



UZBEKISTAN

Managing the Transition from Gavi Assistance

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1. Background Information

The Republic of Uzbekistan has long enjoyed support from Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (Gavi). The country has been in the transition period since 2017, the country will receive the vaccines under Gavi co-financing in 2018, 2019 and 2020 (rotavirus vaccine, pneumococcal vaccine)

New vaccine introductions with Gavi support

- Hepatitis B, pentavalent- 2009
- Hib, pentavalent- 2009
- Rotavirus vaccine - 2015
- Pneumococcal vaccine – 2015

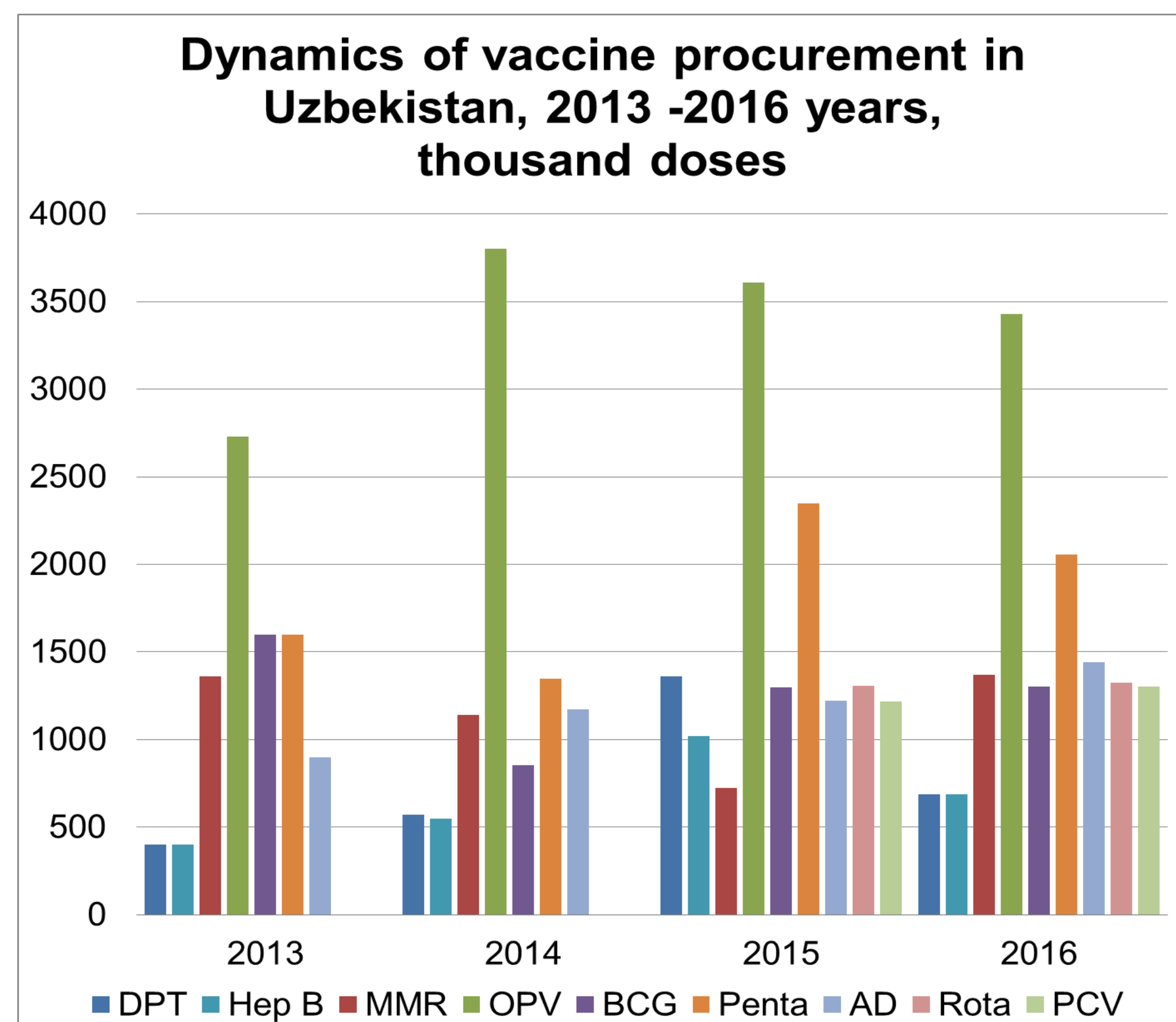
Planned introductions

- Inactivated polio vaccine – 2018
- HPV vaccine– 2018 - 2019

Traditionally, the country has a high vaccine coverage. From 2010 to 2016 DTP-3 coverage made up 95%.

To ensure high quality of vaccines introduced into the country amendments were made to legislation:

- All vaccines shall be registered in line with N352 Presidential Decree issued on 22 December 2014
- All vaccines shall be prequalified by WHO (for planned immunization)
- All vaccines shall be safe, stable and highly efficient
- The Customs clearance process is consistent with the User Rules and Regulations.



The country will receive inactivated polio vaccine from February 2018 to 2021. In late 2018 or early 2019 the country will start receiving HPV for girls aged 9 for a routine planned immunization and HPV vaccine alternately for additional vaccination of girls aged from 10 to 14.

2. Financing

In 2003 Uzbekistan approved the financial sustainability plan. According to N 114 order of the Ministry of Finance, a separate article N 01841 was provided for the purchase of vaccines.

The allocation of funds for vaccine preparations is increasing from year to year, for example, in 2010, USD 2 million was allocated, while in 2017 - more than USD 12 million. Moreover, the funds allocated for vaccines in 2020 will make up USD 20-21 million.

The budget is drawn up annually and approved by the Ministry of Finance and the Oliy Majlis.

The country is included in the "Vaccine Independence Initiative" program (USD 3 million), there is a letter of guarantee from the Ministry of Finance and an agreement has been signed.

3. Procurement

The country does not produce vaccines. Procurement of all vaccines takes place through the UNICEF.

The UNICEF tool is used for budgeting purchases. Vaccine manufacturers shall register all the vaccines procured by the UNICEF.

Uzbekistan is a member of UNICEF's Vaccine Independent Initiative and has signed a respective agreement. The only discomfort associated with the initiative is the necessity to take a letter of guarantee on an annual basis despite the presence of the agreement.

4. NITAG

The National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NITAG) operates in Uzbekistan to provide advice to the Ministry of Health on immunization-related issues. The NITAG composition is consistent with WHO recommendations.

- All key NITAG members shall file a statement of a conflict of interest.
- The NITAG meets on a quarterly basis.
- The agenda and reference information are sent to group members one week before the meeting at the latest.
- The Ministry of Health has adopted and implemented all the recommendations of the NITAG.

5. Coverage and Equity

Vaccination is mandatory and free; in accordance with legislative documents, every child has a right to vaccination (the Health Care Act of Uzbekistan, the Constitution, the Convention on the Rights of the Child etc.).

A great deal of work has been done in Uzbekistan with the media, clergy, NGOs, Mahalla committees, the Youth Union, the Women's Committee to solve the problem of mistrust of vaccines.

6. Transition Plan

For the transition period a plan of activities has been developed, which has been implemented jointly with the UNICEF, WHO and Gavi.

The plan of activities for the introduction of HPV vaccine has been introduced and submitted to the Gavi for approval.

Thanks to joint activities with WHO and UNICEF, the issue of strengthening the material and technical base of district warehouses for the storage of vaccine formulations had been considered. The government provided additional funds of USD 3 million, which will be used for this purpose.

The following work has been carried out to date:

- Preparation of design estimates, selection of contractors on the basis of a competition, construction and installation works and timely commissioning of facilities. Development of the necessary list of construction projects for 2018-2019 on the basis of proposals of regional and district administrations (khokimiyats) and development of design estimates.
- Participation in procurement and targeted distribution of refrigerating equipment.
- Introduction of new standard operating procedures for the use of vaccine formulations and refrigeration equipment in storage warehouses.

7. Graduation Grant

In 2017 the country received a graduation grant from the Gavi to complete the transition process in the amount of USD 606 thousand. Of the amount USD 389 thousand was allocated by the WHO and USD 217 thousand by the UNICEF.

The grant funds have been used according to breakdown by years. Unfortunately, there have been some delays in using grant funds.

8. Key Lessons

During the initial years of cooperation with the Gavi the country faced some problems with the conversion of the allocated funds. However, currently the country does not have any such problems as a result of the relevant amendments made to the legislation. Most of the problems can be solved through the application of sufficient efforts.

9. Further Thoughts

We are interested in the experience of the countries that have been long in the process of transition from Gavi support or have already completed the process.

Moreover, we are interested in receiving donors' support for the introduction of new vaccines and provision of equipment & necessary consumables for immunization."



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