

## Introduction

This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the [Essential Programmes on Immunization \(EPI\)](#), the routine immunisation programme that brought lifesaving vaccines to a significant portion of the world population and [saved nearly 154 million lives in the last 50 years – more than 3 million lives every year or six people every minute](#). Despite immense geopolitical tensions, fragility, humanitarian and logistical challenges over the past decades, more children are surviving today than ever before, with the [global under-five mortality rate declining by 51% since 2000](#). Nevertheless, global vaccination coverage has yet to recover back to pre-pandemic levels, as [14.3 million children have not received any single dose of any vaccine in 2022](#). To ensure that the achievements of the past 50 years are built on over the next 50 years, significant investments on immunisation are needed.

Recognised as one of the world's most cost-effective public health interventions, immunisation prevents diseases and enable people to live longer, healthier lives, while also generating [economic benefits for individuals and societies, such as increased productivity and wages, and reduced healthcare costs](#). Immunisation is often a child's first point of contact with the health system, meaning vaccines help bring children, adolescents and adults into a wider network of care. For example, a family facing multiple deprivations that brings a child to be vaccinated can also be checked by health workers on their broader health and wellbeing, particularly mothers and caregivers and be provided with other essential services such as nutrition interventions.

**A world with immunisation for all is [Humanly Possible](#).**

## Gavi's key recommendations for WHA77 deliberations

The World Health Organization (WHO)'s 14<sup>th</sup> General Programme of Work, and the upcoming Gavi 6.0 Strategy for 2026 to 2030, represent key opportunities for countries to prioritise a preventive health approach which can improve the health of their population and at the same time alleviate pressures on health systems. Prevention can also help countries to reinvigorate actions needed to get the health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on track. In this respect, Gavi encourages Member States and partners to:

**Agenda items - 11.1 Universal Health Coverage; - 11.4 Immunization Agenda 2030; - 11.7 Acceleration towards the Sustainable Development Goal targets for maternal health and child mortality; - 12. Global technical strategy and targets for malaria 2016–2030; - 14.4 Poliomyelitis**

- *Invest* in Universal Health Coverage to achieve [SDG 3.8](#) as well as *adopt and implement* the proposed resolution on “Social participation for universal health coverage, health and well-being”, especially by strengthening meaningful social participation in health-related technical and political decisions at all levels.
- *Adopt and implement* the proposed WHA Resolution “Accelerate progress towards reducing maternal, newborn and child mortality in order to achieve SDG targets 3.1 and 3.2”, including by increasing coverage of [essential immunisation services](#).
- *Intensify* initiatives aimed at halving the number of zero-dose children – those who have not received any routine vaccines – by 2030, notably by implementing the “[Big Catch-Up](#)” and addressing the challenges identified in the [Immunization Agenda 2030 report](#).
- *Invest* in immunisation to scale up coverage of vaccines against major vaccine-preventable causes of mortality, particularly:
  - *Introduce* [malaria vaccines](#) in endemic countries as part of comprehensive malaria control plans, which could be a gamechanger for malaria control efforts and save tens of thousands of lives each year.

- *Introduce* and/or scale up the roll out of HPV vaccination prioritising the uptake by adolescent girls aged 9 to 14 years old in line with WHO's [Global strategy to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer](#).
- *Finance and implement* the [Global Polio Eradication Initiative \(GPEI\) Strategy 2022-2026](#), namely by integrating polio-funded assets into existing national health systems.

### Agenda item - 13. Public health emergencies: preparedness and response

- *Adopt and implement the* WHO Convention, Agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response (PPPR), and amendments to the International Health Regulations (IHR), underpinned by the principles of equity, solidarity and multilateralism.
- *Ensure* PPPR efforts are underpinned by sustained investments to strengthen health systems, particularly primary health care (PHC) and preventive health measures, including routine immunisation, disease surveillance and laboratory capacity.
- *Develop* an effective and agile global pathogen access and benefit sharing mechanism to enable equitable allocation of pandemic-related products, including vaccines, at real-time (time of production) to reach lower income countries and the most vulnerable populations.
- *Commit* new domestic and international financial resources to ensure at-risk contingency financing from day zero in future pandemics and to strengthen collective surge capacity for a coordinated global response against future outbreaks, pandemics and health emergencies.
- *Engage* with relevant specialised agencies and partners to build on their technical expertise in the implementation of the Pandemic Agreement, the IHR, and other PPPR initiatives.
- *Continue to prevent, prepare for and respond to* disease outbreaks, especially by ensuring equitable access to lifesaving medical countermeasures including vaccines.

### Agenda items - 11.8 Antimicrobial resistance: accelerating national and global responses; - 15.4 Climate Change and Health

- *Adopt and implement* the proposed WHA resolutions on “Climate and Health” and “Antimicrobial resistance: accelerating national and global responses”, especially by prioritising prevention and health promotion to tackle those major threats to public health.
- *Integrate* preventive health measures, such as immunisation programmes, disease surveillance and early-detection capacities, into National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), climate Vulnerability and Adaptation (V&A) Assessments, and national antimicrobial resistance (AMR) plans.
- *Strengthen* the participation of civil society and local communities into national and sub-national planning and decision-making processes to ensure interventions are tailored to the local socioeconomic, environmental and epidemiological context and needs.
- *Support* the decarbonisation of health supply chains and procurement as part of the broader effort to build climate resilient, low-carbon and sustainable health systems.

**About Gavi.** Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance is a public-private partnership that has helped to immunise a whole generation – [more than one billion unique children](#) – and prevented more than 17 million future deaths, helping to halve child mortality in 78 lower-income countries since 2000. 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 children who have not received even a single vaccine shot.