

March 2005

Donors to the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization and The Vaccine Fund

Background

In 2002,¹ there were an estimated 10.5 million deaths among children under five. Of these, about 1.4 million children died from vaccine-preventable diseases for which vaccines are already available in most national immunization schedules. Although most children in high-income countries have access to the vaccines they need, in 2003, over 27 million children missed out on immunization during their first year of life—the vast majority in low-income countries. In 2002, among all age groups, 2.1 million people died from currently vaccine-preventable diseases and a further 2.1 million from diseases that will soon be vaccine-preventable.

In 2000, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) was launched to radically improve access to vaccines in the 75 poorest countries of the world, and to strengthen their immunization services. GAVI's founding partners aimed to pool their collective skills and resources to improve child survival, using one of the most basic and cost-effective public health tools available—immunization. To finance its mission, the GAVI partners created The Vaccine Fund, and charged it with raising new resources for immunization and to provide GAVI recipient countries with multi-year grants.

Donations to Date

To date, The Vaccine Fund has raised almost US\$1.3 billion to support GAVI programmes and received an additional US\$1.32 billion in pledges. This money has come from a range of different sources. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation made an initial US\$750 million grant, which was followed by contributions from 10 countries, the European Union and private donors.

This money has been used to improve access to vaccines and immunization in the poorest countries through efforts to:

- strengthen routine immunization services
- boost routine immunization coverage
- introduce under-used vaccines
- accelerate the development and introduction of priority new vaccines
- improve immunization safety.

¹ The most recent WHO data.

Together these efforts have prevented an estimated 670,000 premature deaths among children born in 2001-2003.²

In the four years since its founding, this track record has spurred donor countries to increase their support for GAVI and immunization. Canada, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States have increased their annual donations. The Netherlands and Ireland have maintained their support. In addition, France, Luxembourg and the EU have recently made contributions to GAVI. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation have also pledged a further US\$750 million.

As of March 2005 the following contributions and pledges had been made (millions of US\$):

	Total Received	Total Pledges
Canada	\$12.67	\$149.44
Denmark	\$4.49	\$0.00
France	\$6.03	\$12.06
Ireland	\$1.78	\$0.00
Netherlands	\$71.26	\$17.33
Norway	\$101.94	\$282.00
Sweden	\$12.52	\$14.00
European Union	\$1.26	\$17.28
Luxembourg	\$0.61	\$0.00
United Kingdom	\$50.78	\$13.58
United States	\$218.73	\$64.48
Government Donors	\$482.07	\$570.17
Gates Foundation	\$758.50	\$750.00
Other Private	\$4.23	\$0.00
Total Contributions	\$1,244.80	\$1,320.17

Closing the Funding Gap

WHO estimates that US\$8-12 billion will be needed to provide yellow fever, *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) and hepatitis B vaccines and strengthen immunization services in the world's poorest countries from 2005 to 2015. The goal of GAVI/The Vaccine Fund over the coming years is to close the immunization gap between developed and developing countries—and ensure that all children, rich or poor, have access to priority vaccines against the major high-burden diseases. Despite strong and growing support from governments and private donors, additional resources are needed if this goal is to be met. In response, The Vaccine Fund launched the Campaign for Child Immunization in 2004. By the year 2006, the Campaign aims to raise US\$400 million a year for immunization in an effort to save an additional one million lives. Currently, the annual gap stands at about US\$100 million, down from over US\$150 million when the campaign was launched.

² WHO estimate. Based on projections of the number of future deaths averted from hepatitis B, Hib disease and pertussis. It has not been possible to estimate the additional number of deaths averted through GAVI support for immunization against yellow fever or measles.

This money will be used to expand access to immunization, strengthen health systems, purchase vaccines and injection equipment, improve vaccine safety and support training needs. The Campaign seeks to increase support from donor governments, foundations, and private sector leaders to reduce the inequity in access to immunization.

The GAVI Alliance

The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) brings together major stakeholders in immunization from both the public and private sectors. Partners in the Alliance include governments in industrialized and developing countries, UNICEF, WHO, the World Bank, non-governmental organizations, foundations, vaccine manufacturers, and public health and research institutions. The Vaccine Fund is the financing resource created to support the GAVI immunization goals, providing financial support directly to low-income countries to strengthen their health delivery and immunization services and to purchase new and under-used vaccines.