

VAC_23 - The Health Industrial Economic Complex (HIEC) and the National Immunization Program in Brazil

Sheila Nara Borges¹; Thayssa da Fonseca Victer¹.

¹Ministério da Saúde

Introduction: Vaccines save a millions of lives every year, and during the COVID-19 pandemic, they made a major contribution to reducing infections and enabling economic recovery in high-as well as low-and-middle- income countries (LMICs). It is contested in the literature whether LMICs should focus on creating domestic production capacity or importing cheap, quality medicines from abroad – the so-called make or buy it debate. The network of entities involving the health industry, including pharmaceutical companies, biotechnology firms, research institutions, healthcare providers, and governmental health agencies are the main players at the Health Industrial Economic Complex. In the context of Brazil, the HIEC plays a crucial role in shaping and supporting the National Immunization Program (NIP).

Objectives: Evaluate PNI vaccines supply chain suppliers and financing in 2023.

Methodology: Analysis of supplier data, quantities and economic values of vaccines through acquisition contracts by the NIP for 2023.

Results: Currently, the program offers 51 immunobiologicals, with 64% of them are produced by the public laboratories of Bio-Manguinhos and the Instituto Butantan. With 30% of products imported, the department sees the need to advance national production and reduce dependence external. Between 300 and 400 million doses of vaccines are applied per year, and in covid-19 pandemic this supply practically doubled, demonstrating the network's ability to respond to an emergency. The Ministry of Health's distribution network covers 1 national centers, 27 states, 350 regional and 38 thousand of vaccination rooms spread across the country. In terms of financing, the immunization program has obtained increase in resources since 2014, essential for expanding the supply and improvement of the vaccination network. In 2024, the budget was around R\$10 billion for immunobiologicals, including vaccines against covid-19.

Conclusion: It is important to highlight the new politics of Ministry of Health, which establishes the matrix of productive and technological challenges in health, brings the priority demands of the SUS that will guide the National Strategy for the Development of the HIEC and promote the productive and technological Brazilian development, to expand access and guaranteeing the supply of vaccines. Thus, the HIEC aims to reduce the vulnerabilities of the SUS and expand access to healthcare for the population, aiming to guarantee self- sufficiency in national production of the main strategic inputs, especially with the involvement of public laboratories.

Keywords: Industrial Economic Complex; Vaccine; National Immunization Program