

Global Vaccine Action Plan

2011–2020

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Table of Contents

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
4 Foreword	8 The Global Vaccine Action Plan	84 Global Vaccine Action Plan 2012 World Health Assembly Resolution	88 Annexes	144 Acknowledgements & Contact
	10 Introduction	50 Strategic objective 4: Strong immunization systems are an integral part of a well-functioning health system	90 Annex 1: Recommended Indicators	
	14 The Immunization Landscape Today	58 Strategic objective 5: Immunization programmes have sustainable access to predictable funding, quality supply and innovative technologies	94 Annex 2: Stakeholder Responsibilities	
	22 Six Guiding Principles	64 Strategic objective 6: Country, regional and global research and development innovations maximize the benefits of immunization	100 Annex 3: Costing and Funding Methodology and Assumptions	
	24 Measures of Success	72 Health Returns on Investment in Immunization	114 Annex 4: Health Impacts and Methodology Assumptions	
	28 Goals of the GVAP	80 Continuing Momentum for the Decade of Vaccines (2011-2020)	120 Annex 5: Countries and Organizations that Contributed to the Elaboration of the GVAP	
	32 Actions to Achieve Strategic Objectives		124 Annex 6: The Monitoring and Evaluation/Accountability Framework	
	34 Strategic objective 1: All countries commit to immunization as a priority			
	38 Strategic objective 2: Individuals and communities understand the value of vaccines and demand immunization as both their right and responsibility			
	44 Strategic objective 3: The benefits of immunization are equitably extended to all people			



Foreword

The Global Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP) is a framework approved by the World Health Assembly in May 2012 to achieve the Decade of Vaccines vision by delivering universal access to immunization. The mission outlined in the GVAP is straightforward: improve health by extending by 2020 and beyond the full benefits of immunization to all people, regardless of where they are born, who they are, or where they live.

Overwhelming evidence demonstrates the benefits of immunization as one of the most successful and cost-effective health interventions known. Over the past several decades, immunization has achieved many things, including the eradication of smallpox, an accomplishment that has been called one of humanity's greatest triumphs. Vaccines have saved countless lives, lowered the global incidence of polio by 99 percent and reduced illness, disability and death from diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, measles, *Haemophilus influenzae* type b disease, and epidemic meningococcal A meningitis.

Further progress has been made in introducing vaccines against pneumococcal disease and rotavirus diarrhoea as well as vaccines which prevent chronic diseases such as liver and cervical cancer.

We are facing a pivotal moment in history. Right now, the global health community has an unprecedented opportunity to coordinate with governments to develop and implement plans and strategies that will improve the lives of millions of people around the world through universal access to appropriate vaccines.

Together, we can overcome the hurdles that remain in delivering vaccines to every corner of the planet. These powerful tools are already available to most, but not yet all, people. To extend immunization to everyone, the GVAP seeks to ensure adequate resources, develop supportive health systems and infrastructure, and work with countries to train health workers needed to reach remote and marginalized populations. The plan also articulates the need for a concerted effort to develop new and improved vaccines and technologies that will help maximize the benefits of immunization around the world for years to come.

This ambitious action plan to reach all people with the vaccines they need is the product of the Decade of Vaccines Collaboration, an unprecedented effort that brought together development, health and immunization experts and stakeholders. The powerful idea that vaccines work and save lives must now be shared with a much broader audience, using such vehicles as World Immunization Week and others to promote universal vaccination and help focus on current challenges related to immunization. While dedicated health workers immunize people daily in all countries, World Immunization Week gives countries and organizations additional, focused opportunities to raise public awareness of how immunization saves lives—during the same week, every year, in every country.

When they endorsed the GVAP, health officials of 194 countries also declared that the completion of polio eradication is a programmatic emergency for global health, asking for sufficient funding to complete the initiative. Polio eradication is an early, major milestone in the implementation of the GVAP.

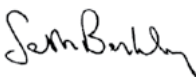
Our aim is to build on past achievements and use our know-how and experience to save more lives. This plan, that builds on the WHO-UNICEF Global Immunization Vision and Strategy, and the GAVI Alliance Strategy, provides the guiding

principles and strategic objectives that will enable immunization of more people against more diseases; introduce newly available life-saving vaccines and technologies; and coordinate immunization and other critical health interventions. The plan also suggests key targets for further research and development.

The Decade of Vaccines Leadership Council, along with all partners—governments and elected officials, health professionals, academia, manufacturers, global agencies, development partners, civil society, media and the private sector—are committed to achieving the ambitious goals of the GVAP.

Together we will track and measure progress through the GVAP and the UN Secretary General Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health Accountability Frameworks.

Many more are expected to add their support in the future as the plan is translated and implemented at the country and regional levels. The success of this ambitious global plan will be one of the most enduring legacies for today’s children and the generations who follow them.



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Global Vaccine Action Plan

In May 2011, a report by the Secretariat on the global immunization vision and strategy was noted by the Sixty-fourth World Health Assembly.¹ During the discussions the vision for the Decade of Vaccines (2011–2020) and the development of a Global Vaccine Action Plan were welcomed. Subsequently, the Executive Board at its 130th session in January 2012 considered the Global Vaccine Action Plan and provided guidance.² The Board also adopted resolution EB130.R12 on World Immunization Week.³ The final plan was endorsed at the 65th World Health Assembly in May 2012.

¹ See WHO documents [A64/14](#) and [WHA64/2011/REC/2](#), summary records of the sixth meeting, section 2, the seventh meeting and the eighth meeting, section 2.

² See WHO documents [EB130/21](#) and [EB130/2012/REC/2](#), summary record of the eleventh meeting.

³ See WHO document [EB130/2012/REC/1](#) for the resolution, and for the financial and administrative implications for the Secretariat of the adoption of the resolution.

Introduction

The Global Vaccine Action Plan builds on the success of the Global Immunization Vision and Strategy, 2006–2015, which was launched in 2005 as the first 10-year strategic framework to realize the potential of immunization. Developing the plan has brought together multiple stakeholders involved in immunization, including governments and elected officials, health professionals, academia, manufacturers, global agencies, development partners, civil society, media and the private sector, to define collectively what the immunization community wants to achieve over the next decade. In total, the global consultation process reached over 1100 individuals representing more than 140 countries and 290 organizations, and included two special sessions to brief representatives of the Permanent Missions of the United Nations Offices and other Intergovernmental Organizations in Geneva and New York.



Developing the plan brought together more than 1100 individuals in 140 countries, representing 290 distinct organizations

Immunization is, and should be recognized as, a core component of the human right to health and an individual, community and governmental responsibility. Vaccination prevents an estimated 2.5 million deaths each year. Protected from the threat of vaccine-preventable diseases, immunized children have the opportunity to thrive and a better chance of realizing their full potential. These advantages are further increased by vaccination in adolescence and adulthood. As part of a comprehensive package of interventions for disease prevention and control, vaccines and immunization are an essential investment in a country’s—indeed, in the world’s—future.

Now is the time for showing commitment to achieving the full potential of immunization. The collective recognition of this opportunity has led the global health community to call for a Decade of Vaccines, in line with the requests made in resolution WHA61.15 on the global immunization strategy. The vision for the Decade of Vaccines (2011–2020) is of a world in which all individuals and communities enjoy lives free from vaccine-preventable diseases. The mission of the Decade of Vaccines is to extend, by 2020 and beyond, the full benefit of immunization to all people, regardless of where they are born, who they are or where they live.

The Global Vaccine Action Plan reiterates existing goals and sets new goals for the decade, proposes six strategic objectives and the actions that will support their achievement, and provides an initial estimate of resource requirements and return on investment. [Annex 1](#) summarizes recommended indicators to monitor and evaluate progress. Beyond the action plan, country, regional and global stakeholders need to take responsibility for specific actions, translate the action plan into detailed operational plans (updating both the action plan and the operational plans as new information becomes available), complete the development of an accountability framework for the Decade of Vaccines



This century promises to be the century of vaccines

The last century was, in many respects, the century of treatment, resulting in dramatic reductions in morbidity and mortality, with the discovery and use of antibiotics as one of the biggest agents of change in health. This century promises to be the century of vaccines, with the potential to eradicate, eliminate or control a number of serious, life-threatening or debilitating infectious diseases, and with immunization at the core of preventive strategies. Ensuring that the vision for the Decade of Vaccines becomes a reality is a powerful step in that direction.



The vision

for the Decade of Vaccines (2011–2020) is of a world in which all individuals and communities enjoy lives free from vaccine-preventable diseases.

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