

‘Vaccines for all’ by 2030

Vaccines are essential in ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for people all over the world. Target 3.8 in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s) recognises this and calls for “... access to safe, effective, quality and affordable medicines and vaccines for all” by 2030.¹

Gavi is calling for an ambitious, universally applicable vaccine indicator to be one of the measures of target 3.8:

“Reach and sustain 90% national coverage and 80% in every district with all vaccines in national programmes.”

Why this indicator?

The proposed indicator is **universal** in its application. Every country measures immunisation coverage. As it focuses on the scale up of access to vaccines in the national schedule, the indicator reinforces **country-led development**.

The indicator is already agreed by all UN member states through the Global Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP), which was endorsed at the 2012 World Health Assembly.² **No additional monitoring** is required at country level.

As immunisation depends on all of the core components of a health system (e.g. planning, financing, supply chain, trained health workers, infrastructure), the proposed indicator is **multi-purpose** and is a good proxy measure for the strength and reach of a health system.

Every year immunisation averts 2 to 3 million infant deaths globally from deadly diseases such as diphtheria, hepatitis B, measles, mumps, pertussis, polio and tetanus. Vaccines save lives, but 1 in 5 children, an estimated 21.8 million infants worldwide, still miss out on basic vaccines. This indicator is recognition that every child has **the right to lead a healthy life**, and vaccination is a vital step.

¹ Target 3.8: By 2030, achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.

² The words “and sustain” have been added to the GVAP indicator.

http://www.who.int/immunization/global_vaccine_action_plan/GVAP_doc_2011_2020/en/

The proposed indicator addresses **equitable access** *within* countries, aiming for 90% national coverage and 80% coverage in all districts. It seeks to ensure a focus on reaching the unreached – the underserved children living in remote areas and in deprived urban and other settings.

Immunisation coverage is a widely used measure of public health. In the past it has often focussed on a single antigen or vaccine, such as the last dose of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine. An added value of the proposed indicator is that it is responsive to scientific and development advances by measuring coverage of *all* vaccines in national programmes. It aligns with the intent of the SDGs to have **relevance** at the national level, across all countries, and be able to be meaningfully aggregated.

Immunisation coverage is collected by governments everywhere and often **disaggregated** by critical stratifiers such as gender, geography and wealth.

Thanks to the determination of developing country and donor governments, Gavi has recently mobilised the resources to significantly scale up new vaccine use and expand coverage of vaccines in lower income countries, where the majority of babies are born. The coming years will see significant shifts in vaccine use and coverage, with a potentially transformational impact globally on people's health and well-being. While the proposed indicator is **ambitious**, with strong leadership at country level and the partnership of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, it is **attainable**.

Measuring immunisation

- Immunisation is widely recognised as a critical and practical health service coverage measure.
- Immunisation coverage is a universal indicator – every nation measures it and national data can be meaningfully aggregated to the global level.
- The proposed indicator is multi-purposed and can gauge success across a number of areas of development including the strength of health systems, equity, human rights, and child survival.

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