IMMUNISATION: A PLATFORM FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

IMMUNISATION ROUTINELY REACHES MORE HOUSEHOLDS THAN ANY OTHER HEALTH SERVICE

- Globally, 86% of children (116.5 million) are now receiving their third dose of a diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis-containing vaccine (DTP3). Coverage in Gavi-supported countries was 80% in 2016, which represents a 21 percentage point increase since 2000.
- Routine immunisation benefits the unprivileged and underserved, including many in hard-to-reach locations. For example, at the global level there is no significant difference in immunisation coverage for boys and girls.
- Gavi is helping countries to further strengthen routine immunisation by systematically addressing inequities, whether geographic, socio-economic or gender-related.

COUNTRY CASE

Gavi is playing a catalytic role in supporting India’s efforts to expand its Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) and achieving the goal of fully immunising 90% of its children.

Gavi is helping to boost capacity and improve service delivery, planning and monitoring and ensure accountability at the state and district levels by using data to inform corrective actions.

This has contributed to an increase in DTP3 coverage from 83% in 2013 to 88% in 2016. The government’s flagship Mission Indradhanush immunisation drive has also replicated these good practices.

IMMUNISATION PROVIDES A PLATFORM TO REACH FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES WITH INTEGRATED HEALTH SERVICES

- Immunisation brings children into contact with health services many times throughout their lives, also bringing the vast majority of families into contact with the health system.
- Immunisation offers opportunities for communities to access a range of additional health services, from malaria prevention and nutritional supplements to neonatal and maternal health care and sexual and reproductive health and education.
IMMUNISATION CONTRIBUTES TO STRONGER HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS

- Gavi has helped to strengthen health systems and immunisation services in more than 60 countries.
- With immunisation comes supply chains, cold storage, trained healthcare staff, data monitoring and use, disease surveillance, community outreach and healthcare records – all of which contribute to more responsive health service delivery.
- Strong health systems are needed to deliver and scale-up new vaccines, improve immunisation coverage and equity, and improve the reach of other essential health services.

COUNTRY CASE

Gavi has helped Senegal to address inequities in immunisation coverage, especially in urban areas. In Dakar for example, immunisation sessions were organised at night and on weekends, in markets and at train stations in an effort to reach children wherever they are. The private sector was engaged to expand services, record and report data more rigorously. Cases of children not returning for second or third doses of vaccines were followed up systematically.

This has resulted in an increase in pentavalent vaccine coverage from 89% in 2015 to 93% in 2016, and second dose of measles-containing vaccine from 54% to 75%. In 2017, further investment in strengthening Senegal’s health system through micro-plans is expected to maintain this momentum, while urban strategies will be scaled up across other cities.

IMMUNISATION REFLECTS THE CORE PRINCIPLES OF SDGs

- Gavi’s work has a direct relationship with 14 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- SDGs recognise that vaccines are essential to ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for people all over the world.
- Immunisation supports inclusive human development, increased productivity and prosperity.
  - In Gavi-supported countries, for every US$ 1 spent on immunisation, the broader return of people living longer, healthier lives is US$ 48.

GAVI WILL CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS BY:

- Committed US$ 1.3 billion for health system strengthening support to Gavi-eligible countries from 2016-2020, complementing this with support through Alliance partners including WHO, UNICEF, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and others.
- Investing in evidence-based strategies, best practices to improve primary health care, and immunisation integrated with other essential health services.
- Helping countries to invest in vaccines which prevent deadly diseases (such as pneumonia, diarrhoea and cancer) and where risk of antimicrobial resistance is high.
- Catalysing Gavi-supported countries, to invest in sustaining primary health care.