



Medicines and vaccines shortages: a global concern



World Health
Organization



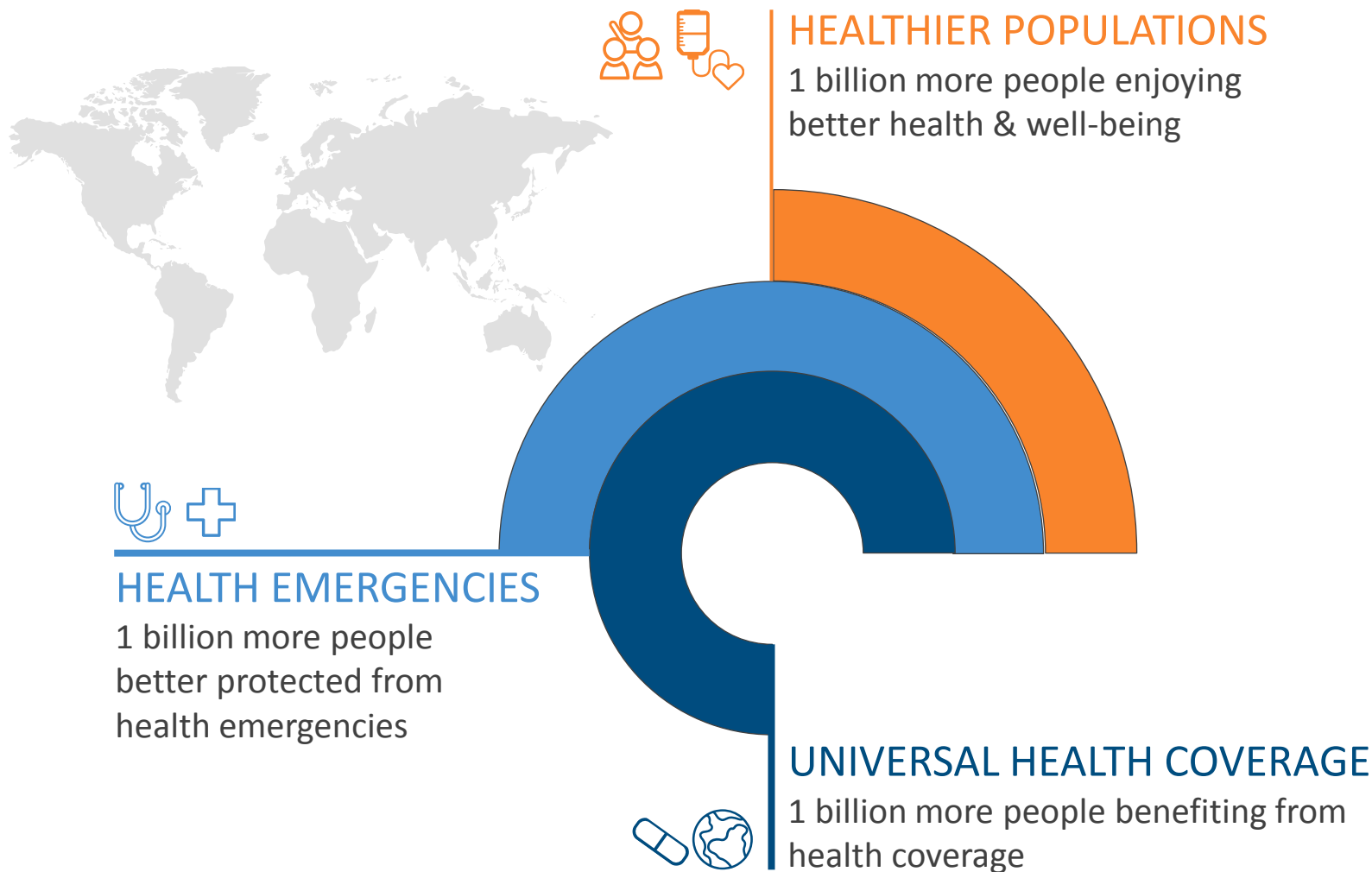
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL (SDG) 3

“Ensure healthy lives and promote well being for all at all ages”

“Achieve Universal Health Coverage...access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all”

WHO GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF WORK

GPW 13





ACCESS TO MEDICINES, VACCINES AND HEALTH PRODUCTS

The continuous supply of quality, safe, effective and affordable medicines and vaccines is :

- essential to the highest attainable level of health as envisaged by the WHO Constitution
- one of the building blocks of every well-functioning health system
- integral to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals
- indispensable for responding to outbreaks and health emergencies



Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly: Addressing the global shortage of medicines and vaccines

1. Urged Member States and regional economic integration organizations to develop strategies to forecast, avert or reduce shortages and stockouts, including:

- Effective notification systems
- Appropriate procurement, distribution and contract management processes
- Systems to monitor the supply chain
- Sound financial management
- Prioritization of health needs for most affected groups
- Advance regional and international cooperation in support of development of national notification systems

2. Called upon manufacturers, wholesalers, procurement agencies and other stakeholders to contribute to global efforts to address challenge of shortages

3. Requested WHO to:

- Develop technical definitions for medicine and vaccine shortages and stockouts
- Assess the magnitude and nature of the problem
- Develop a global notification system



Definitions of shortages and stock outs of medicines and vaccines

On the supply side: A “shortage” occurs when the supply of medicines, health products, and vaccines identified as essential by the health system is considered to be insufficient to meet public health and patient needs.

On the demand side: A “shortage” will occur when demand exceeds supply at any point in the supply chain and may ultimately create a “stock out” at the point of appropriate service delivery to the patient if the cause of the shortage cannot be resolved in a timely manner relative to the clinical needs of the patient.



PRODUCTION



SALES
PURCHASING
DISTRIBUTION



PRESCRIPTION
DISPENSING

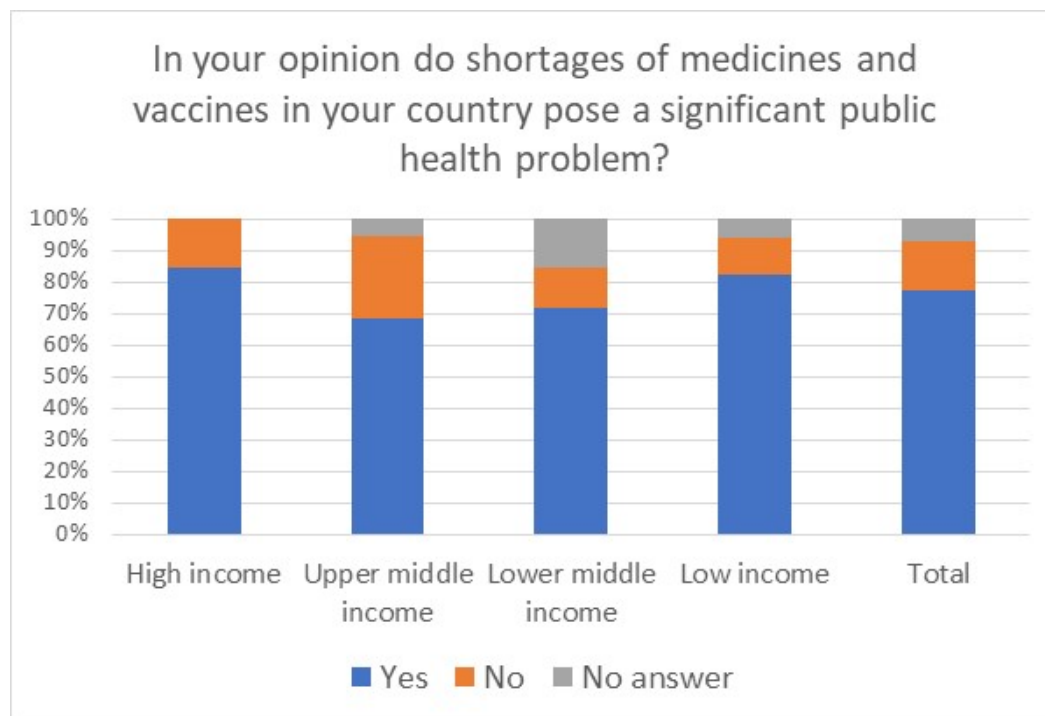


USE



Magnitude and nature of shortages

- Documented supply failure of medicines and vaccines are reported in countries at all levels of development and across every region of the world
- They are widespread and result from a complex interface between supply; demand; and regulatory and information factors
- They impact, in different ways, all actors involved in the delivery of health services, but ultimately shortages impact access to and quality of healthcare





Portal for reporting global shortages of medicines and vaccines

Scope

- Global shortages of medicines and vaccines
- Diagnostics and devices pending

Audience

- Health Authorities, National and International Procurers
- Eventually to registered manufacturers

Root cause tracking

- Multiple options for capturing root causes
- Options for capturing shortage "symptoms"

Interoperability

- Links to substandard and falsified data bases

Existence of notification system and interest in participating in global reporting system

- 53% of countries indicated the existence of a notification mechanisms for supply disruptions
- 82% of respondents would consider using the system and 17% did not know
- 73% of respondents would very likely or likely contribute information to the system and 22% did not know



Prevention and mitigation



Market visibility

- Global demand and supply visibility
- Market Information for Access to Vaccines (MI4A)
- Market assessment for products at risk

Procurement and supply chain

- Selection (Essential Medicine List)
- Collaborative/strategic procurement
- Supply chain visibility and shortage notification systems

Regulatory system strengthening and collaboration

- Global Benchmarking Tool
- Regulatory harmonization
- Pharmacovigilance

Access to quality products

- WHO Prequalification programme
- Collaborative Registration Procedure
- Local production



A world where every child, man and woman has access to the quality essential medicines, vaccines and other health products they need to lead a healthy and productive life