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3. Decade of Vaccines commitment guidelines to enable the Global Vaccine Action Plan implementation

18 October 2012

Background

The Decade of Vaccines Collaboration (DoVC) is an effort under the leadership of the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, the GAVI Alliance, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID—part of the National Institutes of Health U.S.) which helped define the Decade of Vaccines vision and develop the Global Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP). The GVAP was developed through the work of over 100 vaccine and immunization experts organized into a Steering Committee and four working groups (Delivery, Global Access, Public and Political Support, and Research & Development).

The DoV Collaboration held approximately 20 consultations on the contents of the GVAP drafts in Asia, Africa, Americas, Europe, Middle East and Western Pacific regions, as well as an online consultation. More than **1,100 people** from **140 countries** and **290 organizations** provided input as part of the consultation process to develop the GVAP. The DoVC process was designed to ensure that meaningful input could be solicited from all key stakeholder groups: governments and elected officials, health professionals, academia, manufacturers, global agencies, development partners, civil society, media and the private sector.

On 25 May 2012, the World Health Assembly (WHA) discussed the [Global Vaccine Action Plan](#) and its [accompanying resolution](#). Many statements of support were made during the discussion, including statements from more than thirty Member States and organizations like the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF/Doctors Without Borders), Save the Children, UNICEF, the GAVI Alliance and the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations. At the end of the discussion, all 194 Member States voted to endorse the GVAP resolution.

Member States committed to apply the GVAP vision and the strategies to develop the vaccines and immunization components of their national health strategy and plans, to allocate adequate human and financial resources to achieve the immunization goals, and to report back every year to the WHO Regional Committees on progress made.

The ultimate success of the GVAP depends on country ownership and the continued engagement of all stakeholders, including academics, civil society, private sector, development partners and implementers, who are committed to the DoV common goal of achieving universal access to the benefits of immunization.

Guiding principles to make commitments towards the Decade of Vaccines

For monitoring commitments for the DoV, it is proposed to use the same framework as that used for documenting towards the UNSG [Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health](#). However, while the framework and process for documenting commitments may remain the same, the nature of commitments earmarked for immunization need to be fairly explicit to allow tracking of commitments that specifically address immunization. Following the guidelines used for making commitments towards the UNSG Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health, we provide examples of the type of commitments that could be made towards the Decade of Vaccines.

Ideally commitments should be tangible and concrete, and represent activities or actions that can be reported back on. Preferably they would be connected to items included in existing monitoring mechanisms that can allow for independent tracking of data in relation to the commitment. They should be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time specific, in order to easily determine the progress made against them and, if possible, the source of funding should be mentioned for non-financial commitments to avoid double counting. See examples given below as ways to frame your commitment.

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Financial Commitments

Financial commitments can include both direct budget allocations on behalf of countries, institutions, or even non-governmental organizations and civil society. There can also be commitments to provide funding to different entities or commit to fundraise on behalf of different immunization efforts. The commitments should focus on supporting key activities and initiatives that are directed towards the strengthening of immunization services and access along the lines of the Strategic Objectives included in the GVAP.

<u>Type of Commitment</u>	<u>Examples</u>
Direct financial support to strengthen capacity for delivery of immunization services; e.g., to address identified gaps in the national plans to implement immunization services; to finance immunization delivery and access to all sectors of their society.	XX entity commits \$\$\$ to strengthen immunization delivery systems in five countries in 2013-2015.
Scaling-up programming; e.g., increasing coverage and promoting equity in delivery of routine immunization services; integrated delivery of immunization and other primary health care interventions; introducing new vaccines or expanding services to include new target populations (e.g. elderly, adolescents); or taking innovative pilot programmes to scale, such as pilot introduction of HPV vaccines to scale.	XX entity commits \$\$ funding to y agency to work with _____ and _____ country to launch the HPV vaccine for adolescent girls in 2013. XX organization makes an "in-kind" contribution of science, technology or data that help to achieve an objective. For example access to epidemiology or clinical data; access to novel technology in national laboratories.
Advocacy & Fundraising; e.g. Advocacy to raise community awareness and demand for immunization; fundraising for specific initiatives and efforts such as World Immunization Week, vaccine introductions, strengthening routine immunization efforts, etc.	XX entity commits \$\$\$ to five local CSOs in Western Africa to promote immunization week activities in 2013.
Research & Development; e.g. allocation of budgets (government agencies, international agencies, foundations, bilateral development partners or private sector) towards new R&D efforts to develop new vaccines, increase access to vaccines and immunization services or to support the development of new technologies to increase access; publish or share data on mechanisms of disease, epidemiology data, new data on relevant science that impacts key issues such as heat stability, broader strain coverage, etc.	XX entity commits \$\$\$ to the development of the HIV vaccine via YY organization.

Policy Commitments

Policy commitments can include overall commitment to the GVAP and its Strategic Objectives, as well as addressing policies and processes that will address specific portions of the actions outlined in the GVAP. Again these commitments will focus on policies to strengthen immunization services and access for all people.

<u>Type of Commitment</u>	<u>Examples</u>
Government reform; e.g. establishing advisory, oversight, or management bodies at the national, regional, and/or local levels to facilitate evidence based decision-making on immunization policies and strategies; assuring vaccine quality and safety (through capacity strengthening of national regulatory authorities); formulating and implementing national, regional and/or local immunization plans within the larger healthcare context and planning; improving management of health services – including budgeting, planning and provision of immunization services – at the national and local levels; strengthening budgeting and financial management in connection with overall health care planning and prioritizing.	XX agency commits to develop a programme to strengthen national immunization technical advisory groups in the Sub-Saharan Africa region between 2013-2015.

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Education; e.g., create advocacy and education tools and materials to inform the public of the benefits of immunization and their rights associated with such services; training and education for healthcare workers to better address vaccine hesitancy and concerns; etc.	XX agency commits to develop a healthcare worker training programme in ten countries in Southeast Asia, specifically focusing on how to address vaccine hesitancy and concerns by 2015. XX industry organization commits promoting understanding on global health, immunization and R&D by hosting a biannual global forum for key stakeholders.
Engaging and contributing to campaigns and their outcomes; e.g., partner in existing initiatives to encourage the adoption of immunization legislation or to increase government spending on immunization services; etc.	XX organization will coordinate with GPEI to promote their work in Nigeria in 2013-2014. XX CSO commits to mobilising grassroots advocates in XX countries for immunization campaigns.
Issue advocacy; e.g., engaging different spokespersons to share key messages related to immunization to educate the public and policy makers; promote awareness raising events and moments (World Immunization Week); advocate for investments to strengthen capacity for R&D efforts globally; etc.	XX agency commits to using their global spokespeople to help promote World Immunization Week in 2013. XX industry association and XX CSOs agree to work together to promote greater research into thermostability of vaccines to determine when they can be used outside of the cold chain.
Mobilizing political support, engaging new constituencies and promoting accountability; e.g., Civil society monitors efforts and events to ensure fulfilment of agreements; advocating locally, nationally, regionally and globally to ensure that all stakeholders remain engaged on immunization services and vaccines and held to account.	XX local CSO commits to hold an event during World Immunization Week in two regions of the Philippines in 2014. XX CSOs commits to producing an annual report on progress towards the DoV. XX industry association commits to producing an annual report on progress toward the DoV.

Service and Delivery Commitments

Service and delivery commitments are key to the implementation of the GVAP and its Strategic Objectives. These include the full spectrum of discovery, development and delivery of critical vaccines and immunization services to those who need them, when they need them.

Type of Commitment	Examples
Training; e.g., pledging to strengthen the training of health professionals by supporting pre-service education or continuous professional development (CPD) through the provision of health tutors and teaching materials in harmony with national health plans.	XX university commits to provide health tutors to ten municipalities in Guatemala for healthcare workers in 2015.
Direct provision of products and services; e.g., supporting programmes where health professionals support the delivery of services; donating vaccines and immunization supplies following the WHO donation guidelines, where it is requested and where there is absorptive capacity; donating airtime for public service announcements to educate the populace around immunization; promote the incorporation of global vaccine programmes focusing on eradication and elimination goals into national immunization programmes (and not operated separately).	XX radio station commits to donate public service announcement space prior to and during World Immunization Week in 2014.
Technical assistance; e.g., supporting the provision of health training tutors to expand the training capacity of health training institutions; providing supply chain management advice for hospitals and centres; or secondment of high-level advisors in the ministries of	XX hospital commits to train local healthcare workers in cold chain management in eight regions of y country in 2014-2015.

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health, development and social welfare; build and support networks of regulators and suppliers to share best practices and improve quality assurance capabilities.	
Research; e.g., researching and developing new vaccines and vaccine technologies; developing effective health information management systems; researching the impact of different initiatives to improve the health of women and children; conducting social research to improve the delivery of immunization services to better meet the needs of diverse communities.	<p>XX university commits to conduct social research in five countries related to delivery of immunization services in 2015.</p> <p>XX vaccine biotechs, in partnership with XX pharmaceutical companies, XX NGO's and XX governments commit to advancing the R&D agenda for immunization by 2020 and reporting on progress every 2 years.</p>
Driving technological innovation; e.g., utilizing up to date technology to increase local access to care; improve the quality of immunization services; or ensure effective management of the health care system; enhancing innovations for cold chain capacity; use technology to strengthen surveillance mechanisms.	<p>XX company commits to develop y new technology to help with tracking delivery of immunizations in 2015.</p> <p>XX stakeholder commits to enhancing cold-chain capacity and surveillance in country YY by 2015.</p>

What kind of Commitment is encouraged?

The ideal commitments to the Decade of Vaccines will be designed around the six Guiding Principles included in the GVAP: (1) country ownership (so countries have primary ownership and responsibility for providing effective and quality immunization services for all), (2) shared responsibility and partnership (at the individual, community and governmental levels, beyond border and sectors), (3) equity (core component of the right to health), (4) integration (as part of a broader health system), (5) sustainability (informed decisions with appropriate levels of investment and management), and (6) innovation (learning, continuous improvement and innovation in R&D). All commitments should align with the Strategic Objectives of the GVAP, and work to address the different strategies and actions included in the plan.

What should I include in a Commitment?

Following the recommendations of the [Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health](#) and the GVAP, commitments should be framed as transparently as possible, and with an emphasis on 'measurability' to support tracking and monitoring to enhance the impact of commitments to the Global Strategy. *Commitments should include the following information:*

- The specific and different types of financial investments, service delivery, policy, or advocacy content of the commitment being made, including timeframe for its achievement.
- Information on the focus of the support being provided (as relevant):
 - Whether support is for service delivery, research and development, for improving access and supply of vaccines and related technologies, or for building public or political support for immunization
 - By geographic scope: region, country, sub-national.
- How the support specifically relates to, and advances the goals of, the GVAP (including which specific Strategic Objective and actions the commitment will address)
- For non-financial commitments:
 - Which GVAP goals, strategic objectives and/or indicators will be impacted by the commitment
 - Expected outcome and funding sources e.g. type of benefit and the population that would benefit (e.g. region/sub-region, population size)
 - Estimated value, either in USD or local currency of services, products and other resources provided
 - Explanation of how this was determined.
- For financial commitments:
 - Which GVAP outcomes and indicators will be impacted by the commitment
 - Total amount, either in USD or local currency
 - If possible, the proportion or element of the commitment that is additional to current disbursements for immunization, including an explanation of how this was determined and how the baseline was identified

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- If the commitment is to increase funding for immunization within the context of an overall health funding increase, the amount of the commitment to the *GVAP* may be estimated by applying a percentage representative of the share of overall health spending that benefits through immunization services (a range of 25-40% in the estimation of the value of the financial commitments to the *Global Strategy*, 25% has been used based on data from Countdown to 2015)
- The expected outcome and source of funding to support implementation of the commitment, for example national revenues, bilateral donor government, UN or other multilateral agency, or other institution
- How funds will be channelled (e.g. bilaterally, multilaterally, through CSOs).

How Can I Make a Commitment?

For further information, please email xxxxxx.