

Tools for CSO engagement and reporting in support of national immunisation plans

Summary: this is a brief report on how Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are responding to the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization's request, and developing a simple framework and comprehensive set of tools to support CSOs in engaging in immunisation and reporting on their work and its impact.

Background: Responding to SAGE's 2016 request

SAGE in the 2016 Global Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP) report recommended that "CSOs should describe how their work maps against different national immunisation plans in their 2017 GVAP report, so that the geographic and programmatic scope of their work is more visible. Where possible, CSOs should also measure and share the impact of their work."

The Gavi CSO Constituency picked up the gauntlet to respond to SAGE's request. They sought to develop a CSO framework and tools to be used at the country level that would help CSOs focus their work on what has the greatest impact and would allow CSOs to capture and report on contributions to their country's national immunisation plan, as well as the impact of their work. This information would then be fed into annual GVAP report submissions.

To accomplish this, the Gavi CSO Constituency brought together a wide group of immunisation stakeholders in April 2017 to flesh out the elements of a framework. This group, and several additional interested stakeholders, became a global reference group for the work, which included several global and local iterations of the framework and its corresponding tools, as well as in-country pilots (Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso, and India) and virtual testing (Nigeria, Pakistan, and global stakeholders). The work was overseen by the Gavi CSO Steering Committee, specifically, the working group on Monitoring and Evaluation.

The Gavi CSO Constituency presented the framework and tools to the SAGE Decade of Vaccines (DoV) Working Group (WG) during its' three-day meeting August 29-31, 2017, in Geneva. The framework has now incorporated the SAGE DoV WG suggestions.

The CSO Framework and Tools in support of national immunisation plans

It is a comprehensive set of simple tools for use by CSOs in any country (whether Gavi-supported or not), including middle-income and high-income countries. It includes a visual diagram on CSO engagement, and summary pages with key questions and metrics. It focuses on helping CSOs work together to report on their *collective* impact. It builds on what CSOs already do, and considers different types and levels of work across several areas:

- The Immunisation System – tools support CSOs in engaging in and reporting on immunisation planning, including identification of target populations and helping to improve the quality of the immunisation workforce, services and the experience of care. Although it focuses on improving routine immunisation, it also includes a "mini-module" on CSO engagement in immunisation campaigns.
- Advocacy & Accountability – these tools support CSOs in advocating for and holding accountable various stakeholders on key issues such as budget and spending for immunisation, and improving immunisation data quality and availability.

- Increasing Demand for Immunisation – these tools support CSOs in improving populations’ knowledge of and trust in immunisation, and helping to reduce social, cultural and access barriers.
- Fragile Contexts – a special module is included that is specifically tailored to fragile contexts, which can be national or sub-national and require a different approach than a normal environment. One key assumption is that when government systems are especially weak or not functioning, some CSOs step in to provide immunization services. Thus, this module has a service delivery component.
- Additional materials included in the framework:
 - A how-to guide on using the framework, including defining “the denominator” and other terms, and providing useful links.
 - Tally sheets
 - A Knowledge Translation plan

The complete set of materials will be available in October on <http://www.gavi-cso.org/Resources>

Next Steps

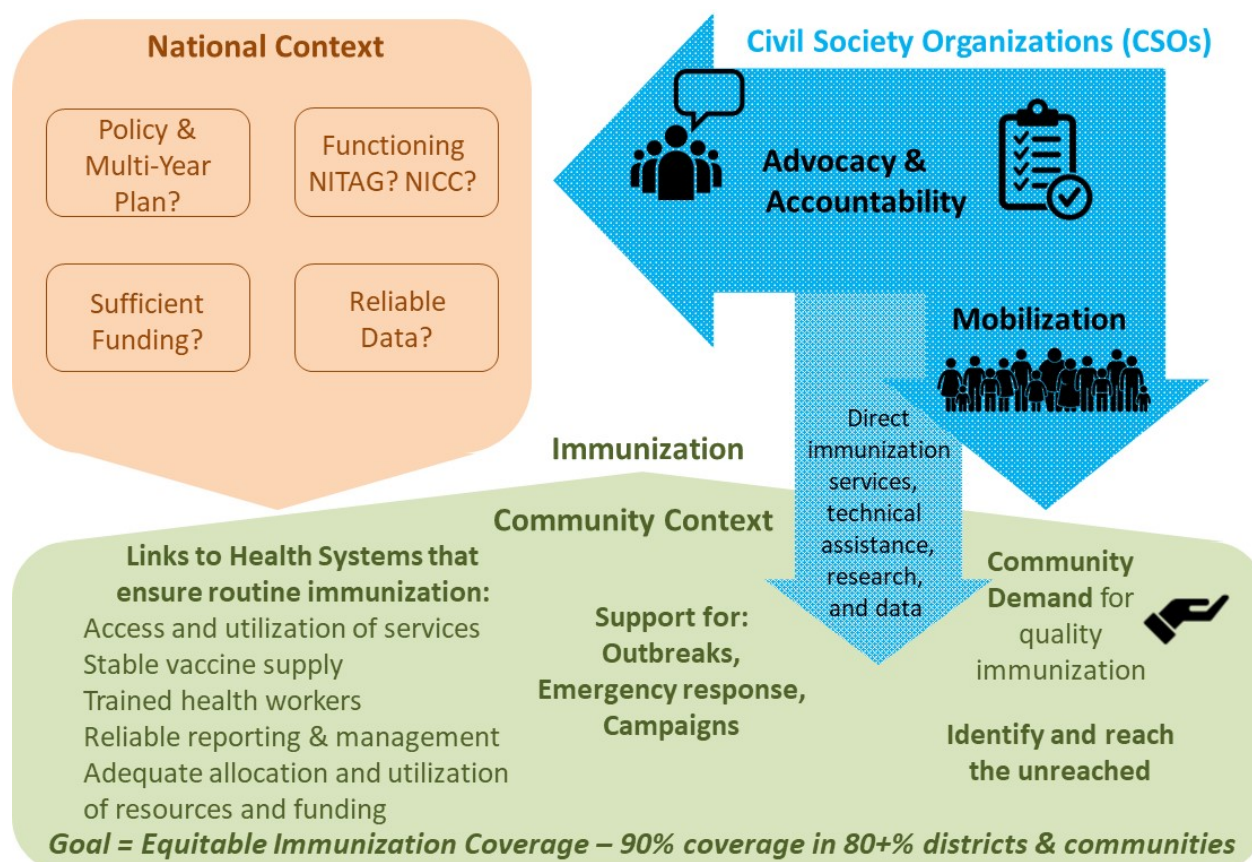
The SAGE DoV WG and Gavi Secretariat requested that we implement the framework in two countries, and analyse and report back on the results. They also requested a plan on the way forward, including quantification of resources needed. Funding and support will be sought for the initial two-country pilot in the coming months.

Role of Civil Society in immunisation and historic challenges

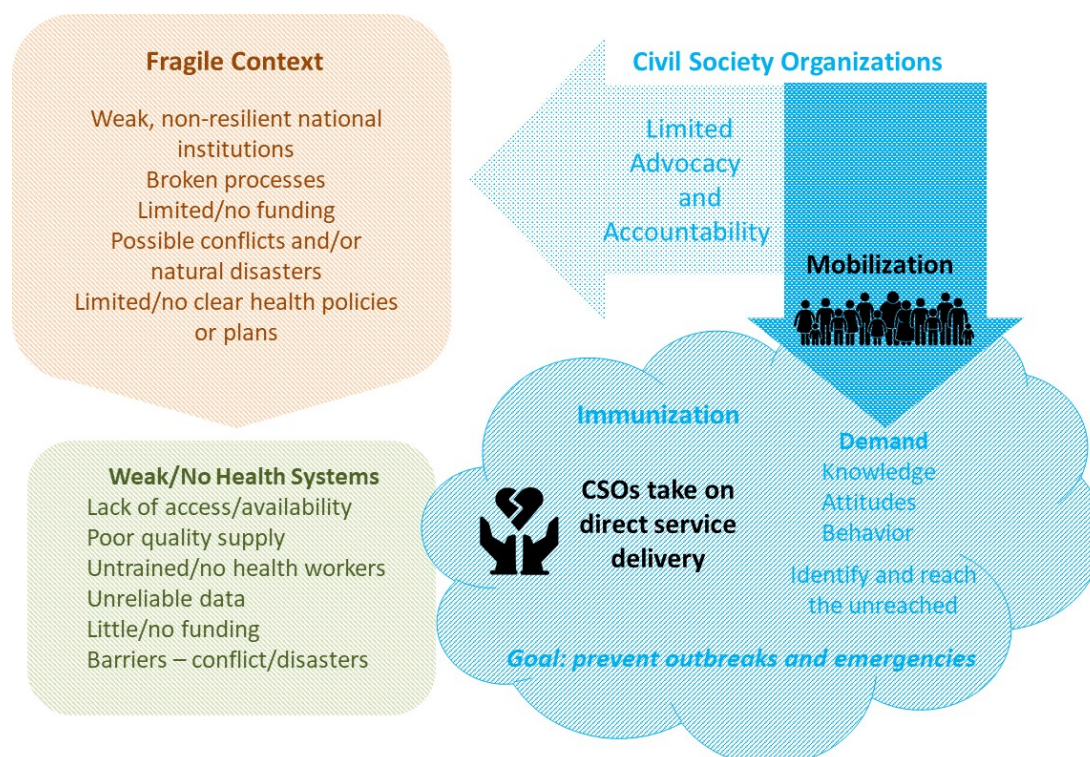
Civil Society plays a key role in increasing immunisation coverage and equity in many countries. Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) often contribute to immunisation and health systems by creating demand for and uptake of routine childhood vaccines, directly supporting their country’s national immunisation goals and, at a broader level, GVAP goals.

Despite the key role played by CSOs in supporting national immunisation programs, it has been challenging to document the impact of CSO contributions in a systematic way. The issue of measuring and reporting CSO contributions to national immunisation plans and systems is one that arises often in a variety of contexts, including throughout the DoV. The lack of clear information and data around the role and contributions of CSOs to countries’ immunisation plans and goals is often cited as preventing more robust support and funding for civil society. It also contributes to a continued “tokenistic approach” to including civil society in key discussions.

Conceptual Framework: CSOs represent communities and work in partnership with government and all immunization stakeholders



Conceptual Framework: CSOs in Fragile Contexts



Increased Immunization Coverage: Results Framework for CSO actions*



*Key assumption: CSOs work collaboratively w/EPI (Extended Program for Immunization) and all relevant stakeholders