

The Response

#VaccineInequality Series

The current COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare the structural inequalities and injustices that are deeply embedded in our social, economic and political systems that were built from the exploitation of the world's poor and marginalized, especially women, girls and LGBTQIA+ peoples. In many ways, the pandemic is unlike any crisis that has been experienced by the world before. It has so far upended economies, changing and disrupting social and mobility patterns and networks, breaking the dichotomy of formal and informal labour and redefining the concept of care work, essential work and who performs it. In many instances, the patriarchal and gendered norms at home, at work and in public spaces are being reinforced, evidenced by everything from the surge of domestic violence to the loss of income and livelihood of women who are often hired in casual, contractual and short-term employment and the increase in women's burden of unpaid care work. It is likely that the economic, health, environmental and social impact of this crisis will be felt for years to come.

Further to the inequalities and injustices spotlighted by the onset of the pandemic globally, the introduction of the vaccine has brought an added array of inequalities and gaps. While the hasty development of the vaccines speaks to humanity's ability to adapt to threats to our livelihood, the global distribution speaks to the great structural inequalities and injustices, between the rich and poor.

What some are terming "***Vaccine Apartheid***" has further shown how wide the gap between the rich countries and the poor countries, otherwise globally seen as the global north countries as the rich and the global south being the poor; this poses the question, "***Why?***"

The #VaccineInequality series has been published and aired on The Response Podcast and Newsletter, closing with the regional dialogue in partnership with Zamara Foundation.

Find out more by reading the newsletter and listening to the podcast;

<https://the-response.mailchimpsites.com/>

<https://open.spotify.com/show/3CKf9MXf56iietRNSVQDeh>

<https://anchor.fm/the-response1>