



PRESS INFORMATION

The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI)

GAVI and The Vaccine Fund

The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization is an historic alliance between the private and public sector committed to one goal: *saving children's lives and protecting people's health through the widespread use of vaccines.*

GAVI emerged in 2000 in order to increase immunization rates in the face of widening global disparities in access to vaccines. International organizations, governments, the vaccine industry, research institutions, and major philanthropists collectively serve the shared GAVI objectives: expanding the reach of immunization services, introducing priority new vaccines, and establishing tools and systems to promote sustainable financing in developing countries.

The Vaccine Fund has been created to support the GAVI objectives. It provides financing to the world's poorest countries to strengthen health infrastructure and introduce new and under-used vaccines. Grants are made based on a rigorous application process in which country proposals are reviewed by a panel of experts, most of whom are themselves national health ministry staff.

GAVI's unique structure allows the alliance to capitalize on existing systems and diverse technical and on-the-ground expertise.

- The high-level GAVI Board maintains a visionary outlook in setting policies.
- The Working Group ensures that Board decisions are acted upon in the partner organizations.

- A small secretariat coordinates between partners and manages the review of country proposals to The Vaccine Fund.
- Four task forces were originally established (advocacy, financing, implementation, and research and development) to draw upon a wider network of expertise to guide action.
- Regional working groups coordinate and provide technical support to countries.
- And, crucially, national inter-agency coordinating committees (ICCs) provide a forum for joint strategy development and monitoring at the country level

As the partnership evolves, it will continue to seek catalytic and sustainable approaches to funding. In the future, GAVI and The Vaccine Fund will continue to channel resources toward increased support to health infrastructure, other under-used vaccines, or new approaches to reaching every child with essential health care.

Background Information

Thanks to its rapid start-up and early achievements, and its working private and public partnership model, by the end of 2003 GAVI has committed about 95% of its available resources. Since 2000, GAVI and The Vaccine Fund have disbursed \$236 million to 69 countries, with eight million more children reached with basic vaccines¹ and 35.5 million more children reached with new vaccines.² Between 2000 and 2004, more than 500 000 additional lives will have been saved through immunizations.

The GAVI alliance was launched in 2000 to fight declining immunization rates and growing disparities in access to vaccines among the world's poorest countries. It is a unique public-private partnership between developing country health ministries, donor countries, vaccine manufacturers, NGOs, UNICEF, the World Health Organization, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the World Bank.

¹ Including diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, BCG, measles and polio

² Including hepatitis B, Hib and yellow fever

The GAVI partners created The Vaccine Fund to provide long-term financing to the world's poorest countries, to strengthen health systems and introduce new and under-used vaccines. The Vaccine Fund's goal is to raise \$400 million annually from 2004 to 2006 annually from government and private sources to fully fund GAVI's commitments to the poorest countries.

In addition to an initial seed grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, The Vaccine Fund has been further financed by nine governments – Canada, Denmark, France, Ireland, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, The United Kingdom, The United States as well as the EU and additional private contributors.

* * * * *

For further information, please contact:

Anne Winter
GAVI
Mobile +41 76 347 0766
Email awinter@unicef.org

Jean- Pierre Le Calvez
The Vaccine Fund
Mobile: +33 6 80 48 19 13
Email: jplecalvez@vaccinefund.org