

Update on the Gavi Board meeting 2-3 December 2016

Overall, there is early progress on implementation of 2016-2020 strategy, but significant challenges and risks remain including coverage and equity, sustained transitioning of countries, country partner and ministry of health staff capacity, and expectations on HPV and yellow fever to further increase Gavi's impact.

The CEO of the Alliance, highlighted that due to the IPV supply situation Gavi will likely be faced for the first time with the situation to have to stop providing vaccine introductions. The CEO referred to some of the challenges Gavi is facing in the context of a changing global landscape with a number of recent and potential future changes in leadership among key donors and partners, as well as in implementing countries. He welcomed the positive outcome for Gavi of the Department for International Development (DFID) Multilateral Development Review 2016 and provided information in relation to the intensification of engagement with new and potential new donors. He reminded Board members that vaccines have been included in two health targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and that two indicators have also been accepted, but which are pending endorsement by the United Nations Stats Commission in March 2017.

The CEO referred to the ever increasing global health threats and the growing risk factors such as climate change, population growth, urbanisation and migration, citing the examples of recent Zika and Yellow Fever outbreaks. He also highlighted recent setbacks to polio eradication as well as challenges relating to antimicrobial resistance.

Key decisions made by the Board include:

- Approved funding for an aggregated amount not exceeding USD 250M for existing and new Cold Chain Equipment Optimisation Platform (CCEOP) programmes;
- Approved support for the immunisation of children in Syria, an annual amount of up to USD 25M for 2017-2018 for procuring vaccines and cold chain equipment through UNICEF;
- Approved additional funding for HPV vaccine countries of up to USD72M for 2016-2108, including national introduction and to support multi-age vaccinations in line with our recent SAGE recommendations.

The Board highlighted the “blurredness” in relation to the continued resistant for Gavi to have an observer status on the International Coordinating Group (ICG) managing emergency vaccine stockpiles which includes four member organisations: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC); Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF); UNICEF; and WHO which also supports the Secretariat of the ICG. The Board further noted that the ICG evaluation is not seen as a way out and may not lead to desired outcomes for all when it is eventually completed. The Board Chair requested the Board's decision and “mood” on this issue, be conveyed to the senior managements of ICG member organizations.

Concerns were also raised by the Board in terms of governance and fragmentation with emerging organisations with similar mandates becoming an issue for industry and for developing countries (Gavi, CEPI, GPEI, WHE, Global Fund). Suggestions were made for mapping all the partnerships and organisations engaged in immunization.

Recommendations from the Governance and Board self-evaluation processes will be deliberated on during the 4-5 April 2017 Board retreat .