

IFFIm funding contributes to health gains across Africa

In two decades, Gavi has immunised more than 981 million children, and child mortality has been reduced by half.

Nowhere has this work had a more profound impact than in Africa, where Gavi has invested 65% of its disbursements to reach 364 million

children and averted more than 8.9 million future deaths on the continent.

Sub-Saharan Africa's population is projected to double between 2022 and 2050, and demand for stronger health systems and access to vaccines are growing, too. IFFIm financing for Gavi programmes, from vaccine introductions to health system strengthening, will make a difference in vaccines delivered and lives saved.

IFFIm provides funding for over 15% of Gavi's immunisation programmes across Africa

IFFIm's strong commitment to healthcare across Africa has been crucial to Gavi's work, providing more than US\$ 1 billion from IFFIm's inception to 2021¹. Between 2010 and 2021, about 40% of IFFIm's total disbursements to Gavi was spent on immunisation programmes in Africa.

Gavi/2020/Svetlana Slavchev



A child visits a clinic in Maputo, Mozambique.

Sub-Saharan Africa's population is projected to double between 2022 and 2050, and demand for stronger health systems and access to vaccines are growing, too.

IFFIm supports multiple initiatives in Africa and its major support of three Gavi programmes in particular has helped shape health outcomes. Gavi's introduction of the pentavalent vaccine, which at US\$ 1.4 billion is IFFIm's largest-ever single programme disbursement, has protected millions of children. More than 25 million

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¹ All figures are current as of 30 June 2022 unless otherwise noted.

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children received the third dose of the pentavalent vaccine in Africa in 2020. In 2007, IFFIm support accelerated Gavi's pentavalent programme by financing more than 90% of Gavi's promised payment to UNICEF to secure initial doses of pentavalent, a single shot which immunises against five infectious diseases: diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) and hepatitis B. IFFIm's upfront US\$ 191 million investment in pentavalent encouraged manufacturers to increase production and decrease the price. In 2020, Gavi was able to procure pentavalent vaccines for US\$ 0.86 per dose compared to US\$ 2.98 in 2010.

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Gavi/2018/Thomas Nicolon

A mother and baby in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

IFFIm's global support for the pneumococcal vaccine (US\$ 600 million) and health system strengthening (HSS) (US\$ 421.9 million), its second and third highest Gavi disbursements respectively, have also contributed to health and broader benefits across Africa. For example, HSS facilitates the introduction of modern cold chain equipment to make sure that vaccines can safely reach everyone who needs them. This is critical in Africa where remote communities lack electricity and other means of safely storing vaccines.

Gavi focuses on zero-dose children

With IFFIm support, Gavi is currently focused on the future with priorities that include reaching the unimmunised, pandemic preparedness and response and building capacity and infrastructure across the globe.

Reaching children who have yet to receive any vaccine is a priority. Gavi estimates there were still more than seven million zero-dose children living in Africa as of 2020. To reach these children, Gavi's current five-year strategy

(2021-2025) is focused on reaching the most marginalised by strengthening health systems, building and sustaining community demand, addressing gender-related barriers and bringing innovative approaches to the table.

African countries, which are disproportionately affected by deaths due to infectious or parasitic diseases, will also be partners in Gavi's efforts to prepare for emergencies and outbreaks, known as pandemic preparedness and response (PPR). IFFIm has also

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Gavi report tracks impact on health across Africa

Gavi's 2022 [Africa impact report](#) provides a snapshot of progress in African countries from 2000 to 2021.

- Gavi has helped to introduce **nine vaccines** into routine immunisation programmes in multiple African countries. These include vaccines supported by IFFIm: human papillomavirus (HPV), inactivated polio vaccine (IPV), measles, measles-rubella (MR), meningococcal A (MenA), pentavalent, pneumococcal, rotavirus and yellow fever (YF).
- Gavi has also reached **364 million children** and helped to avert more than **8.9 million future deaths** on the continent.
- More than **25 million children** received the third dose of pentavalent vaccine in Africa in 2020 alone (close to 40%

of all children immunised with Gavi support globally in 2020).

- Including US\$ 1.19 billion in support from IFFIm, Gavi has disbursed close to **US\$ 5.9 billion to African countries since 2000**, representing **65% of Gavi's total disbursements**.



proven its capability as a source of surge funding that can be called upon when needed. For example, in 2014, IFFIm provided standby funding to help Gavi mobilise resources to respond to a deadly outbreak of Ebola in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. More recently, IFFIm provided nearly US\$ 1 billion to the COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC). So far, COVAX has distributed 1.84 billion COVID-19 vaccines worldwide. As a trusted, tested financing tool, IFFIm also has the potential to support Africa's pandemic preparedness through contingent financing, a tool currently in development to help donors make advance pledges that would only be called on in an emergency.

Despite progress, challenges remain

"African countries still face formidable threats and funding gaps on multiple fronts," said Hassatou N'Sele, an IFFIm Board Member who is the Vice-President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer of the African Development

Between 2010 and 2021, about 40% of IFFIm's total disbursements to Gavi was spent on immunisation programmes in Africa.

Bank Group (AfDB). "Progress in health across Africa has been hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic, and other longstanding challenges continue to delay further gains in some regions of the continent," she added.

"Climate change continues to lead to drought, extreme flooding, the displacement of people, and food and water insecurity. We have a huge infrastructure gap as well. There is no access to electricity for half of the population, which is affecting livelihoods and economic growth. Health is threatened also."

Vaccine inequity is being exacerbated, as well, by a lack of vaccine manufacturing in Africa which only produces about 0.1% of the global



A nurse demonstrates how to wash her hands safely at a health clinic in Moyamba, Sierra Leone.

supply of vaccines. Gavi is among the global health leaders advocating for increased production in Africa. More than 30 vaccine manufacturing initiatives are currently underway, and the African Union (consisting of 55 member states on the African continent) aims to produce and supply more than 60% of the doses required across Africa by 2040.

Getting routine immunisation back on track

Gavi and its country partners are prioritising increases in routine immunisation, which lagged during the pandemic, to prevent outbreaks of diseases like yellow fever, polio and measles. Countries demonstrating recent progress against these challenges, including Chad, Kenya and Ethiopia, have been able to engage their populations through networks of trusted health workers. These networks are key to building relationships with communities to ensure parents bring their children to be vaccinated.

"We have no reason not to bring our children for immunisation," said Chinenye Adoke, a mother in Ebonyi State which ranks first in routine immunisation in Nigeria, Africa's most populous country. "And, even when we don't come, the vaccinators will come to the communities to vaccinate the children." ■



Adama and son Mouhamad Sawadogo at a health centre in Burkina Faso.

HPV vaccines introduced in four new countries, aided by IFFIm funding

In 2022, Gavi celebrated a milestone in the deployment of its human papillomavirus (HPV) programme.

HPV vaccines have been introduced into national immunisation schedules in 31 Gavi-supported countries so far, most recently in Kyrgyzstan, Burkina Faso, Lesotho and Sierra Leone.

With growing coverage in wealthier countries, the burden of HPV-related cervical cancer has shifted to lower and middle-income countries, many of which lack reliable access to vaccines and other forms of prevention. Worldwide, 90% of deaths from cervical cancer occur in these countries.

The HPV vaccine was introduced 15 years ago. Since then, researchers have amassed an abundance of real-world data proving its effectiveness in preventing cervical cancer, the fourth most common cancer among women. The vaccine can prevent up to 90% of all cases of cervical cancer, and recent data suggests the vaccine could also reduce the risk of cervical abnormalities returning after surgery.

IFFIm funding for Gavi's ongoing HPV programmes is helping to prevent this deadly cancer in girls and

women. US\$ 79.4 million in proceeds from IFFIm vaccine bonds have been disbursed to Gavi for HPV immunisation programmes, improving the health outlook for millions of mothers, daughters, partners and sisters.

One such HPV success story is in Lesotho, where cervical cancer rates are among the highest in the world. The initial HPV programme in Lesotho was abandoned in 2015 due to financial constraints. The Lesotho government reintroduced the HPV vaccination programme in April 2022, offering the vaccine in schools.

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"These girls are very fortunate," said Manthathi Tšelo, a food and nutrition teacher at Masianokeng High School in Maseru. "We have been encouraging parents to allow their children to get vaccinated because, in some cases, parents prevent their children from receiving vaccines."

Sierra Leone, where cervical cancer is the second-most common cancer in

women, introduced the HPV vaccine to the routine immunisation schedule in October 2022. Sierra Leone is the 19th African country to introduce the HPV vaccine. The initiative is targeted to reach more than 150,000 girls in the country. The government has deployed more than 1,400 teams of health workers, community mobilisers and educators to immunise the country's girls.

"This is a pivotal moment as we seek to eliminate cervical cancer in Sierra Leone. Part of that strategy is vaccination," said David Moinina Sengeh, Sierra Leone's Minister of Education who is also Chief Innovation Officer. "The government spends over 20% of our budget on education, ensuring that our children access education, stay in and transition out of school. It will be disastrous for us to invest in children and girls, who then will grow up to have cervical cancer and die just when they are ready to reap the benefits. That is why, for us, it's so critical that our girls can access preventative methods as well as early detection and treatment." ■

Why vaccines?

Immunisation – one of the most cost-effective health interventions in the world – has demonstrated extensive and positive impacts in Africa and across the globe. These include protecting community health, reducing the number of people in poverty, and giving children a shot at a healthier, more productive life. Vaccinated children have higher cognitive abilities, miss fewer days of school, are in school for longer, and have better nutrition and education outcomes – all of which translates into better earning potential and productivity as an adult.



Gavi/2022/Joshua Kamara

Girls waiting to receive the HPV vaccine at War Wounded Primary School in Grafton District, Sierra Leone.

Women health workers navigate distance and misinformation to deliver vaccines

Ingenuity and grit may go unwritten in a health worker's official job description, but perseverance is paramount when it comes to serving people in the world's hardest to reach regions.

By boat, on foot, by camel and by horse, hundreds of thousands of health care workers and volunteers in remote areas are working on the front lines to clear the many barriers to immunisation, ranging from long distances and difficult transportation to mistrust and misinformation.

To bridge these gaps, governments and localities have enlisted women health care workers who are among the most trusted and hardworking people in their communities.

Halima Arte, birth attendant, Kenya

In northern Kenya, health workers must confront threats from Al Shabaab as well as misinformation to do their jobs. Enter traditional [birth attendants](#) like Halima Arte, who is known and highly respected by people in the remote village communities she serves. Halima and other birth attendants are essential messengers sharing information with parents about the importance of immunisation and how and where to get vaccinated. Navigating through rough terrain and harsh conditions, birth attendants supplement the government's efforts to immunise as many children as possible.

"We realised that the high under-five mortality rates registered in our remote border region were as a result of children not receiving routine immunisation. Our message to the community is that vaccines play a key role in increasing the life expectancy of our children," said Halima Arte.



Health workers have a crucial role to play in vaccination programmes in some of the world's hardest to reach regions.

Michelline Uwimana, nurse, Uganda

As immunisation rates lagged as a result of pandemic setbacks, health workers have forged ahead to find and immunise children who have yet to receive any vaccines before they are exposed to deadly diseases. In Uganda, which has reported a resurgence of Ebola and cases of polio, among other preventable diseases, nurse [Michelline Uwimana](#) goes door-to-door to bring vaccines to the country's zero-dose children. She and her colleagues often crowd together on one motorcycle to cross swampy

terrain and rough roads, sometimes fronting the cash to fill the tank with gas.

Being able to deliver life-saving vaccines to prevent some of these illnesses keeps her going. "When I deliver a live baby, I'm motivated. When I treat a case, and that person becomes fine, I get motivated," explains Michelline Uwimana. "I really work hard."

Lila Thapa, community health worker, Nepal

The Himalayan villages of Nepal are some of the most inaccessible places on earth. [Lila Thapa](#), a community health worker in western Nepal, made headlines in January 2022 when she was photographed carrying 78-year-old Devi Kali Tandan of Dharapani on her back over hilly terrain to the nearby Gaudakot health post. She made the difficult hike in half an hour, ensuring that her elderly patient would not miss her COVID-19 vaccination.

Thapa's journey is one of many stories demonstrating the above-and-beyond commitment of women community health workers, particularly during the pandemic.

"I feel that I was born to be a health worker," said Thapa, who is among Nepal's 51,416 women health workers. She has been doing the job for seven years, and, she says, "I wish to continue the work for the rest of my life." ■

IFFIm impact: zero-dose children



1 in 5 children in Africa have yet to receive a single vaccine. IFFIm supports Gavi's strategy to immunise these zero-dose children by providing nearly one-sixth of Gavi's overall programme support.

How has IFFIm made a difference for Gavi?

It has been 16 years since IFFIm started to fund immunisation programmes in support of Gavi's mission to protect the world against infectious diseases.

Since 2006, IFFIm has contributed approximately US\$ 5.2 billion to Gavi. IFFIm's support has meant Gavi has been able to provide more life-saving vaccines, faster.

In the last two years, IFFIm has proven its mettle in new ways, stepping up to finance the fight against a dangerous, fast-moving pandemic. "IFFIm upped its engagement during the pandemic. It's been fascinating to see how IFFIm's business model adapted to the current environment," said Ken Lay, Chair of IFFIm's Board of Directors.

Indeed, IFFIm has proven its versatility and value in ways its creators could not have foreseen in 2006. Yet, bringing the public and private sectors together to raise large amounts of funding for global health is what IFFIm was designed to do.

Recent years have been "defining" for IFFIm, said Gavi in its [Annual Progress Report 2021](#), as IFFIm "played a more significant role supporting both Gavi's core immunisation programmes and COVAX".



A boy in Ghana.



A nurse from the SHIS Foundation delivering Covishield to a vaccination centre, Sunderbarn, India.

Here are a few ways IFFIm has adapted to the pandemic and accelerated its impact since 2020.

- **Major disbursements for routine immunisation and COVID-19 vaccines.** Since 2021, IFFIm has provided US\$ 1.8 billion to Gavi, including the largest ever single-year transfer of US\$ 1.2 billion in 2021.
- **Donors pledged nearly US\$ 3 billion from 2020 to 2022.**

Recognising IFFIm's value in bringing pledged money forward in time, donors stepped up to support Gavi 5.0 (approximately US\$ 1.63 billion in total from Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the UK and Spain); the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovation (CEPI) (US\$ 272 million in total from Norway and Italy); and the Gavi COVAX AMC (US\$ 1.1 billion from Australia, Norway, Sweden and the UK).

- **New mandate to help CEPI develop new vaccines.** In 2019 and 2020, the Kingdom of Norway made two pledges to IFFIm, joined by Italy in 2020, to provide financial support (as a Gavi programme) to CEPI, which develops new vaccines for dangerous infectious diseases. This transaction was prescient as COVID-19 emerged as a worldwide crisis in 2020. IFFIm successfully frontloaded these pledges by issuing Norwegian Krone bonds in the capital markets.
- **Support for COVAX AMC.** In 2021, IFFIm answered a second new mandate to provide financing for the Gavi COVAX AMC fund to develop and procure COVID-19 vaccines for lower-income countries. IFFIm has played an essential role in accelerating funding for COVAX by frontloading close to US\$ 1 billion for COVAX AMC since 2020. COVAX had delivered 1.84 billion vaccines as of November 2022.
- **IFFIm bonds attracted new and returning investors despite challenging market conditions.** Since 2021, IFFIm has issued more than US\$ 1.8 billion in bonds on the capital markets including US\$ 1 billion

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Since 2021, IFFIm has issued more than US\$ 1.8 billion in bonds on the capital markets.

in 2021, which was its largest bond issue since its inaugural transaction in 2006. Despite turbulent financial markets, in 2022, IFFIm issued two bonds which provided additional funding for Gavi core programmes, returning to the UK market to raise £250 million in July and US\$ 500 million in October.

• **IFFIm added new tools to its kit.**


In 2022 IFFIm and Gavi announced a guarantee facility, a revolving mechanism able to accommodate multiple procurement contracts at the same time, backing future payments as vaccines are procured and then releasing the guarantees as Gavi fulfils its payment obligations. This system

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Support for CEPI

Thanks to IFFIm frontloading CEPI received US\$ 272 million to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and prepare for future emergencies with its 100 Days Mission to develop a vaccine for the next 'Disease X' in 100 days.


IFFIm by numbers



US\$ 8 billion
raised on global capital markets



US\$ 5.2 billion²
contributed to Gavi



US\$ 1 billion²
contributed to COVAX AMC

² The US\$ 1 billion contributed to COVAX AMC was part of IFFIm's overall contribution of US\$ 5.2 billion to Gavi.

> WHAT IS IFFIm?

The International Finance Facility for Immunisation (IFFIm) was initiated in 2006 to rapidly accelerate the availability and predictability of funds for immunisation. IFFIm uses government pledges to support the issuance of vaccine bonds sold to

institutional and individual investors. The money supports vaccine programmes of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, a public-private partnership that works to save children's lives and protect people's health by increasing access to immunisation in developing countries. The World Bank

is IFFIm's treasury manager. IFFIm's donors comprise Australia, Brazil, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. www.iffim.org



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 immunise 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. Learn more at www.gavi.org and connect with us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Gavi is a co-convenor of COVAX, the vaccines pillar of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, together with the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF. In its role, Gavi is focused on procurement and delivery 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.

The Vaccine Alliance brings together developing country and donor governments, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the World Bank, the vaccine industry, technical agencies, civil society, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and other private sector partners. View the full list of donor governments and other leading organisations that fund Gavi's work at www.gavi.org/donors



The World Bank is global development organization owned by 189 member countries. The World Bank's goals are to (i) end extreme poverty and (ii) boost shared prosperity. The World Bank is also the treasury manager for IFFIm. In that capacity, the World Bank manages IFFIm's finances according to prudent policies and standards. This includes IFFIm's funding strategy and its implementation in the capital markets, investment and risk management, and managing the investor outreach and ratings agency relationships. The World Bank also coordinates with IFFIm's donors and manages their pledges and payments as well as IFFIm's disbursements for immunisation and health programmes through Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. www.worldbank.org

For further information please contact: **World Bank as IFFIm Treasury Manager** iffim@worldbank.org

is expected to improve Gavi's financial efficiency and strengthen its position in the markets, which will enable Gavi to purchase more vaccines and immunise more children.

What's next for IFFIm?

IFFIm is an ideal vehicle to support future pandemic preparedness financing. Gavi and IFFIm have been working to design an approach to leverage the IFFIm structure for a contingent financing mechanism that would enable donors to expedite funding to Gavi in response to a future emerging health threat.

"IFFIm has remained an efficient, effective financing mechanism in terms of its overall operational and financing costs through the years while achieving all the original and new mandates and introducing new tools or adapting its tool kit to meet changing needs and emergencies," said IFFIm Board Member Doris Herrera-Pol. ■



GAVI/2020/Asad Zaidi

Pakistani girls in the predominantly Pashtoon community of Fauji Colony in Rawalpindi.

IFFIm's Board of Directors wishes you a peaceful holiday season and all the best in 2023



IFFIm's Board of Directors (from left): Hassatou N'Sele, Helge Weiner-Trapness, Jessica Pulay, Ken Lay, Monique Barbut, Ingrid van Wees and Bertrand de Mazières (Doris Herrera-Pol not shown in the photo).