

GAVI High Level Meeting

Saving children's lives A call for action and resources for the GAVI Alliance

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WHO Statement of Support

- This is my first GAVI meeting representing WHO

INTRODUCTION

- Recall the extraordinary momentum in support to MDGs following the just concluded UN summit and especially the launch of the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health.
- This is an opportune time to hold this critical meeting for immunization to contribute to MDGs.
- Over the past decade, GAVI has proved itself as a new force in global development agenda and has:
 - made available innovative vaccines to low income countries;
 - contributed to increasing immunization coverage by investing in national immunization and health systems;
 - changed the market dynamics by working with Industry on pricing and supply strategies; and

- Enhanced immunization stakeholder dynamics through its partnership model, including CSO engagement.
- In addition to accelerated introduction of these high impact vaccines into country programmes, GAVI should be congratulated for its market shaping approaches including the most recently launched advanced market commitment for pneumococcal vaccines , in addition to those for Hib, HepB, Meningitis A and Yellow Fever Vaccines, and for ongoing support to measles and polio
- Together, the Global Polio Eradication, Measles and GAVI Alliance initiatives in routine immunization and contribution to health systems, have demonstrated what is possible when stakeholders bring their respective strengths together under a common cause
- Ongoing investments in routine immunizations systems and immunization programmes including measles, meningitis and yellow fever control, and polio eradication are part of the critical mission to success.

VALUE OF IMMUNIZATION

- The value and contribution of vaccines and immunization in preventing mortality and improving health cannot be overstated. Every country which has made progress towards MDG 4 has done through a sustained coverage of immunization.
- Immunization is one of the most cost-effective interventions available to improve health. In GAVI-eligible countries, WHO estimates that traditional vaccines including those against tetanus, pertussis and measles as well as new vaccines, such as Hib, pneumo and rota vaccines have the potential to save 4.5 million lives worldwide each year at an average cost of US\$24 per fully vaccinated child.
- Strategies to deliver immunization services have been shown effective in all countries and for all population groups.
 - Poliovirus circulation is confined in a few endemic districts of 4 countries.
 - Measles mortality has been reduced by 78% worldwide during the past decade.
 - In GAVI eligible countries, coverage with Pentavalent vaccine has reached 85%.

THE VALUE OF THE GAVI ALLIANCE - A MODEL PARTNERSHIP

- WHO was one of the founding partners of GAVI, and is a key implementing partner of the Alliance.
- Together with UNICEF and the World Bank, we support the implementation of GAVI's mission into national immunization programmes and in monitoring the impact of GAVI's investments in the world's poorest countries and sustained coverage of immunization.

WHO'S ROLE, INCLUDING INNOVATIVE APPROACHES

As a committed GAVI Alliance Partner, WHO reaffirms its commitment today to adding value to the Alliance in the areas.

- ***immunization policy setting***

- The WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) has set high standards in its work to provide evidence-based policies, thus accelerating the uptake and the demand of newly available vaccines such as Hib, pneumo and rota vaccines.
 - Supporting national decision making processes by supporting national immunization technical advisory groups (NITAGs)
- **Setting norms and standards in terms of vaccine quality and prequalification**
 - WHO has scaled up efforts the prequalification of products with numerous products having been prequalified in the past year and more to come in the future
 - Ensuring vaccine safety receives due attention and establishing rapid response measures to addressing adverse events related to vaccines and immunization
 - Streamlining procedures and accelerating response to continuously increasing demand of vaccine product prequalification.
- **Monitoring and impact assessment**
 - Through enhanced surveillance activities
 - Pre and post vaccine introduction impact assessments
 - Global disease burden and impact monitoring
- **Providing technical support to national immunization programmes**
 - Through our network of regional and country technical staff
 - working with countries to increase domestic resources for immunization and health systems
 - With the Joint Health Systems Funding Platform, WHO is willing to play a facilitating role in leveraging funding for health systems financing and immunization.
- WHO also **contributes significant human resources on the ground** in terms of routine infrastructure support from the Polio Programme, and technical staff in regions and countries.
- In the coming years, WHO through its advisory bodies will increasingly focus its attention to monitoring implementation issues and guide those countries at risk of attaining critical milestones to plan and execute specific course correction plans.

IN CONCLUSION

- In the next year, several countries will introduce PCV and Rota vaccines in their routine immunization programmes. Other new vaccines are in the introduction pipeline including HPV and vaccines of regional significance including Typhoid, Meningitis and Rubella vaccines.
- For this we need predictable and sustained funding, a strong GAVI Alliance and a renewed commitment of the Secretariat to facilitate partners' inputs.
- There is no time to lose. We have started a momentum we should accelerate for historical, unparalleled impact on child mortality and the broader health MDGs.
- WHO notes the sense of urgency if we are to achieve our collective goals and commitments towards the health related MDGs, and encourage donors and industry to help countries to materialize these goals in a timely and sustainable manner.
- Finally, we would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Organization and its Director-General to congratulate Julian for his tremendous efforts and contributions to the success of GAVI during the past 6 years and make a plea to his successor, the global health community and all stakeholders to help make the next 10 years as golden as the last 10 years.

