

Global health governance performance during COVID-19, what needs to be changed? A Delphi survey study

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Introduction

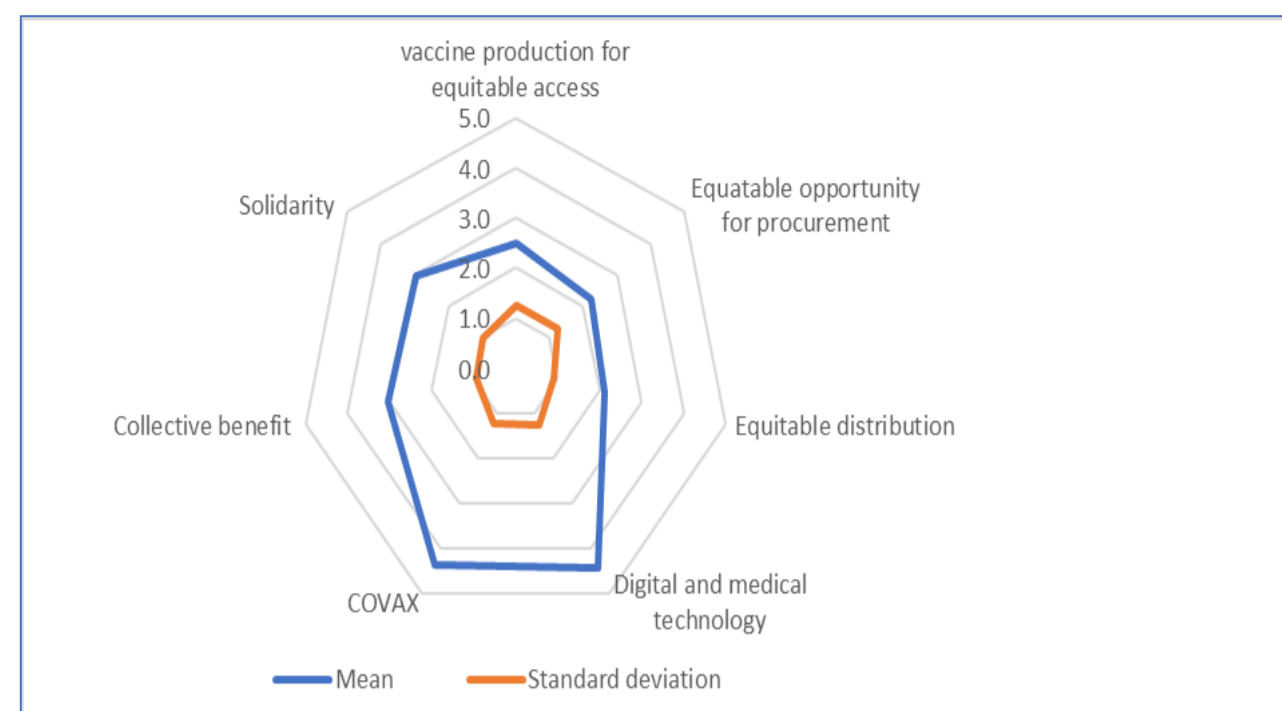
Covid-19 proven the presence of many deficits in the current GHG. Poor coordination, regulatory overlapping, a fragile governance system, and vaccine inequity.

Covid 19 is a zoonotic disease. With the climate and environmental changes, the world is at continuous risk of new zoonotic diseases.

Preceding outbreaks and epidemics shifted global health from low politics to high politics and caused changes in GHG leadership, structure and finance.

Assessing how COVID-19 is being handled globally provides lessons for ensuring better performance in facing upcoming outbreaks.

2. GHG performance in achieving equity regarding Covid-19 "inadequate".



Objectives

- To evaluate the performance of GHG during COVID-19 in general and in relation to COVID-19 vaccine equity in particular.
- To identify the reasons behind this performance.
- To propose prospective changes in GHG for better performance.

Methods

- Design
This study is a cross-sectional research design using the Delphi method.
- Survey
 - A three-round Delphi surveys
 - 72 statements - Based on scoping review with 8 themes
 - 7-point Likert scale
 - Delphi rounds were stopped when participants maintained their scores
- Panel
30 experts (International Organizations, Governments, NGOs, Academia)
- Analysis
 - Consensus calculation: $SD < +1.35$
 - Assessing the performance of GHG: Mean
 - Correlation between the proposed areas of change in GHG and the presumed underlying causes of GHG malperformance

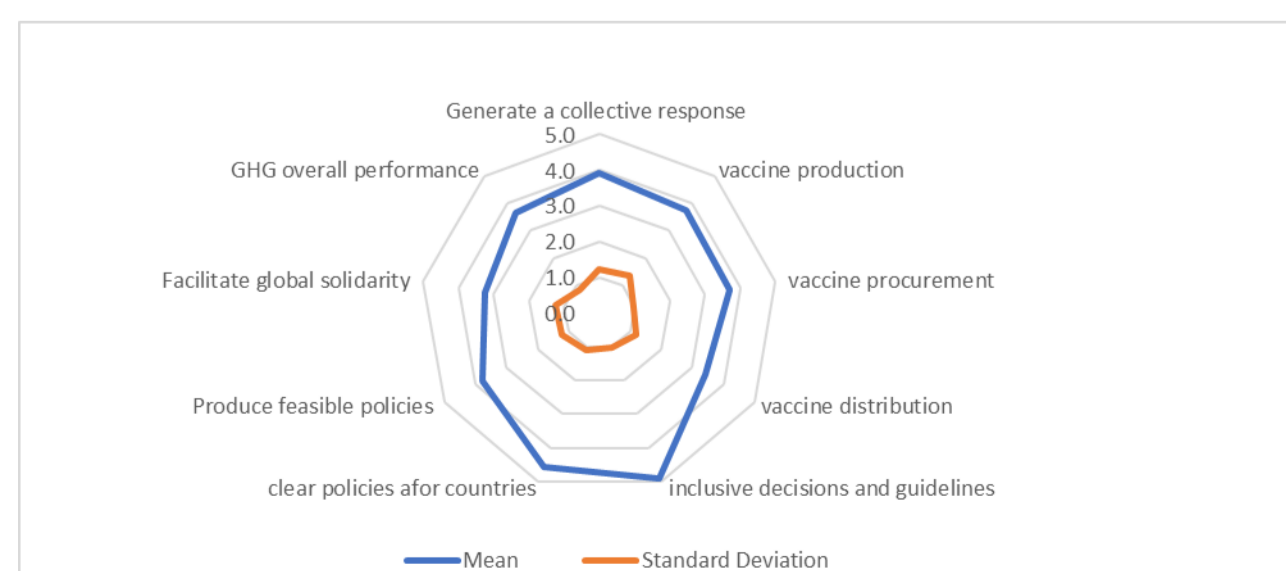
3. Factors Affecting Vaccine Acquisition

- The panel had a consensus on six out of eight statements regarding factors that influence countries' ability to acquire COVID-19 vaccines
- The panel agreed that the two most important factors that enable countries to acquire the vaccine are:
 - pharmaceutical companies' interest in financial gain (M = 6.2)
 - the level of economic and political power a country holds (M = 6)
- Other important factors according to the panel:
 - the country's health system's capacity to handle the Covid-19 vaccine (M = 5.1)
 - having the knowledge and technology to develop or produce the vaccine (M = 5)
 - the ability to make bilateral deals to acquire Covid-19 vaccine (M = 4.9)
 - The COVAX initiative (M = 4.1)
- The panel did not have a consensus on two factors:
 - The laws on intellectual property rights
 - the country's representation and influence in GHG.

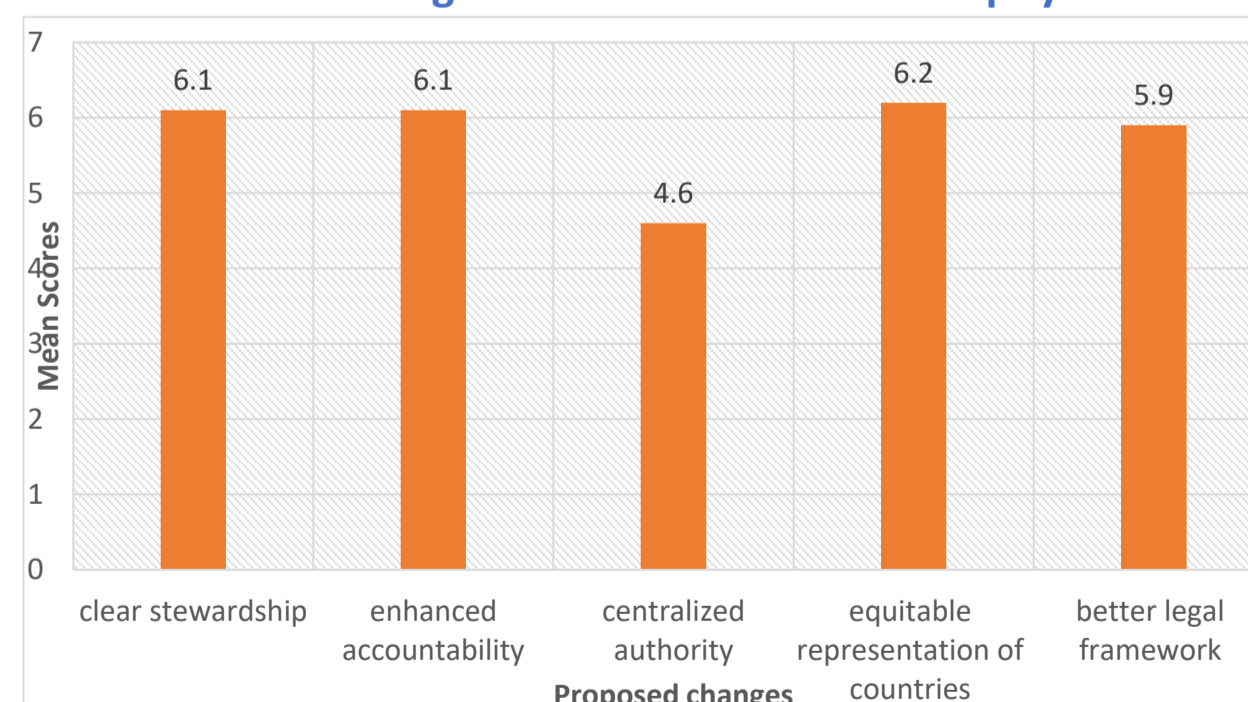
Results

- Overall** Fifty-seven statements out of seventy-two statements gained consensus by the expert panel

2. GHG's overall performance "disappointing"



4. What needs to be changed in GHG structure for better equity?



Conclusion

- GHG performance during the Covid-19 was inadequate
- Changes in GHG are needed for better future health equity
 - Equitable representations of countries
 - Clear stewardship
 - Enhanced accountability
 - AND....Greater emphasis on health as a global public good