

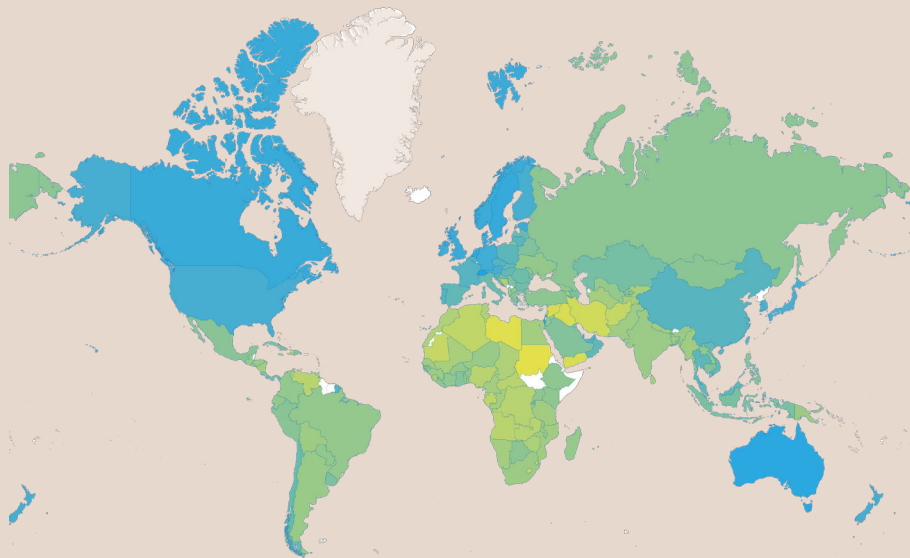
This PDF includes a contribution from the following book:

ELITE QUALITY REPORT 2022

State capacity, vaccination rates, and the paradox
of selfish elites

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State capacity, vaccination rates, and the paradox of selfish elites

Poor customers are not of interest to Big Pharma, which traditionally shies away from Sub-Saharan Africa. As a consequence, COVID-19 is endemic, with Africa being the cradle of new variants, while rich countries keep paying for an endless sequence of booster jabs.

A sad confirmation of this reality is apparent when viewing the worst performing countries for the *COVID-19 vaccination rate* (VAX, iii.7) Indicator: 19 out of lowest-ranking 25 nations are in Africa. The Gambia has vaccinated only 13.2%¹ of its population, while Burundi is at the absolute bottom with only 0.1% of its population vaccinated. Africa's champion is Rwanda, with a 62.9% vaccination rate which is excellent for a low-income country with limited resources. Inclusive public health policies that include a decade of investments in vaccination campaigns against measles, rubella, polio, and pneumococcal diseases have paid off, showing that a health infrastructure resting on multiple pillars is the key to success against pandemics.

The world-class performance of Cuba, (VAX, iii.7, rank # 2), is positively shocking. Unlike Rwanda, it could not count on gifts from Western countries. Instead, it has developed an innovative health system that succeeded in inventing its own mRNA vaccine and immunizing 87% of its population. This COVID-safe island proudly believes in a different ethical approach to intellectual property, much in the spirit of Albert Sabin, who refused to patent his polio-eradicating vaccine as "my gift to all children of the world".

Cambodia is the only low-middle income country in our top ten list. It strongly relied on support from China to deliver a massive number of jabs. But unlike other neighboring countries, its state capacity was fully mobilized to administer them in time, achieving better results by the end of 2021 than far wealthier countries.

More generally, we can identify the different dimensions of our Elite Quality construct and measurement that are conducive to successful COVID-19 vaccination rates. We do so by looking at the correlations between the *COVID-19 vaccination rate* (VAX, iii.7) with other Indicators that comprise the EQx2022. There are some insightful surprises.

VAX negatively correlates with the *Regional redistribution as % of government budget* (REG, iii.7) and *Subsidies and trans-*

fers as % of expenses (SNT, iii.7) variables, meaning that countries that redistribute more regionally and individually have higher vaccination rates. Every person needs a vaccine regardless of how productive they are or how productive their region is. Therefore, a higher propensity for more inter-personal and inter-regional transfers—that is, altruism—is reflected by elites that have fostered a more inclusive and pervasive distribution of jabs across their population.

We also see that having more *Public employees as a % of the population* (as exhibited by low scores for PUE, ii.4), is crucial for successful vaccination campaigns. More *Collective bargaining coverage* (as exhibited by low scores for CBC, ii.4, meaning stronger labor elites) also possibly helped through the mechanism of fostering inter-class cooperation.

Indicators that increase scores in the Creative Destruction Pillar (ii.6) did not help vaccination rates. Low scores in the EQx for Indicators such as *Listed firms turnover, long run 15 years* (TUL, ii.6), *Listed firms turnover, short run 3 years* (TUS, ii.6) and *Billionaires' wealth as % of GDP* (BIW, ii.5), rather paradoxically helped vaccination rates.

Interestingly, the countries with higher vaccination rates have also used discriminatory trade measures against other countries as is shown by their low scores for *Shares of imports targeted by protectionist measures* (IPM & IPS, iv.10), as well as *Shares of discriminatory government interventions as % of total interventions* (DGI & DGS, iv.10). Prominent examples include the vaccine inputs export ban enacted by the US, and the AstraZeneca vaccine export ban implemented by EU countries. This selfish 'America first' and 'Europe first' approach, resulted in them losing face with most of the developing world. Of course, their high *COVID-19 mortality rate, age-adjusted* (COM, iii.7) also caused them to vaccinate quickly.

Last but not least, there is a striking the relationship between the Indicators VAX and *CO2 emissions* (CDO, iii.9): high vaccination rates are correlated with high carbon emissions. Elites with business models that pollute are nationalist because they prioritize their own needs and burden other countries with their negative externalities. They are also shortsighted, because they extract from future generations. Yet, these nationalistic and shortsighted elites appeared quite committed to the short-run vaccination of their populations and thus to quickly revitalize their health, economy, and social life.

1. All vaccination rates are correct as of April 2022. The EQx VAX Indicator uses figures from December 2021.



Sub-Index (Level 2)	Value
Index Area (Level 2)	Political Value
Pillar (Level 3)	Giving Income
Indicator ref. (Level 4)	iii.7_VAX
Indicator wgt. (in EQx)	0.6%
Indicator wgt. (in Pillar)	7.3%
Countries covered	150
Inclusion year	2022
Conceptual optimum	No

Data Source: Our World in Data (OWID), University of Oxford & The World Bank (Population Data)

Description

COVID-19 vaccination rate reflects the number of people with at least one dose of a vaccine divided by the total population.

Rationale

The most evident solution to the extractive effects of COVID-19 is a comprehensive vaccination program. The higher the vaccination rate, the better. Countries with high vaccination rates protect their populations and against the worst effects of the pandemic and hasten the return to a new normal. As such, they create value for their citizens. Countries that fail to effectively vaccinate their populations or convince them of the importance of vaccination, create less value. Vaccination is a reflection of Political Value and so this indicator is part of the Giving Income Pillar.

Rank /150	Country	Score	Rank /150	Country	Score	Rank /150	Country	Score
1	United Arab Emirates	96	51	El Salvador	69	101	Armenia	36
2	Cuba	89	52	Mongolia	69	102	Eswatini	33
3	Chile	88	53	Lithuania	69	103	Romania	33
4	Portugal	88	54	Turkey	68	104	Zimbabwe	33
5	China	87	55	Venezuela, RB	65	105	Mozambique	32
6	Korea, Rep.	83	56	Hungary	65	106	Bulgaria	32
7	Cambodia	83	57	Dominican Republic	65	107	Libya	32
8	Argentina	82	58	Czech Republic	64	108	Bosnia and Herzegovina	32
9	Spain	82	59	Mexico	64	109	Mauritania	30
10	Singapore	82	60	Estonia	64	110	Jamaica	29
11	Canada	82	61	India	62	111	Angola	29
12	Denmark	81	62	Oman	62	112	Iraq	27
13	Qatar	80	63	Slovenia	61	113	Guinea-Bissau	26
14	Italy	80	64	Rwanda	60	114	Cote d'Ivoire	25
15	Ecuador	79	65	Indonesia	60	115	Kyrgyz Republic	25
16	Malaysia	79	66	Tunisia	60	116	Ghana	24
17	Japan	78	67	Poland	58	117	Uganda	24
18	Uruguay	78	68	Croatia	57	118	Equatorial Guinea	24
19	Norway	78	69	Uzbekistan	57	119	Togo	23
20	Vietnam	78	70	Cyprus	55	120	Algeria	22
21	Australia	78	71	Lao PDR	53	121	Liberia	22
22	France	78	72	Russian Federation	53	122	Guinea	22
23	Ireland	77	73	Azerbaijan	53	123	Benin	20
24	Brazil	77	74	Philippines	53	124	Namibia	20
25	New Zealand	77	75	Trinidad and Tobago	53	125	Congo, Rep.	18
26	Kuwait	77	76	Slovak Republic	53	126	Kenya	18
27	Costa Rica	76	77	Timor-Leste	52	127	Gambia, The	18
28	Finland	76	78	Botswana	52	128	Afghanistan	17
29	Belgium	76	79	Honduras	52	129	Gabon	17
30	United Kingdom	76	80	Paraguay	51	130	Sierra Leone	16
31	Netherlands	75	81	Bolivia	51	131	Ethiopia	15
32	Colombia	75	82	Kazakhstan	50	132	Senegal	15
33	Mauritius	74	83	Serbia	50	133	Malawi	15
34	Austria	74	84	Belarus	49	134	Central African Republic	15
35	Peru	74	85	Pakistan	47	135	Syrian Arab Republic	14
36	Germany	74	86	Jordan	46	136	Sudan	14
37	Sweden	73	87	Nepal	45	137	Nigeria	12
38	United States	73	88	North Macedonia	44	138	Burkina Faso	12
39	Nicaragua	73	89	Albania	44	139	Zambia	12
40	Thailand	73	90	Bangladesh	43	140	Mali	12
41	Sri Lanka	72	91	Tajikistan	42	141	Tanzania	11
42	Turkmenistan	72	92	Guatemala	42	142	Papua New Guinea	11
43	Saudi Arabia	71	93	Moldova	41	143	Cameroon	11
44	Israel	71	94	Georgia	40	144	Madagascar	10
45	Iran, Islamic Rep.	71	95	Lesotho	40	145	Niger	10
46	Bahrain	70	96	Myanmar	39	146	Chad	9
47	Panama	70	97	Ukraine	37	147	Yemen, Rep.	9
48	Greece	70	98	Lebanon	37	148	Haiti	9
49	Switzerland	69	99	Egypt, Arab Rep.	37	149	Congo, Dem. Rep.	8
50	Latvia	69	100	South Africa	36	150	Burundi	8

The Elite Quality Report 2022 (EQx2022) provides Country Scores & Global Rank for 151 countries
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