



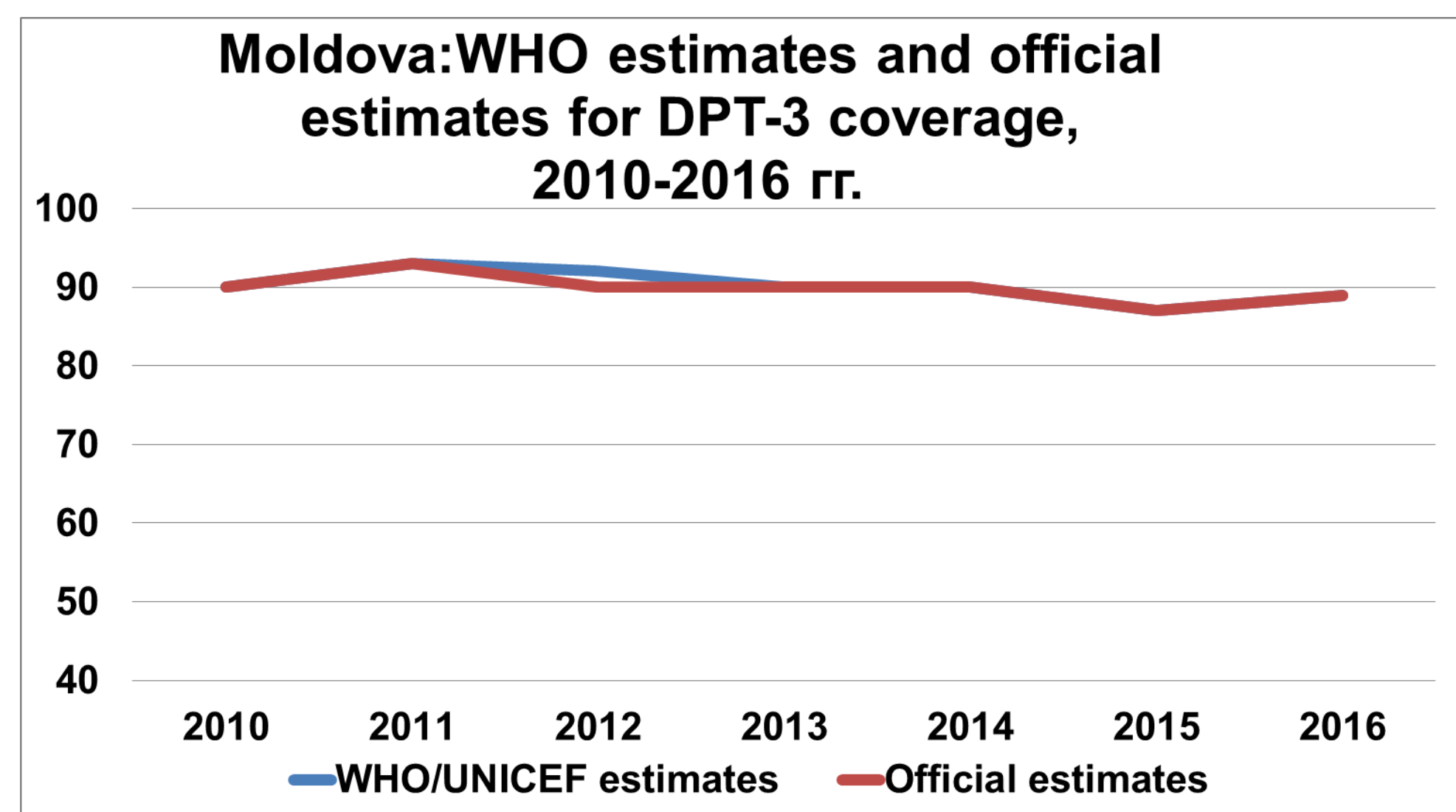
Moldova

Managing the Transition from Gavi Assistance

Nicolae Furtună, Daniela Demişcan, Lilia Gantea, Ana Ambrosie, Tiberiu Holban



1. Background Information



The Republic of Moldova has enjoyed the support from the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization since 2002

Gavi completed co-financing of vaccines for Moldova in 2016. Currently Moldova provides complete self-financing for vaccines.

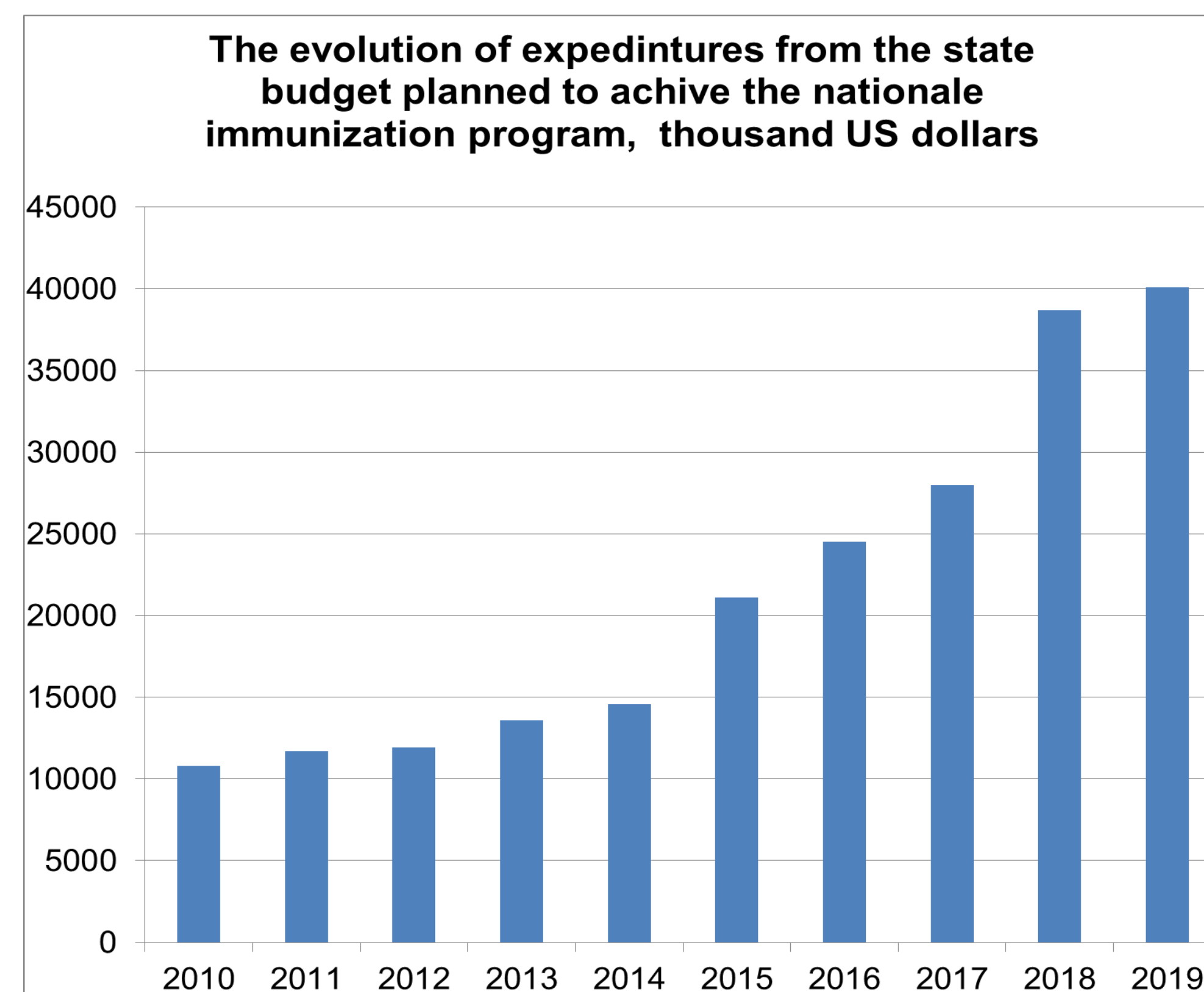
With support from Gavi the following vaccines were introduced into Moldova:

- HEP B – 2002
- Hib (in the composition of DTP-Hib) - 2008
- Hib (in the composition of pentavalent vaccine DTP-HepB-Hib – 2011
- Rotavirus vaccine - 2012
- Pneumococcal vaccine - 2013

It is planned to introduce:

- HPV vaccine– 2017-2018

During this time the Republic of Moldova, in addition to vaccines, received support for injection safety. Vaccine syringes and protective boxes for collecting and destroying used syringes.



2. Financing

Immunization is a priority for the government of the country and a priority direction for public health.

During the Gavi support, the Republic Moldova met all its co-financing obligations.

At Phase 1 of Gavi support, the Republic of Moldova received vaccines, supplies and financial support in the amount of USD 1.9 million.

Since 2011 at Phase 3 of Gavi support, the country has received USD 2964599.00 for the DTP-HepB-Hib vaccine as well as for the introduction of rotavirus and pneumococcal vaccines.

The portion of co-financing of the country for these three vaccines in the same period made up USD 2304,100.00.

3. Procurement

The country does not manufacture vaccines, all the vaccines are purchased through UNICEF.

To ensure the long-term development of the National Immunization Program, timely procurement and uninterrupted supply of vaccines & consumables that meet international standards, the national legislation has been harmonized in the field of the procurement of vaccines and consumables for vaccination through UNICEF.

4. NITAG

NITAG was founded in Moldova in 2013 to provide the Ministry of Health with scientific advice on immunization policy and practices.

The NITAG structure is consistent with WHO recommendations.

- As an affiliated agreement, all key members of NITAG shall file a statement of conflict of interest.
- NITAG holds two meetings a year. Recommendations for vaccination against BCG, IPV, seasonal influenza and hepatitis A have been developed.
- In 2015-2016, NITAG developed recommendations for the approval of NPI 2016-2020, the introduction of a vaccine against HPV.
- The Ministry of Health adopted and implemented all the recommendations of the NITAG.

5. Coverage and Equity

Moldova does not have the recommended coverage of DTP-3 vaccinations – 95%. Nevertheless, the country's indicators almost coincide with those of WHO/UNICEF, which indicates a high degree of reliability of the data.

Along with other measures aimed at ensuring immunization coverage of at least 95% of the population of target age groups, the Ministry of Health, together with partners from UNICEF and WHO, developed a Communication Strategy to change behavior to stimulate demand for immunization for the period 2017-2020.

It was developed on the basis of the current assessment of the situation in the field of vaccination, focusing on the scope of vaccination coverage and behavioral factors that influence the adoption of vaccination programs.

6. Transition Plan

As part of the transition plan from Gavi assistance, the following steps are being taken to provide the country with quality vaccines and consumables that meet international standards and to increase coverage:

- Harmonization of national legislation in the field of vaccine procurement
- Procurement and use of only vaccines registered in the country and prequalified by WHO for international supplies and / or registered with the European Medicines Agency, the Food and Drug Administration (USA);
- Controlling and monitoring of vaccine quality in accordance with WHO recommendations and manufacturers' instructions.
- Provision of paid immunization services to the population in private and public health facilities as well as vaccines not included in the list of free vaccines provided under the Program.
- Conducting sociological studies to find out reasons for the vaccination refusal,
- Organizing and holding Immunization Week on an annual basis as part of similar events at the global and regional level etc.

7. Graduation Grant

In 2017, work continues on a grant to complete the process of transition to independent financing of vaccine procurement.

In 2017-2018 Moldova will have Gavi assistance in the introduction of the human papilloma virus vaccine under the "Demonstration Program", including delivery of vaccines and consumables for the immunization of 15000+15000 girls aged 10, funding for the introduction of the vaccines in the amount of USD 507.500,00.

8. Key Lessons

We have quite a strong team and we can answer the questions other countries might have since we are already using the budget financing and are introducing a new vaccine against cervical cancer.

9. Further Thoughts

In 2015-2017, Moldova did not receive an Inactivated Polio Vaccine, which was to be financed from Gavi funds for the period 2015-2018 (inclusive).

The country expects to receive from Gavi and introduce this vaccine in 2018.

It is important to continue close communication between representatives of different countries to have an opportunity to share experience with each other.



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