
- Making **health a priority**, universal access to vaccines (with prioritization) since the beginning; vaccine made **mandatory** for most citizens as of December 23, 2021
- Ambitious **Plan 9-100** launched by President Lasso in May 2021 to vaccinate 9 million people (50% of the population) within 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

# Collaboration and Trust

- **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=eyJrIjoiMjg5ODQyZDltMTZiYi00ZjhmLWI0MzEtYWJINzAxZDcwNWlzlwiidCI6IjcwNjlyMGRiLTliMjktNGU5MS1hODI1LTl1NmIwNmQyNjlmMyJ9&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>