

Palestine's inoculation program receives 100,000 COVID-19 vaccines from China

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A Palestinian man receives AstraZeneca vaccine against the coronavirus disease during a vaccination outside a clinic in Jenin

Ramallah, March 30 (RHC)-- The Palestinian Authority received 100,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses from China on Monday, a shipment Minister of Health Mai al-Kaila said would “greatly contribute to accelerating the vaccination campaign.”

Speaking at a press conference in Ramallah, China’s ambassador to the Palestinian Authority, Guo Wei, said the doses “represent the promise made by China to put vaccines at the service of the world and to fully support the efforts of the Palestinian Authority in its fight against the coronavirus.”

On Friday, the Palestinian health minister said that only 16,262 people had been vaccinated in the West Bank and 17,272 in Gaza – a stark contrast to Israel where nearly 10 million jabs have been administered.

To date, Palestine has only received a handful of smaller vaccine shipments. On March 17, Palestinian officials received batches of the AstraZeneca and Pfizer vaccine, numbering 61,440 in total, from the Covax facility. The government also expects to receive another 25,000 doses of the Anglo-Swedish jab this coming week.

In early March, Tel Aviv started vaccinating Palestinian laborers from the West Bank who work in Israel following heated debates over who should be responsible for inoculating people against Covid-19 in the occupied territories. Israel planned to vaccinate 100,000 Palestinian day laborers but said it wouldn’t expand inoculations to the Palestinian territories.

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