

CHALLENGES OF VIETNAM'S COVID-19 VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

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Abstract

This poster looks at the challenges that Vietnam has to overcome to achieve the goal of getting 70% of its adults vaccinated by first quarter of 2022.

Once a worldwide "successful lesson" (1) of fighting Covid-19 with low cost, since April 2021, Vietnam has been hit hard by the 4th wave with over 207.000 new cases and 3.215 deaths in just over 100 days.

Economic shutdown and the healthcare system on verge of collapse have forced Vietnam to speed up the vaccination campaign. The government set to get 75 millions people vaccinated by the end of March 2022 (2).

Background

This ambitious goal is still in doubt, due to some significant challenges, especially the shortage of vaccines supply.

As of Aug 12, 2021, Vietnam has only administered 13,3 million doses (3), ranked lowest amongst the 10 countries of ASEAN (4).

To meet the target, Vietnam must administer 587.000 doses per day, which is challenging, given the fact that the daily average of 30 days (from July 13 to Aug 11) is about 302.000 doses (5).

Challenges identification

+ **Vaccine shortage:** The Ministry of Health has announced that Vietnam will secure 125 million doses at the end of this year, but as of Aug 8, only 18,8 million doses (15%) arrived (6).

+ **Lack of infrastructure:** storage, facilities to administer the vaccine, attribution network.

+ **Lack of trained healthcare workers:** the exact number remains unknown.

+ **Absence of a detailed and feasible plan:** with no standardized procedures in place, each vaccination site has its own way of operating, which leads to overcrowding, long lines and inefficiency, exhausting healthcare workers, and recipients.

+ Diverse vaccines sources

+ Train healthcare workers

+ Build more infrastructure with the participation of the private sector

+ Make a detailed plan and standardized procedure.

Although there are challenges, there are reasons to hope, since Vietnam is scaling up the vaccination campaign and people are willing to take the jabs. Vietnam can meet the target if and only if it can manage to scale up the speed of vaccination by 200% and make sure to secure enough vaccines.

References:

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