

# Global Summary

Covid-19 Vaccine No Fault  
Compensation Schemes



This Global Summary examines the provision of No-Fault Compensation Schemes for injuries following Covid-19 vaccination .

These findings arose from a project looking at No-Fault Compensation Scheme carried out at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, University of Oxford.

This summary can stand alone or can be read in conjunction with the detailed regional reports

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# Covid-19 Vaccine NFCS – Global summary

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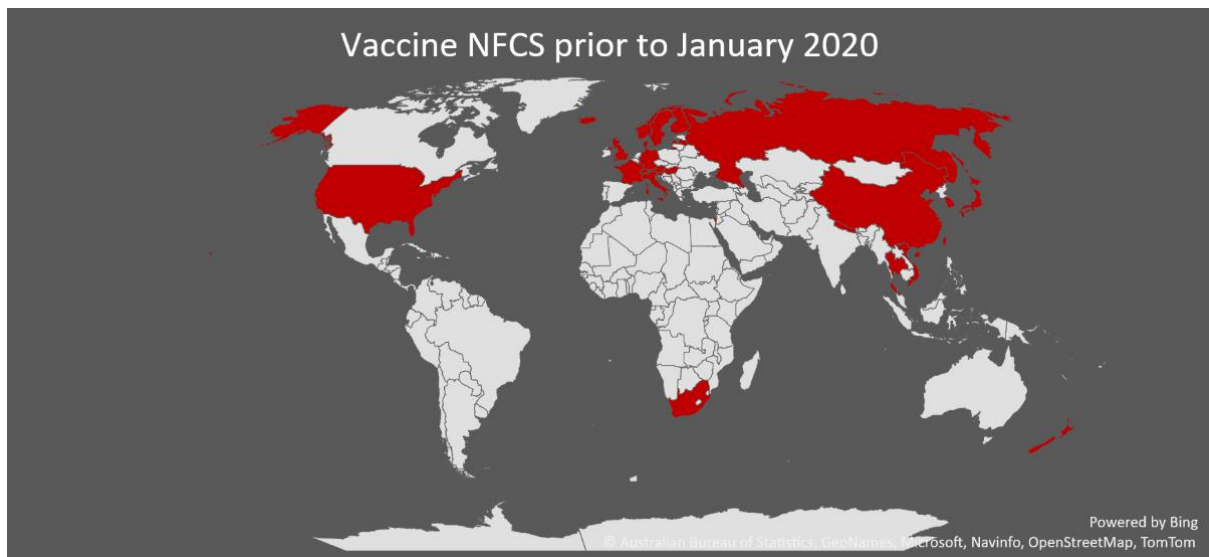
## Introduction

We have identified 29 national schemes that were offering no-fault vaccine compensation at the start of the pandemic in January 2020. Since then the number of jurisdictions with a no-fault compensation scheme which covers Covid-19 vaccines has increased almost five-fold. This is a rapid proliferation in NFCS which this project will research. The first stage of our research was to map the NFCS landscape. This summarises the findings of a [series of reports](#) looking at global Covid-19 Vaccine No-Fault Compensation Schemes.

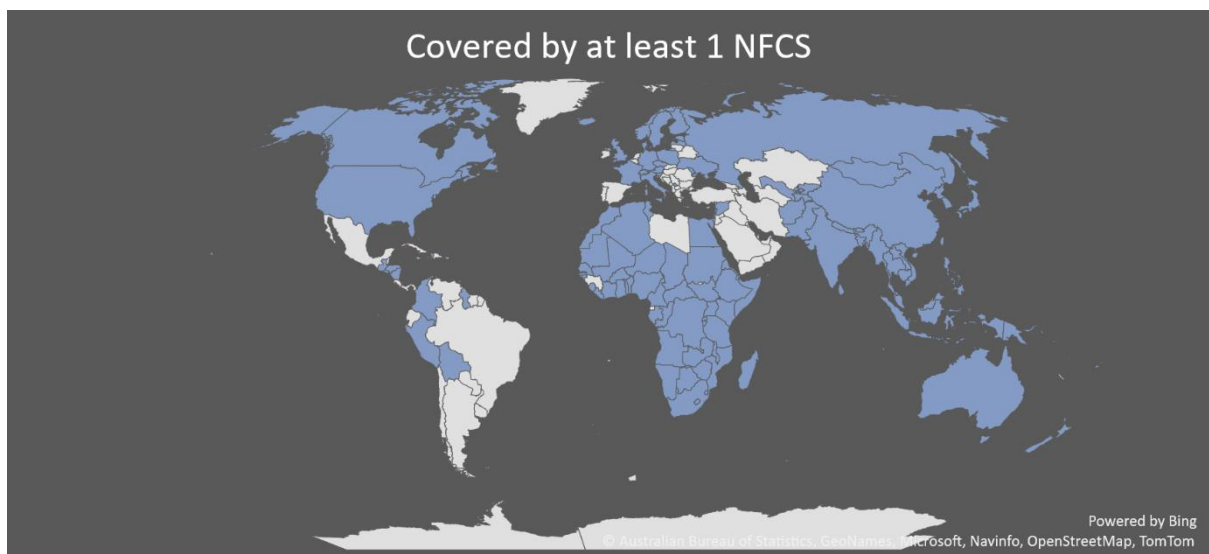
## Coverage of NFCSs

### Geographical Coverage

We have identified 29 countries which had a no-fault compensation scheme (NFCS) for Vaccine injuries. Quebec in Canada also had a provincial NFCS, but the remainder of Canada did not have coverage.



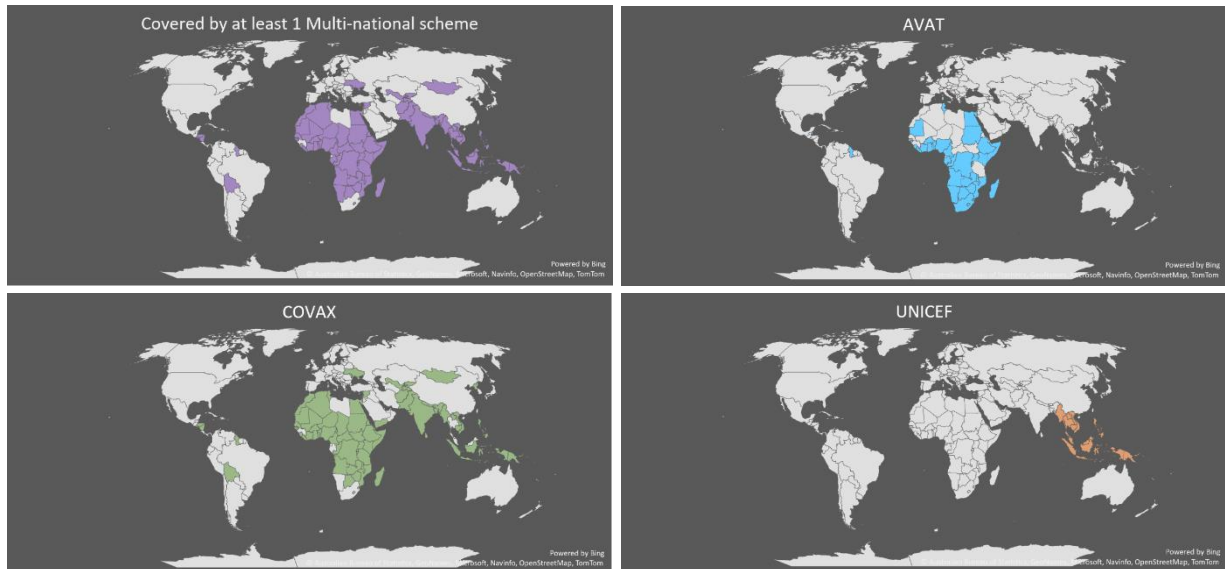
Following the pandemic there was a rapid expansion in NFCS coverage, for comparison see the map below. We have produced detailed findings on the Covid Vaccine NFCS coverage in 137 countries.



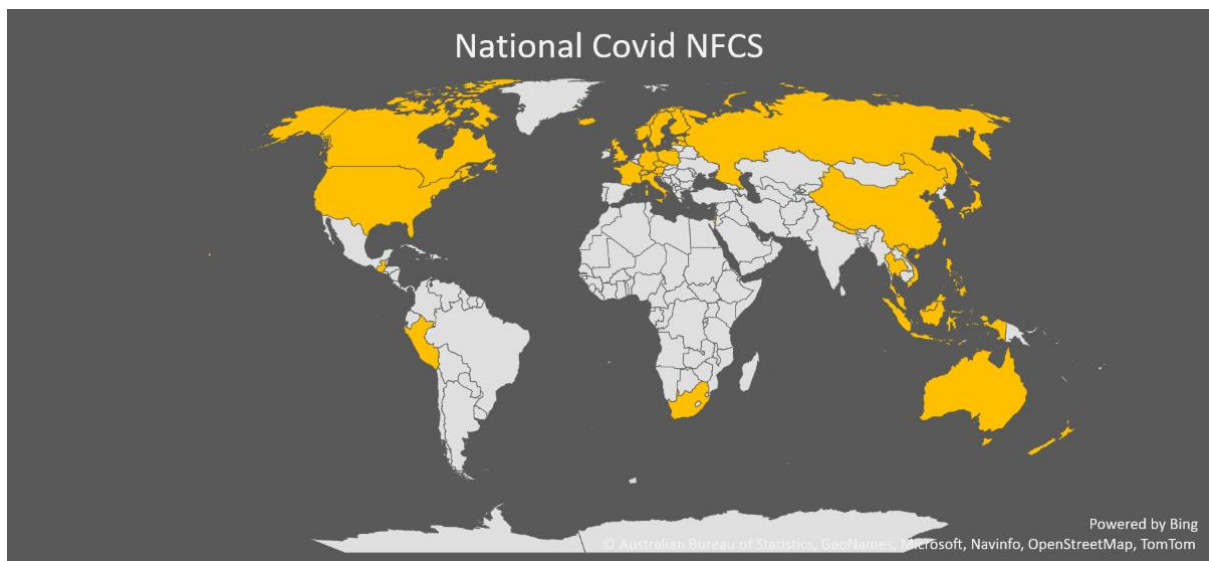
The majority of this increase in coverage is due to the three multi-national NFCS for Covid Vaccines.

- AVAT (43 countries) - The African Union Vaccine Acquisition Trust
- COVAX (92 countries) – Covid-19 Vaccines Global Access, which is a WHO initiative
- UNICEF (18 countries) – UNICEF Covid-19 Response

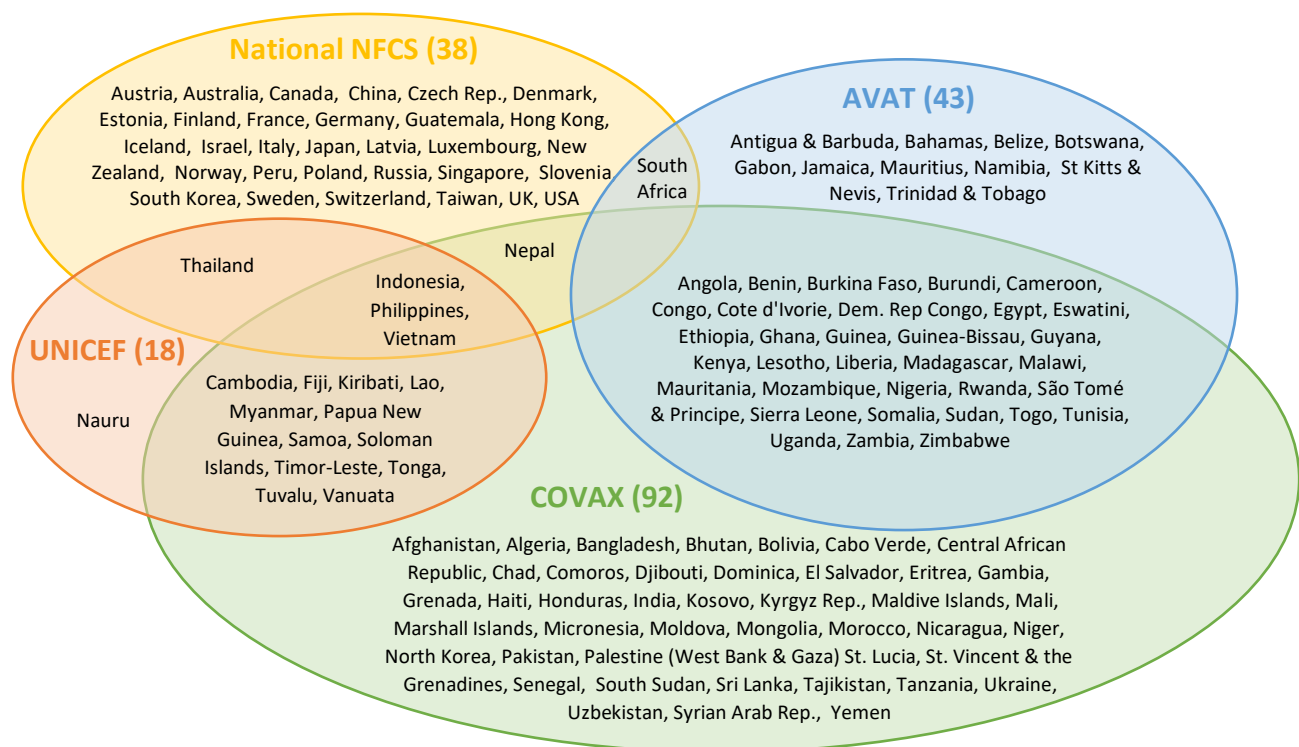
The maps below show the distribution of the different multinational Covid Vaccine NFCSs. Between them these three schemes cover 98 countries; 48 countries are members of more than one multinational scheme (AVAT & COVAX or COVAX & UNICEF).



There are a number of countries which have implemented a national Covid Vaccine NFCS since the start of the pandemic.



The diagram below illustrates which NFCSs each country participates in.



### Vaccines covered

The fact that a jurisdiction has a NFCS in place does not mean that all vaccinations given in that jurisdiction are covered. There are a number of restrictions in all of the NFCSs, but in general national NFCSs tend to cover the vaccines used in that jurisdiction. The multi-jurisdiction schemes only covered the vaccines given under their framework. This should be remembered when assessing the level of coverage in a given location.

### Key findings

- We have examined 38 national schemes, 3 multinational schemes & 1 provincial scheme
- The **3 multi-national schemes are non-statutory**, the majority of the remaining schemes have been created using legislation
- **98 countries are covered by the 3 multinational schemes**
  - AVAT - 43 countries, COVAX - 92 countries, UNICEF - 18 countries
  - The multinational schemes cover vaccines supplied under their framework - they do not cover all vaccines supplied in that jurisdiction
  - 49 countries are double covered
  - 3 countries are triple covered
- **All 3 multinational schemes and 12 national schemes only cover permanent injuries**

- **1 country (Hungary) had an existing vaccine NFCS which does not seem to have been expanded to include Covid-19 Vaccines.**
- **4 Countries (Brazil, Lebanon, Tunisia & Ukraine) have enacted legislation to create a national NFCS, but not seem to have implemented a scheme in practice**
- NFCS are **not evenly distributed globally**, but the multinational schemes have made a substantial contribution to a more even worldwide distribution.
- **The majority of schemes use an administrative process**, 1 scheme (Israel) has an adversarial process to determine claims
- The way in which **eligibility for compensation** is determined **varies widely** across schemes
- Almost **all schemes have some limit on the value of compensation** that can be paid
- A number of schemes published breakdowns of their activity, claim numbers, payments made, etc, but not all schemes do.

### Awareness of Schemes

For NFCSs to be useful, potential claimants need to be aware that there is a scheme operating in their country which might cover their injury. The AVAT scheme does not publish a list of participating nations, and we have struggled to clarify which countries take part. During our research we have found a concerning lack of awareness of the availability of this compensation in some AVAT NFCS countries, including contradictory statements from Government Ministers reported in the press. We hope that our website will provide a resource to enable individuals to determine where NFCS provision exists, but it is not a replacement for effective publication of the schemes in the countries where these schemes operate. Ensuring public awareness of these schemes needs to be urgently prioritised.

### Conclusions

The NFCS coverage globally has changed significantly. There has been an almost five-fold increase in the number of countries covered, predominantly in low- and middle-income nations.

In the jurisdictions covered by multinational NFCSs potential claimants will need to establish whether their vaccine was delivered under a multinational framework. The percentage of vaccines delivered under these programs is likely to vary between different jurisdictions, so there is no simple way to quantify the overall level of NFCS coverage across the jurisdictions where multinational schemes operate.

We have summarised our findings from the publicly available information on NFCS. Further details can be found on our website and in the regional reports.

There may be additional options for some vaccine recipients which we have not summarised. We are not party to the bilateral supply agreements between nations and manufacturers, and therefore we do not know what provision, if any, they contain for compensation for vaccine adverse events.

Now that we have mapped the Covid-19 Vaccine NFCS provision, we will go on to examine the scheme metrics, such as claim numbers, payments made, timeframes, etc to see how they are working and the wider societal impacts they may be having.