



Partnership Report

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria



A common goal

As the two largest multilateral investors in global health, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance share the same goal: to save lives. Our structures are driven by country ownership, meaning that countries where we invest take the lead in determining how to tailor their fight against diseases. Gavi currently supports the 57 lowest income countries globally, and the Global Fund invests in over 100 countries. Most of these countries overlap in Africa and Asia. Working better together means we can achieve more impact through our work.

A spirit of partnership

Besides working side by side at the Global Health Campus in Geneva, Switzerland, we are two partnerships committed to accelerating progress in the fight against diseases across the world and expanding equitable and sustainable access to lifesaving health interventions. A common thread that unites us is our joint commitment to reaching underserved populations with critical primary healthcare services and building resilient and sustainable systems for health. While we each have our own distinct mission and ways of working, we serve many of the same people and communities.

A huge impact


The Global Fund partnership has cut the combined death rate from AIDS, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria by more than half, saving more than 50 million lives since 2002. Gavi has helped vaccinate a whole generation – over 1 billion children since 2000, preventing more than 17 million future deaths.

Shrinking fiscal space means that implementing countries have fewer resources to dedicate to their own health systems. Coupled with a challenging geo-political context and multiple competing demands on donor aid budgets, ongoing collaboration between the Global Fund and Gavi is more important than ever.

We share a common aim to collaborate when and where it makes sense, to recognize where we do things differently, and to concentrate on our shared agility, flexibility and focus on outcomes.

[Cover] In Malawi, the RTS,S malaria vaccine is given to a 5-month-old baby girl named Lusitana. Malawi is one of the first countries to rollout this landmark, lifesaving vaccine for children.

WHO Malawi



Both the Global Fund and Gavi are committed to building equitable, resilient and sustainable systems for health, which are key to defeating today's infectious diseases and the basis for preventing, preparing for and responding to future pandemics.

Areas of collaboration

Resilient and sustainable systems for health

Strong health systems enable better immunization programs, they are essential for ending HIV, TB and malaria as public health threats and ultimately contribute to long-term, sustainable growth and development.

While both Gavi and the Global Fund invest in systems strengthening efforts that uniquely contribute to our respective goals (e.g., cold chain equipment for vaccines, supply chain for therapeutics), we increasingly collaborate and jointly invest in broader health systems areas essential for all programs.

In several countries, including **Comoros, Sao Tome and Principe** and **Bhutan**, governments have combined Gavi's Immunization Coordinating Committees (ICCs) and the Global Fund's Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs) to strengthen aligned planning, coordination, and monitoring of Gavi and Global Fund resources.

Notable examples of our collaboration in health systems strengthening include joint investments in service delivery, logistics, supply chain capacity strengthening and health data management systems.



In Mali, Global Fund and Gavi investments are advancing the scale-up and targeted deployment of additional community health workers in the places they are needed most. This means developing the policy foundation for future domestic financing of community health workers and a long-term, sustainable financing pathway; improving the quality of care that community health workers provide by implementing competency-based training and certification programs; providing fair on-time remuneration; and scaling up an innovative supervision model and digital tools that optimize how community health worker performance is measured and managed.

Jane Silcock/USAID

Service delivery, including human resources for health

Health workers are the backbone of well-functioning health systems. They are the most valuable resource we have to fight disease and deliver treatment and care to those who need it most. The Global Fund and Gavi, together with other partners, are working to improve the resilience of health and community systems.

In **Mali**, the Ministry of Health and Social Development is working to attain universal health coverage by rehabilitating and strengthening community health centers and supporting community health workers

to provide quality primary healthcare services. A central focus of the joint Global Fund and Gavi investments to support this government-led process is establishing and supporting community health centers with well-trained, supervised community health workers – an initiative that is expected to provide better access to HIV, TB and malaria testing and treatment and also better immunization coverage. These investments also support the standardization of the primary health care centers system through an accreditation mechanism and improved governance and quality assurance.

Supply chain and logistics

Gavi and the Global Fund work closely together to support countries to strengthen their supply chains and logistics for public health commodities.

Medical stores are responsible for procuring, storing and distributing medication and health-related products to healthcare facilities across a country. They are responsible for ensuring that every health center has the medicine and health products that it needs to provide optimal care to every patient.

In partnership with the government of **Uganda**, Gavi and the Global Fund have provided support to National Medical Stores for the construction of an ultra-modern warehouse for health products. While Gavi supported the cold-room technology of the warehouse, Global Fund investments were used for the main building and necessary hardware, including material handling equipment such as forklifts. The Global Fund

and Gavi have also invested in cold-chain trucks procurement for the distribution of health products that require refrigeration, such as COVID-19 vaccines and some laboratory reagents.

Well-functioning supply chains for medicines, vaccines, contraceptives and other products are a key part of people being able to improve, maintain or protect their health. Managers of supply chains depend on timely and accurate data to make informed and effective decisions about routine operations like forecasting demand and resupplying health facilities. Introducing or enhancing a digital logistics management information system (LMIS) in a country's health supply chain improves the collection, analysis, communication and use of accurate data for effective decision-making.

In 2020, Gavi and the Global Fund published new guidance for countries planning the selection, acquisition and deployment of new LMIS software. The guidance identifies off-the-shelf applications and service providers meeting global standards and common requirements for health supply chain LMIS that are appropriate in challenging and resource-constrained environments. The two organizations are now working together to coordinate their investments in LMIS systems in 11 countries.

In **The Gambia** for example, the guidance was used to select one of the qualified LMIS systems. The software is currently being implemented at 50 sites through a pilot program and will soon be scaled up to cover 200 sites.

Recognizing the critical role that health supply chain leaders and managers play in ensuring the availability of critical vaccines and health commodities, Gavi, the Global Fund and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) established a new partnership in 2021 to jointly offer an updated version of the Strategic Training Executive Program, known as STEP 2.0, which was originally developed by Gavi under its 2016-2020 supply chain strategy.

By working together on this transformative program, Gavi, the Global Fund and USAID will increase supply chain efficiency and consequently improve health outcomes for many people in low- and middle-income countries struggling to access medicines or other health commodities.

Efficient health supply chain systems are critical to fight pandemics and a key component of resilient and sustainable systems for health. The STEP 2.0 program offers a unique opportunity to strengthen in-country supply chain systems and ensure lifesaving health products are delivered where they are needed most.

In **Ethiopia**, a STEP 2.0 program was launched in November 2022 to train and coach 60 mid- to senior-level leaders from the Ethiopian Pharmaceutical Supply Service (EPSS), which provides affordable and quality pharmaceuticals to all public health facilities in the country. This program in Ethiopia combines traditional learning with on-the-job training and helps participants hone their critical thinking and problem-solving skills, become champions of supply chain transformation activities and build and lead effective teams. Course participants are also paired with mentors from the private sector to put their new skills into practice, expand their networks and share knowledge.

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Greener health systems

Investments in health systems not only improve public health outcomes, but they also contribute to the battle against climate change. Gavi's investments in replacing conventional fridges with solar direct-driven fridges, for example, has been estimated to avert 7,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions per year. The Global Fund has been working with its suppliers of health products and mosquito nets to advance environmentally and socially responsible procurement. Since 2018, it has recommended the removal of individual plastic bags for the distribution of mosquito nets to reduce their environmental impact, which has resulted in a reduction of an estimated 2,700 metric tons of plastic waste.

Health data management

In some parts of the world, illness can spread faster than information. The Global Fund and Gavi are investing in health management information systems to change that. Through these investments, we are helping countries collect, share and analyze data, allowing health programs to use that data in real-time to deliver quality services and stop an outbreak before it becomes a crisis. A key tool to achieving that progress is health management information platforms such as DHIS2.

DHIS2 is an open source, web-based platform most commonly used as a health management information system (HMIS). DHIS2 is the world's largest HMIS platform and is used by 76 low- and

middle-income countries. Approximately 3.2 billion people live in countries where DHIS2 is used. In recognition of the global adoption of the platform, WHO endorsed DHIS2 as a global public good, and has developed data quality management apps and normative guidance to support countries in better application of DHIS2.

Gavi, the Global Fund and others support the HISP Centre at the University of Oslo to develop, maintain and implement DHIS2 with the goal of strengthening health systems in low- and middle-income countries. This ongoing support makes it possible to ensure that DHIS2 remains a sustainable open-source solution and a global public good available for use by all.

In **Chad**, Gavi and the Global Fund along with other partners have jointly supported the preparation (IT equipment, training) and the deployment of the long-awaited DHIS2 platform that was officially launched in October 2022.

Since 2017, Gavi has supported 40 countries to integrate Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) coverage data into DHIS2, reducing parallel systems, and increasing sustainability of the information system and improving data quality and use.

At the maternity hospital in Canchungo, Guinea-Bissau, Feia Oliveira Sanca (right), Regional Statistic Technician at the Regional Directorate of Public Health, controls the accuracy of the data digitalized by nurse Hermini Gilda using DHIS2.

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Public financial management

Together, Gavi and the Global Fund continue to align operational and financial strategies and policies in support of countries to increase efficiency and the impact we achieve.

For example, the Global Fund and Gavi signed a groundbreaking agreement with the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) and USAID in 2021 to support the implementation of robust accounting practices in the public health sector and improve overall financial management of donor funds by implementing countries. By working together, Gavi, the Global Fund and IFAC are strengthening the expertise of accountancy and finance professionals and helping close gaps in accountancy skills in implementing countries, which can impact the reliability and effectiveness of managing and disbursing funds. This work started with two pilot countries, **Burkina Faso** and **Ghana**, collaborating with local professional accountancy organizations.

Similarly, the Global Fund and Gavi also joined forces with the support of Aidsplan to strengthen the Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) of 7 countries in Africa to improve accountability of health donor funds.

Gavi and the Global Fund's Finance teams are committed to increasing effectiveness, efficiency and impact in delivering on each other's respective mandates by collaborating at strategic and operational levels. The collaboration has improved services to countries, led to cost-sharing initiatives and improved operations, while avoiding duplicate work and increasing efficiency and savings. The teams are looking to continue strengthening interorganizational collaboration by developing a roadmap for the coming years.

Fighting malaria

While great progress has been made globally in malaria control over the past two decades with a reduction in overall cases and deaths, there is still so much more to do. More than 600,000 people still die of malaria every year – and most of them are children under 5.

Disruptions from COVID-19, humanitarian crises, and climate change, as well as declines in the effectiveness of primary malaria-fighting tools, mean that supporting innovative and promising new tools in this fight is essential.

Building on existing clinical evidence, Gavi, the Global Fund and Unitaid committed nearly US\$70 million to fund pilots to introduce the RTS,S malaria vaccine – the first vaccine recommended to prevent malaria in children – through routine immunization programs in **Ghana, Kenya** and **Malawi**. In a world where a child dies from malaria every minute, this vaccine is an important tool in the fight against the disease.

As of March 2023, and nearly four years since the start of vaccinations, over 4.3 million RTS,S/AS01 vaccine doses had been administered across Ghana, Kenya and Malawi. Over 1.4 million children had been reached with at least one dose, and over 480,000 children had received their fourth and final dose. The pilots provided an opportunity to evaluate the feasibility of delivering four doses of RTS,S in real-life settings and reduced hospitalizations from severe malaria by 30%.

In July 2022, Gavi opened its first application window for countries to support the broader rollout of the vaccine. Gavi's application guidelines are based on targeted support that will grow as volumes of available doses increase



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through an expected ramp-up in production. Gavi is investing in vaccine rollout for the 2022-2025 period. While the Global Fund does not fund the vaccine directly, it supports planning and data management activities included in the country grants by the national malaria programs. This includes collection and management of data on malaria interventions and support for the development and update of national malaria strategic plans and malaria program reviews.

The malaria vaccine should be provided as part of a comprehensive malaria control strategy and paired with existing tools to prevent malaria, many of which are part of Global Fund-supported programs: insecticide-treated mosquito nets, indoor residual spraying, seasonal malaria chemoprevention, and the timely use of malaria testing and treatment.

Fighting cervical cancer

Cervical cancer is the fourth most frequent cancer in women and more than 90% of new cases and deaths from cervical cancer worldwide occur in low- and middle-income countries.

Women living with HIV are up to five times more likely to develop cervical cancer than women without HIV. Cervical cancer is almost entirely vaccine-preventable, which means that alongside screening for early detection, rolling out the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine is critical to preventing infections.

The Global Fund has progressively strengthened its collaboration with the global cervical cancer effort through its relationships with key partners, including Gavi, and supports access to screening and treatment programs.

Gavi has been supporting HPV vaccination since 2012, and the HPV vaccine has amongst the highest impact of all Gavi-supported vaccines, with 17.4 deaths averted per 1,000 children vaccinated. To date, 29 Gavi-implementing countries have introduced the vaccine and 9.8 million girls are vaccinated. In 2022, Gavi launched an accelerated effort to vaccinate an additional 86 million girls by the end of 2025.


The COVID-19 pandemic and pandemic preparedness

As part of a broader effort to make everyone in the world safer from future pathogens of pandemic potential, the Global Fund and Gavi have played an important role in pandemic preparedness and response, leveraging unique advantages and distinctive experience in fighting the deadliest infectious diseases.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020, Gavi and the Global Fund acted quickly to support equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics, as well as to protect hard-won gains against infectious diseases and support communities to respond to the pandemic.

In our own capacities and within the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) partnership, we have shown how agile and critical both our organizations are in supporting the fight against pandemics.

The vaccine response has been spearheaded by Gavi through COVAX, the vaccine pillar of ACT-A. As of May 2023, COVAX has supplied nearly 2 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines, helping lower-income countries protect on average 54% of their populations with two doses of the vaccine, including 81%



Our investments in systems for health have made a significant contribution towards fighting today's infectious diseases and in preparing the world for future pathogens.

of all healthcare workers. Through targeted delivery support of US\$1.06 billion to 87 countries, 54% of countries have reported strengthening of their cold chain infrastructure while 49% have also been able to digitize their health data. Through the COVAX Facility, Gavi leads on procurement and delivery functions for COVAX: coordinating the design, implementation and administration of the COVAX Facility and the Gavi COVAX AMC, and working with its Alliance partners UNICEF and WHO, along with governments, on country readiness and delivery. Along with the United Nations Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), Gavi also established the Humanitarian Buffer to address the hardest-to-fill gaps in fragile contexts and conflict settings.

The Global Fund's COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM) has been the largest source of grant funding to low- and middle-income countries for diagnostics and treatments, including oxygen, personal protective equipment and other public health measures – essentially everything other than vaccines. As of May 2023, a total of US\$5 billion has been approved to fund the Global Fund's COVID-19 response, which includes support to 109 countries and 22 multicountry programs. C19RM is continuing past its emergency phase, focusing on longer-term programs and reinvestments that will help countries prevent, prepare for and respond to new pandemics and other future health threats.



A nurse prepares to administer a dose of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine at the Greater Accra Regional Hospital in Accra, Ghana. The first COVID-19 vaccination campaigns in the African region using COVAX doses began in March 2021 in Ghana and Côte D'Ivoire. These campaigns are among the first to use doses provided by COVAX. This represented a historic step towards ensuring equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines worldwide.

WHO/Blink Media - Nana Kofi AcquahDubourthoumieu

About the Global Fund

The Global Fund is a worldwide partnership to defeat HIV, TB and malaria and ensure a healthier, safer, more equitable future for all. We raise and invest more than US\$4 billion a year to fight the deadliest infectious diseases, challenge the injustice which fuels them and strengthen health systems in more than 100 of the hardest hit countries. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have invested an additional US\$5 billion to fight the new pandemic and reinforce systems for health. We unite world leaders, communities, civil society, health workers and the private sector to find solutions that have the most impact, and we take them to scale worldwide. Since 2002, the Global Fund partnership has saved 50 million lives.

About Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance is a public-private partnership that helps vaccinate half the world's children against some of the world's deadliest diseases. Since its inception in 2000, Gavi has helped to immunize a whole generation – over 981 million children – and prevented more than 16.2 million future deaths, helping to halve child mortality in 73 lower-income countries. Gavi also plays a key role in improving global health security by supporting health systems as well as funding global stockpiles for Ebola, cholera, meningococcal and yellow fever vaccines. After two decades of progress, Gavi is now focused on protecting the next generation, above all the zero-dose children who have not received even a single vaccine shot. The Vaccine Alliance employs innovative finance and the latest technology – from drones to biometrics – to save millions more lives, prevent outbreaks before they can spread and help countries on the road to self-sufficiency.