



TheReview

The Vaccine Fund's Global Immunization Campaign

Issue 2, November 2002

In this issue...

China signs historic agreement with The Vaccine Fund and GAVI	1
Letter from the President	2
Ghana immunization drive	3
City of Lyon to host charitable dinner honoring The Vaccine Fund	4
The Vaccine Fund's new board members	4
Streamlining of vaccine procurement	5
Herald Tribune editorial	6
GAVI partner profile: WHO	7

China matches The Vaccine Fund grant, committing over \$75 million to vaccinate infants against hepatitis B

In a groundbreaking move that leveraged The Vaccine Fund's resources to provide children with access to lifesaving vaccines, the Government of China signed an agreement with the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) and The Vaccine Fund, agreeing to match \$37.5 million to vaccinate Chinese infants against hepatitis B, a devastating disease afflicting thousands each year. The historic agreement was signed on June 1, "Children's Health Day," in Beijing by China's Minister of Health, Dr. Zhang Wenkang; Carol Bellamy, GAVI Chair and

continued on page 8



Seated left to right: Jim Jones, The Vaccine Fund Executive Director; Dr. Zhang Wenkang, China's Minister of Health; and Carol Bellamy, GAVI Chair and UNICEF Executive Director.

Letter from the President of The Vaccine Fund



Welcome to the second edition of The Vaccine Fund's newsletter, *The Review*, providing you with an update on The Vaccine Fund's global immunization campaign working with our GAVI partners. Since our last edition, The Vaccine Fund and GAVI alliance signed an historic agreement with the government of China, leveraging \$37.5 million of The Vaccine Fund's resources by obtaining a commitment from China to match that amount, for a total of \$75 million over five years. These funds will be used to vaccinate every infant in China against hepatitis B, a devastating disease that claims thousands of lives each year in that country.

In Africa, members of The Vaccine Fund team conducted an analysis on infants who were immunized during a Sport and Immunization Festival in Ghana, held in conjunction with Olympic Aid, to determine the completion rate of the pentavalent vaccine process in that country. The study also uncovered patterns of follow-up immunization rates to see what can be done to ensure that immunization process and series of shots are completed by each child, using Ghana as a model for other countries.

Since June 2002, The Vaccine Fund has added three distinguished individuals to The Vaccine Fund Board of Directors: Jens Stoltenberg, formerly the Prime Minister of Norway, currently serving as Chairman of the Labour Party parliamentary group; Lawrence H. Summers, President of Harvard University and former

Secretary of the Treasury under President Clinton; and George W. Wellde, Managing Director of Goldman Sachs and the head of North American Sales at Goldman Sachs' Fixed Income business department. They have already proved to be valuable additions to The Vaccine Fund Board.

Looking ahead, the second annual meeting of The Vaccine Fund Board will be held April 8, 2003, in Lyon, France. That evening, the Mayor of Lyon, under the high patronage of French President Jacques Chirac, will host a dinner honoring The Vaccine Fund and 12 Nobel Peace Prize winners.

Thanks to our contributors, The Vaccine Fund's resources are our most valuable commodity in saving children's lives. In an effort to guarantee that these important assets are used in the most effective way to ensure a safe and secure vaccine supply, The Vaccine Fund and GAVI alliance commissioned a study by Mercer Management to evaluate the 2001 vaccine procurement round. The Vaccine Fund and GAVI partners are swiftly acting on the study's recommendations and are undertaking the steps necessary to streamline the next procurement process.

So far, more than \$900 million of The Vaccine Fund's resources have been committed to 61 developing country government immunization programs over five years. Since 2001, millions of children have been immunized against life-threatening diseases as a result of the Fund's efforts with the GAVI partners. But there is more work to be done to meet our goal of raising the necessary resources to give the world's poorest children a healthy start in life. We hope you will continue to support this global effort. •

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. Martin". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Jacques François Martin
President, The Vaccine Fund
Lyon, France

The Vaccine Fund takes a close look at Ghana immunization drive, finds over 93.5% of children complete 3-dose vaccination series

Last December, The Vaccine Fund and GAVI partners, working with Olympic Aid and the Ministry of Health in Ghana, launched a campaign to immunize children with new vaccines during the Sport and Immunization Festival in Ghana. Five vaccines contained in one shot to prevent DPT, hepatitis B and Hib* – all deadly diseases that affect the developing world, particularly the Africa region – were offered to infants during the Festival held on December 15, 2001, in Accra. The immunization drive was an overwhelming success, with 2,636 infants receiving one dose of the series of three shots of the pentavalent vaccination.

While the Festival greatly raised the public's awareness of the importance of immunizing children with these new vaccines, The Vaccine Fund and GAVI

received the first dose of the DPT-hepB-Hib vaccines. Among them, 146 had completed the DPT-hepB-Hib vaccination course by the time of the survey, resulting in a vaccination series completion rate of 93.5 percent.

This high completion rate of the pentavalent vaccine confirms reports from the focus group discussions that the new vaccines have been well-received and are in great demand by the Ghanaian population.

In addition, 82.8 percent of children aged 14 weeks or more received the complete 3-dose series, and the majority of babies received their second and third shot on time, as required by the national immunization schedule. Only 53.2 percent of children aged nine months or more achieved their full childhood vaccinations against the common vaccine-prevent-



were uncertain whether the children's parents would follow through on the whole series of three doses that are required for the effective and complete immunization against these diseases.

Six months later, The Vaccine Fund, in close collaboration with the Ghanaian government, conducted a follow-up study** on 482 randomly selected children who were immunized at the Festival.

Of all the children surveyed, 153 or 31.7 percent

Scenes from the Sports and Immunization Festival.

able diseases such as tuberculosis, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio, hepatitis B, Hib and measles.

The study also revealed that the Festival produced a greater demand for monovalent hepB and Hib vaccines for babies who have completed the DTP vaccination and therefore are not eligible for the pentavalent vaccine. •

* *Haemophilus Influenzae* type B

** For a copy of the complete study, please contact The Vaccine Fund at 202-628-4910.

The Vaccine Fund to be honored at gala dinner hosted by Mayor of Lyon under patronage of President Chirac

Highlighting the importance of global immunization and the introduction of new vaccines in developing countries, the second annual meeting of The Vaccine Fund Board, chaired by former South African President Nelson Mandela, will be held on April 8, 2003, in Lyon, France. The meeting will be held on the eve of a global conference bringing together leading scientists, industrialists and politicians at the World Life Sciences Forum/BioVision Conference being held in Lyon later that week.

BioVision chose to feature The Vaccine Fund as its humanitarian cause in its 2003 Forum, and will launch an awareness-building and fund-raising partnership at the start of their meeting through a charitable gala dinner hosted by the Mayor of Lyon, under the high patronage of French President Jacques Chirac. The dinner will honor The Vaccine Fund and 12 Nobel Prize winners at the BioVision Conference celebrating the 50th anniversary of the discovery of DNA's double helix.

The World Life Sciences Forum/BioVision Conference was founded in 1999 by Raymond Barre, former Prime Minister of France and the French "Académie des sciences" who saw the need in Europe for a world-scale forum which would initiate a dialogue between leading scientists, industrialists, politicians and various NGOs on key life sciences issues while ensuring comprehensive and participative coverage by the media. Additionally, Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, current World Health Organization (WHO) Director General, attended the first two BioVision meetings. •

The Vaccine Fund welcomes new board members

Jens Stoltenberg Mr. Stoltenberg served as Prime Minister of Norway from 2000 to 2001, and is currently Chairman of the Labour Party parliamentary group. He started his illustrious political career in 1979 with the Norwegian Labour Youth League, whose chairman he became in 1985, a position he held until 1989. He was elected to the Norwegian Parliament in 1991 and became Deputy Chairman of the Norwegian Labour Party a year later. Throughout the 1990s, he held key portfolios in the Norwegian government, ranging from State Secretary for the Environment to Minister of Finance.

Lawrence H. Summers An eminent scholar and admired public servant, Mr. Summers began his career teaching economics at MIT before going to Washington in 1982 as a domestic policy economist for the President's Council of Economic Advisers. He returned to Harvard as a professor of economics, taking leave in 1991 to return to Washington, this time as Vice President of Development Economics and Chief Economist of the World Bank. In 1993, Mr. Summers was named Undersecretary of the Treasury for International Affairs before being promoted to the Department's number two post, Deputy Secretary of the Treasury in 1995. In 1999, Mr. Summers was confirmed by the Senate as Secretary of the Treasury. On July 1, 2001, Mr. Summers took office as the 27th President of Harvard University.

George W. Wellde George W. Wellde is the Managing Director of Goldman Sachs and head of North American Sales at Goldman Sachs' Fixed Income business department. He has worked in fixed-income sales since joining the Goldman Sachs Group in 1979. Prior to his current responsibilities, Mr. Wellde was the Branch Manager of Goldman Sachs' Tokyo office. Previously, he worked at the Federal Reserve Board and Union First National Bank in Washington, D.C.

The Vaccine Fund and GAVI work to streamline vaccine procurement

It's widely known that The Vaccine Fund's primary mission is to mobilize resources from around the globe to finance immunization for the world's poorest children. What is lesser known is the strict, accountable approach The Vaccine Fund and GAVI take to achieve this goal.

Following the first GAVI vaccine procurement round in 2000 and 2001, where problems were encountered by inaccurate forecasting demand for new vaccines, GAVI and The Vaccine Fund commissioned a study by Mercer Management to rapidly reform the system and streamline the procurement process. An accurate, product-specific forecast system was recommended to avoid future problems.

The Mercer study looked at the lessons learned in the first procurement round and recommended the establishment of a multidisciplinary project management model to manage the planning and execution

maceutical industry on the issues of demand, product preference and future needs.

The Vaccine Fund and GAVI partners took quick action based on the report's findings and, as a result, created a core project team comprised of representatives from UNICEF, World Health Organization (WHO) and The Vaccine Fund. This team will establish an effective project management system across the areas of program, finance and supply to address the changing dynamics in the vaccine industry and to support the introduction of new vaccines and expansion of national immunization services in low-income countries.

Members of the core project team include:

- Paul Fife, Programme Officer, UNICEF (Interim Project Manager)
- Pem Namgyal, Medical Officer, WHO/EPI (Program Focal Point)



of GAVI forecasting and procurement of vaccines for 2004-2006. It suggested the creation of an oversight body to monitor progress and hold the project manager and relevant individuals and institutions accountable for performance. It also recommended that reliable information be shared with the phar-

GAVI auditors review immunization records in Kenya.

- Shanelle Hall, Chief Immunization Team, UNICEF (Supply Focal Point)
- Alice Albright, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, The Vaccine Fund (Financing Focal Point) •

Saturday, August 31 - Sunday, September 1, 2002

Vaccines

By Queen Rania,
Jens Stoltenberg,
and George Welde

Inoculate every child

We are members of an alliance with a simple but critical objective: To get every child on earth immunized. Protecting every child against preventable diseases is a worthy cause. Every year 30 million infants are not immunized. In the poorest countries of southern Africa, more than half of babies are denied basic protection, and in several countries weak coverage rates are further declining.

As a consequence, 3 million of these babies will die from diseases that we have the skill and knowledge to prevent. This is not just a human catastrophe, it is also an economic and social disaster. Economies will not grow and societies will not prosper if scores of children die in early childhood.

As board members of The Vaccine Fund, chaired by Nelson Mandela, we have joined forces in a global alliance that sets clear targets for addressing this urgent problem.

At the World Economic Forum in Davos three years ago, the United Nations secretary-general, Kofi Annan, urged the private and public sectors to explore new ways of working together for development. A year later, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization was launched, a partnership bringing together the private sector through a generous donation by Bill and Melinda Gates — the United Nations, the World Bank, charitable foundations and the pharmaceutical industry. The Vaccine Fund serves as the financial arm of the alliance. Our role is to raise awareness among governments, to encourage partnerships at

the local level, and to help mobilize resources.

Some 53 countries have started implementing five-year plans to immunize more children, and are receiving financial support from the alliance and The Vaccine Fund.

Vaccinating one child against the six basic childhood diseases costs \$20. Already, \$1 billion has been pledged to back national plans. If the countries reach their goals, and there is real hope that many of them will, an additional 4 million young lives will be saved by the year 2005.

Immunizing a child is more than providing a simple injection. By strengthening immunization efforts, we help strengthen primary health care, which is fundamental for safeguarding the health of any population, especially in the most underprivileged countries. This is critical in the fight against AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

As we succeed in increasing immunization coverage, we can start introducing new vaccines as they become available. This is already happening in the case of vaccines against hepatitis B that may now be gradually introduced in new countries.

As a result, the day the world possesses available vaccines against AIDS virus, malaria and tuberculosis, we may have the necessary infrastructure and management capacity to secure distribution to those who need it most — the poorest of the poor.

As the World Summit on Sustainable Development continues, we call on developing countries to give sufficient priority to immunization as they build their health services and plan their health budgets. And we call on developed countries — private citizens and governments alike — to rise to the occasion and provide additional resources for making the leap forward that is now within reach.

Queen Rania of Jordan, Jens Stoltenberg, a former prime minister of Norway, and George Welde, managing director of the Goldman Sachs Group, are members of the board of directors of The Vaccine Fund. They contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

GAVI partner profile: World Health Organization (WHO – <http://www.who.int>)



The World Health Organization, the United Nations specialized agency for health, was established on April 7, 1948. WHO's objective, as set out in its Constitution, is the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health. Health is defined in WHO's Constitution as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

WHO is governed by 191 Member States through the World Health Assembly. The Health Assembly is composed of representatives from WHO's Member States. The main tasks of the World Health Assembly are to approve the WHO program and the budget for the following biennium and to decide major policy questions.

The Secretariat is headed by the Director General, who is nominated by the Executive Board and elected by Member States for a period of five years. Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland took office as Director General of the World Health Organization on July 21, 1998.

WHO's Secretariat is staffed by health professionals, other experts and support staff working at headquarters in Geneva, in the six regional offices and in countries. WHO's regional offices are:

- Regional Office for Africa - located in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo
- Regional Office for Europe - located in Copenhagen, Denmark
- Regional Office for Southeast Asia - located in New Delhi, India
- Regional Office for the Americas/ Pan-American Health Organization - located in Washington, D.C., USA
- Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean - located in Cairo, Egypt
- Regional Office for the Western Pacific - located in Manila, Philippines

On taking up her position, Dr. Brundtland refocused the work of WHO and developed a new

corporate strategy, setting out the following four strategic directions for WHO's contribution to efforts to advance health at global and country level:

- Reducing excess mortality, morbidity and disability, especially in poor and marginalized populations
 - Promoting healthy lifestyles and reducing risk factors to human health that arise from environmental, economic, social and behavioral causes
 - Developing health systems that equitably improve health outcomes, respond to people's legitimate demands, and are financially fair
 - Framing an enabling policy and creating an institutional environment for the health sector, and promoting an effective health dimension to social, economic, environmental and development policy
- In carrying out its activities, WHO's secretariat focuses its work on the following six core functions:
- Articulating consistent, ethical and evidence-based policy and advocacy positions
 - Managing information by assessing trends and comparing performance; setting the agenda for, and stimulating research and development
 - Catalyzing change through technical and policy support, in ways that stimulate cooperation and action and help to build sustainable national and inter-country capacity
 - Negotiating and sustaining national and global partnerships
 - Setting, validating, monitoring and pursuing the proper implementation of norms and standards
 - Stimulating the development and testing of new technologies, tools and guidelines for disease control, risk reduction, health care management, and service delivery •

Continued from page 1

Chair and UNICEF Executive Director; and Jim Jones, Executive Vice President of The Vaccine Fund. The Children's Vaccine Program (CVP), working closely with the Chinese government and GAVI partners, was instrumental in making this agreement a reality. This action taken by China is the first time a country has matched a contribution by The Vaccine Fund dollar for dollar – \$37.5 million contributed by each for a combined total of over \$75 million – to combat a disease since The Vaccine Fund's inception.

Additionally, The Vaccine Fund gave the Chinese government \$800,000 to be allocated to a project office that will maintain training and management support. This project office will fulfill an important mission of the partnership by building a sustainable immunization program and will ensure a long-lasting impact on the delivery of vaccines and immunization services.

This landmark agreement will allow China to vacci-

nate the 35 million babies projected to be born in that country over the next five years, after which China will assume all program costs. It will also pay for health care worker training programs and 500 million syringes.

Two-thirds of the world's individuals infected with hepatitis B live in China. Every year, as many as 400,000 Chinese die from liver cancer and other ailments caused by hepatitis B.

Recent studies conducted by the United Nations found that many of the children in China contract hepatitis B by the age of five, and a large number of Chinese develop liver failure and liver cancer later in life.

While China has a high immunization rate overall, many infants in poor regions of that country do not routinely receive a vaccination against hepatitis B. This seminal partnership with the Chinese government will allow China to integrate this lifesaving vaccine into its routine immunization process. •

The Vaccine Fund

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The Vaccine Fund is a nonprofit organization. Contributions to The Vaccine Fund may be sent to the above addresses in care of Barbara Kaltenbach, Vice President of Development, and are tax-deductible.