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More than 50 Governments
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Foundations
Research Institutes
Technical Health Institutes
The Vaccine Industry

Partnering with The Vaccine Fund



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A Promise to Every Child



“GAVI has been a very positive experience for us. It has given our whole Expanded Immunization Programme a much higher profile. It has kept us talking about immunization issues, got us looking at our indicators and looking at how to improve the quality of our services. People have been reminded again that immunization is one of the most cost-effective health interventions.”

Dr Mercy Essel Ahun
EPI Manager, Republic of Ghana

*Front cover: A mother and her child in a remote Cambodian village where a combination vaccine against hepatitis B, diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus is supplied through the GAVI partnership.
Photo: Heidi Larson.*

Right: A woman cradles a newborn in her lap as they wait to be seen at a health post set up outside a church in rural Mozambique, a country that is receiving support through the GAVI partnership.



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The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) was created in 1999 to protect health and save children’s lives through the widespread use of modern vaccines.

The Alliance is an innovative partnership of governments, international organizations, major philanthropists, research institutions and the private sector, that work together to:

- Improve access to sustainable immunization services;
- Expand the safe use of all needed, cost-effective vaccines
- Accelerate research and development efforts for new vaccines most needed in developing countries;
- Make immunization coverage a key indicator of development;
- Promote sustainability by ensuring adequate finances are allocated to immunization;
- Reinforce global and national immu-

nization goals including eradicating polio, eliminating maternal and neonatal tetanus, reducing measles and increasing access to Vitamin A.

The Alliance was formed at a time when immunization levels were dropping in many countries and some preventable diseases were making a comeback. By joining together in this Alliance, the partners saw a historic opportunity to use their collective strength to reverse the decline, and to make life-saving immunization available to every child, including those living in the harshest conditions, in the poorest nations.

An enormous challenge – but within reach

Every year, nearly three million people die from diseases that could be prevented through immunization, and most are children under five years old.



Thomas Kelly

Combatting these diseases is a formidable challenge, yet it is possible. Bringing together resources, expertise and a far-reaching commitment to the world's children, GAVI partners seek to strengthen and expand immunization services while reducing disparities in immunization access between industrialized and developing countries – in particular by making vaccines, such as those that protect against hepatitis B, haemophilus influenzae B (Hib disease) and yellow fever, available in all countries that need them.

Above: GAVI support includes the supply of auto-disable syringes as well as training and materials for the safe disposal of injection equipment.

Right: Vaccines supplied through the GAVI partnership are kept cool in an icebox during delivery to a community on the outskirts of Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

- **Hepatitis B** kills more than half a million people every year, most of whom were infected in infancy or childhood.
- **Hib bacterium** causes several diseases including pneumonia and meningitis. It kills about 500,000 people each year. Most are children under 5 living in developing countries.
- **Yellow Fever** affects at least 200,000 people every year, mainly in Africa and South America, and causes about 30,000 deaths.



Thomas Kelly

Priorities for expanding immunization

GAVI partners are helping to expand immunization services to reach as many children as possible with all the vaccines they need.

Priorities include:

Closing the vaccine gap

All children have the same right to protection from disease and disability. GAVI partners give particular emphasis to expanding immunization in the world's poorest nations and to reaching children living in the harshest conditions, including those affected by war. Afghanistan, Sudan, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Nepal, and many other countries, are improving services and are beginning to reach more children with immunizations because of support from GAVI partners.

Ensuring vaccine supplies

Vaccine producers need to meet a rising demand for life-saving vaccines. To ensure an adequate supply of affordable vaccines, GAVI partners are:

- Working with governments to make accurate forecasts of their vaccine needs, to reduce waste and to ensure the financial sustainability of their national immunization programs.

- Working with the pharmaceutical industry to make sure there are sufficient vaccines.

Ensuring immunization safety

Vaccines and the environment in which immunizations are delivered must guarantee the highest safety standards. GAVI Partners are:

- Promoting worldwide use of auto-disable injection equipment.
- Supporting national training programs for health workers in safe injection practices.

Promoting financial sustainability

GAVI partners are supporting the financial sustainability of immunization services by:

- Working with governments to ensure increased budget allocations for immunization.
- Helping governments to identify new resources to finance expanding immunization services.



Thomas Kelly

Health workers help parents understand the value of immunization and how to recognize and respond appropriately to common childhood illnesses.

- 53 countries have successfully applied for support from GAVI.
- 40 countries are receiving funds to improve immunization services. Total awards by January 2002 amounted to nearly \$40 million.
- 34 countries were awarded new vaccines and auto-disable syringes worth nearly \$90 million.
- 8 countries received additional support to improve injection safety, totalling more than \$3 million.

...GAVI is potentially benefiting more than 55 million children

How the GAVI partnership works

An innovative public-private partnership dedicated to saving children's lives

The **GAVI Board** includes the highest level representation from partners. The Executive Directors of WHO, UNICEF, the World Bank Group, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation are permanent members. Eleven additional rotating positions represent developing and industrialized countries, non-governmental organizations, vaccine producers, and research and technical institutes.

- UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy is the current Chair, a two-year post she will hold until July 2003.
- The Board is supported by a small **Secretariat**, based in Geneva, which coordinates activities among the Alliance partners.

Decisions of the Board are guided by inputs from:

- **The Working Group** which includes technical experts from all the participating organizations;
- **Task Forces** on critical issues such as country technical support, advocacy and communication, financial sustainability, and research and development;

- **The Independent Review Committee (IRC)** made up of experts in immunization, two thirds of whom come from developing countries. The IRC reviews all country applications to GAVI and makes appropriate recommendations to the Board;
- **Regional Task Forces** that provide an effective channel for coordinating support to countries and for sharing experience between countries and regions, with the Working Group and the GAVI Board.

The Vaccine Fund

Partnering with the Global Alliance

To help catalyze activities in the poorest nations GAVI established The Vaccine Fund, which is dedicated to raising resources for and championing the cause of immunization. The Vaccine Fund was launched with a generous contribution of \$750 million from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and has since garnered support from six governments. Total contributions amounted to more than \$1 billion by the start of 2002, but even more is needed to achieve the objectives.

What kind of support does the Alliance offer and to which countries?

GAVI and the Vaccine Fund provide support for vaccines against hepatitis B, Hib disease and yellow fever, as well as safe injection materials and resources to strengthen immunization services. GAVI partners also work with governments to help them establish independent, long-term funding for their immunization programs.

Countries with less than US\$1,000 per capita annual Gross Domestic Product (currently 74 countries with 70% of the world's children) can receive support.

- Countries where more than 80% of children receive immunization against diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus (DPT3) can receive the new vaccines and a modest implementation package.
- Countries with DPT3 coverage between 50% to 80% can receive vaccines and financial support to expand immunization services.
- Countries with weak immunization services, where less than 50% of children are currently immunized with DPT3, can receive funds to strengthen services. They must achieve at least 50% DPT3 coverage before qualifying for new vaccines.

How do countries apply for support?

Countries submit comprehensive applications that are assessed by GAVI's Independent Review Committee. Countries do not receive approval until they have met several important requirements. These include:

- Establishing an Inter-agency Coordination Committee (ICC) led by government and including representatives of local agencies involved with immunization. The ICC helps guide the application process and assists government with program management.
- Conducting a recent review (within 3 years) of immunization services; and
- Developing a multi-year plan outlining improvement and expansion of immunization services and mechanisms for sustainable financing.



Heddi Larson

A market place in Ghana where health workers run an outreach clinic for children providing immunization against Hib disease, hepatitis B, diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus.

- Find out more about the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization at www.vaccinealliance.org
- Learn how to contribute to The Vaccine Fund at <http://www.vaccinefund.org>

“The GAVI partnership has revitalized our approach to the task of immunization. It has brought new products, new technologies, fresh energy and commitment and most important of all critical life-saving protection that is reaching even the hardest to reach children on earth.”

Carol Bellamy
Executive Director, UNICEF
Chair, Global Alliance for
Vaccines and Immunization

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- World Health Organization
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