

Saving children's lives and protecting people's health by increasing equitable use of vaccines in lower-income countries

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IMMUNISATION: STRENGTHENING PRIMARY HEALTHCARE FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

IMMUNISATION - A PLATFORM FOR STRENGTHENING PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

- Immunisation is the only intervention that brings the majority of households into contact with the health system five or more times during the first year of a child's life. This offers a unique opportunity to reach communities with additional primary health care services.
- A life-course approach to immunisation further promotes integration with other age-appropriate interventions through this effective delivery platform.
- Routine immunisation is one of the most equitable health interventions. For example, globally, girls and boys are reached at equal rates with immunisation.
- With immunisation comes supply chain, trained staff, data monitoring, disease surveillance, community outreach and health records all of which serve as the platform through which other basic primary health care services can be provided.

• Routine immunisation and primary health care contribute to health security by preventing diseases, supporting surveillance, and strengthening preparedness and response capacities for health emergencies. Immunisation also helps prevent the emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance.



IMMUNISATION REACHES MORE HOUSEHOLDS THAN ANY OTHER ROUTINE HEALTH SERVICE

- Globally, 90% of children are reached by the first dose of a diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis-containing vaccine, making immunisation the most universally accessible health service.
- With Gavi-support to low income countries for the introduction of pneumococcal and rotavirus vaccines, coverage for the two vaccines in those countries is now higher than the global average.
- Countries are displaying strong national commitment to immunisation by increasing the amount of domestic resources allocated to immunisation. By the end of 2018, 16 countries had started fully self-financing all their vaccines introduced with Gavi support.
- With Gavi-support, countries are strengthening their routine health information systems to produce timely and good quality data to identify children who miss out on life-saving vaccines.

IMMUNISATION AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

• Immunisation plays a critical role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as it directly and indirectly contributes to most of the SDGs.

> - Immunisation contributes to poverty reduction. Vaccines administered between 2016 and 2030 will prevent 24 million people in 41 of the world's low- and middle-income countries from falling into poverty.

> - With a high return on investment, immunisation impacts positively on education outcomes and productivity. Every US\$ 1 invested in immunisation generates a return of US\$ 54 in broader societal benefits, enabling a virtuous cycle of social and economic development.

- Immunisation has played a key role in more than halving the annual number of child deaths since 1990. Despite significant progress, some communities are still being left behind. In 2018, 13.5 million children worldwide – including 10.4 million in Gavi-supported countries – were not reached by the most basic form of immunisation services.
- Ensuring policy coherence and sustainable financing for health, including increased mobilisation of domestic public resources and their efficient and equitable allocation to primary health care, is one of the most effective ways to achieve UHC and other health-related SDGs.

• Gavi is one of 12 multilateral agencies which developed the Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All (GAP). The GAP aims to strengthen purposeful collaboration among the 12 agencies to help accelerate country impact towards the health-related SDGs.

> - Gavi co-led the accelerator on "sustainable financing for health" to help countries rapidly improve the generation, allocation and use of funds for health.

> - This includes enhanced support to countries to invest in health within a broader strategy for human capital and sustainable development.



GAVI IS PRIORITISING THOSE LEFT FURTHEST BEHIND

- A six-fold increase in its investments in health system strengthening from 2011 to 2018 to help address access barriers.
- Since 2016, investments of over US\$ 1 billion towards disease prevention, surveillance, outbreak preparedness and response efforts to strengthen global health security.
- Enabling quicker and more flexible response to countries facing fragility through its Fragility, Emergencies and Refugee policy, thereby boosting access to vaccines among vulnerable populations.
- Shaping markets by attracting more suppliers, dramatically reducing vaccine prices and ensuring more sustainable supply of products that meet developing countries' needs.
- Setting equity as the organising principle of its 2021-2025 strategy with a focus to extend immunisation services to underserved communities and unimmunised ("zero dose") children. This includes supporting countries to address gender-related barriers and ensure equitable access to quality health services to leave no one behind.

