

Kabul, Afghanistan, 16 March 2021 – Today, ahead of schools re-opening on 21 March, the Ministry of Public Health has prioritized teachers to receive the COVID-19 vaccine so that schools stay open, teachers stay safe and children keep learning.

COVAX – a coalition of partners including the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Gavi, the Vaccine Aliance, UNICEF and WHO – was created to ensure that as COVID-19 vaccines are rolled out around the world, the process is done fairly so that all countries, especially the poorest, receive vaccines and are better able to protect their most vulnerable populations.

COVAX has shipped 468 000 doses of the COVISHIELD vaccine from the AstraZeneca Serum Institute of India, in Mumbai to Afghanistan. The delivery is part of a first wave of arrivals that will continue in the coming weeks and months.

The COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc on the world and children have paid the highest price as school doors shut and students were denied their right to education and, in many cases, protection.

Last year in Afghanistan, nationwide school closures disrupted the learning of almost 10 million children. The longer children remain out of school, the less likely they are to return.



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