

Immunization Today and in the next Decade

Developing together the vision and strategy for immunization 2021-2030

Draft Zero for Co-creation by 14 June 2019

Developing together the vision and strategy for immunization – 2021-2030

Cover Note

Background

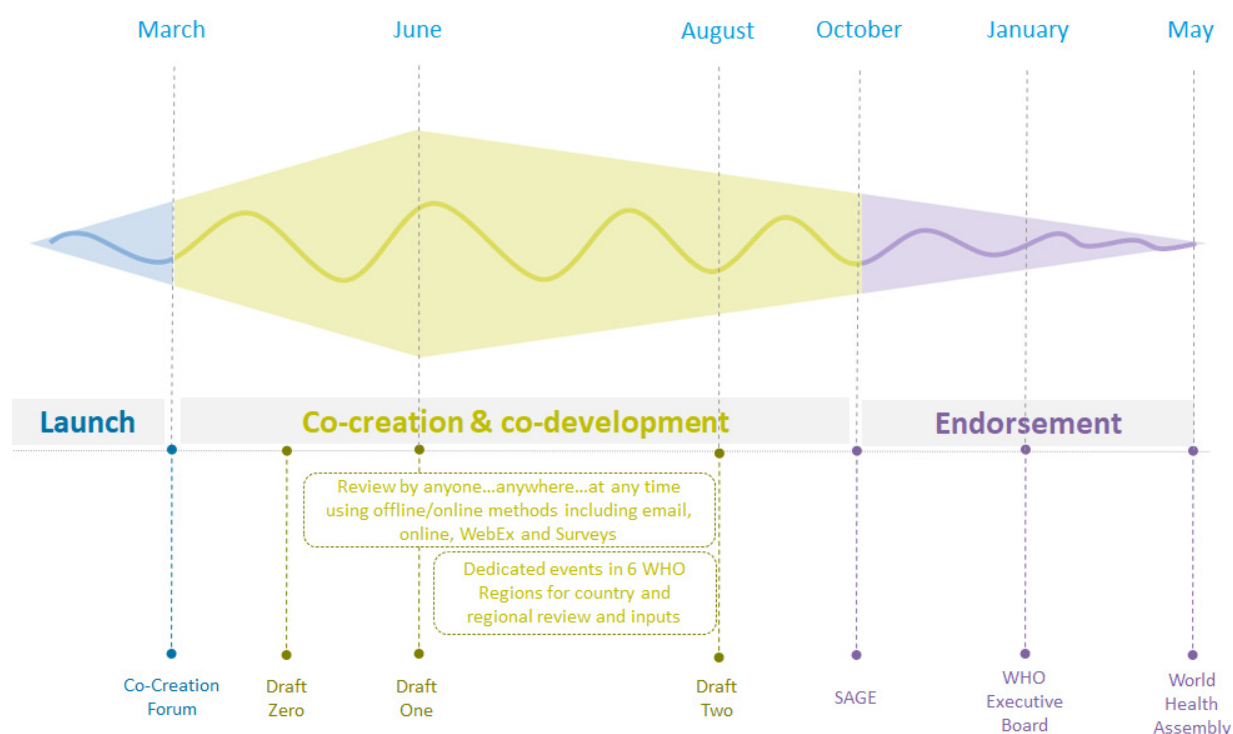
As we approach the end of the Decade of Vaccines and with just a couple of years remaining on the Global Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP 2011-2020), a new strategy for immunization is needed for the entire health and development community – one that reflects the collective inputs of people, communities, governments, civil society, health professionals, academia, development agencies, and the private sector. The new strategy needs to be ready for endorsement at the 73rd World Health Assembly in May 2020.

The following document is offered as a starting point for further co-developing the future of immunization together. It is being shared as a ‘draft zero’ and should be viewed as an initial formulation, assembling ideas, thoughts and content on a new vision and strategic framework. This document is being disseminated widely for inputs, comments and feedback from you—the immunization specialists, broader health experts, and wider health stakeholders at local, country, regional and international levels. None of its content is final or set in stone.

This co-development phase will continue until September 2019, and we expect this document to evolve and be shaped by your inputs, comments and feedback until then.

By September, all the essential elements will need to be finalized so that it can be submitted for endorsement by the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE) in October and WHO’s Executive Board in January, before its presentation to the 73rd World Health Assembly in May 2020.

Co-development and endorsement timeline.



Reviewing this document

This draft zero document is being shared widely for an initial round of review that will last one month. Please provide your inputs, comments and feedback by **14 June 2019**. You can provide your feedback in a variety of ways:

Pulse Survey

You can and provide quick and more general comments via an online survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/IA2030>

Written comments

You can email written comments to: immunizationagenda2030@who.int

You can also post comments online at:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CtoQ1X7ZZch17EWdB5tnVM_qae17hTlx/view?usp=sharing

WebEx Events

If you would like to provide interactive feedback, you can join one of the four WebEx sessions planned for **24 May, 31 May, 07 June and 14 June**. Details on how to join will be shared separately.

Document options and questions for considerations

Since “Draft Zero” is an initial version of the vision and strategy, we have included in the text a series of options for your consideration. We have also included some questions where we specifically need your help and ideas in shaping the content. Here are the specific topics on which we are offering options for you to weigh in on, or propose your own idea.

1. Name

Four names for this document are proposed for consideration:

- **Immunization Agenda 2030 (proposed option)**
- **Global Vaccination and Immunization Strategy (2021-2030)**
- **Immunization Vision 2030**
- **Immunization for UHC 2030**

2. Vision document

The vision is laid out in a 2-3 page document, summarizing a proposed new vision for immunization and describing the main direction and strategic priorities for the next decade.

Three vision statements are proposed for consideration:

- **A world where everyone, everywhere, fully benefits from vaccines to improve health and wellbeing (proposed option)**
- **Towards a day where the world will fully benefit from vaccines and immunization for all**
- **To secure health and wellbeing for all people by ensuring access to immunization throughout their lives**

Draft Zero in developing together the vision and strategy for immunization (2021-2030)

In supporting the co-creation process we very much welcome feedback on these proposed vision statement, your preferred one(s) or your suggestions for an alternative. In addition, we value your feedback on the Vision document.

3. Strategic Framework document

The Strategic Framework is a 20 page document providing more detail to the Vision document. It is organized into 7 sections: (1) Introduction, (2) Case for Immunization, (3) The Changing Context & New Challenges, (4) The Strategic Priorities, (5) Ways & Means, (6) Goals & Targets, (7) Path Forward.

In supporting the co-creation process of the full document, we very much welcome input, comments and feedback on the following questions:

- How well do you think this document succeeds in providing a new vision and strategic framework for maximizing the benefits of immunization for all?
- How well do you think this document succeeds in proposing adaptive ways & means for greater impact over the next decade?
- Do you think the 6 strategic priorities are the right areas of focus?
- Do you think the key focus areas underneath each strategic priority are the right ones to guide future efforts?
- What critical barriers and obstacles to immunization, if any, are not sufficiently addressed in the strategic framework?
- What would be your main recommendations for improving this document?
- How can we make this document optimally relevant for countries and communities?

**We thank you for taking the time to support the co-development process
and provide feedback and comments on this draft zero.**

Immunization Agenda 2030

The Vision

A world where everyone, everywhere, fully benefits from vaccines to improve health and wellbeing

A renewed vision

Vaccination has been a remarkable success story in terms of saving lives and giving more people a chance of healthy and productive lives. Despite its success, the benefits of vaccination are still being missed by many. Consolidating the gains made during the Decade of Vaccines and establishing a new direction for the next decade and beyond, the Immunization Agenda 2030 is designed to revitalize efforts in the battle against infectious disease and sets a renewed.

Maximizing the benefits of immunization for all

Vaccination not only offers a highly cost-effective way of saving lives; it is also an investment to make the world healthier, safer, and more prosperous – helping to achieve multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

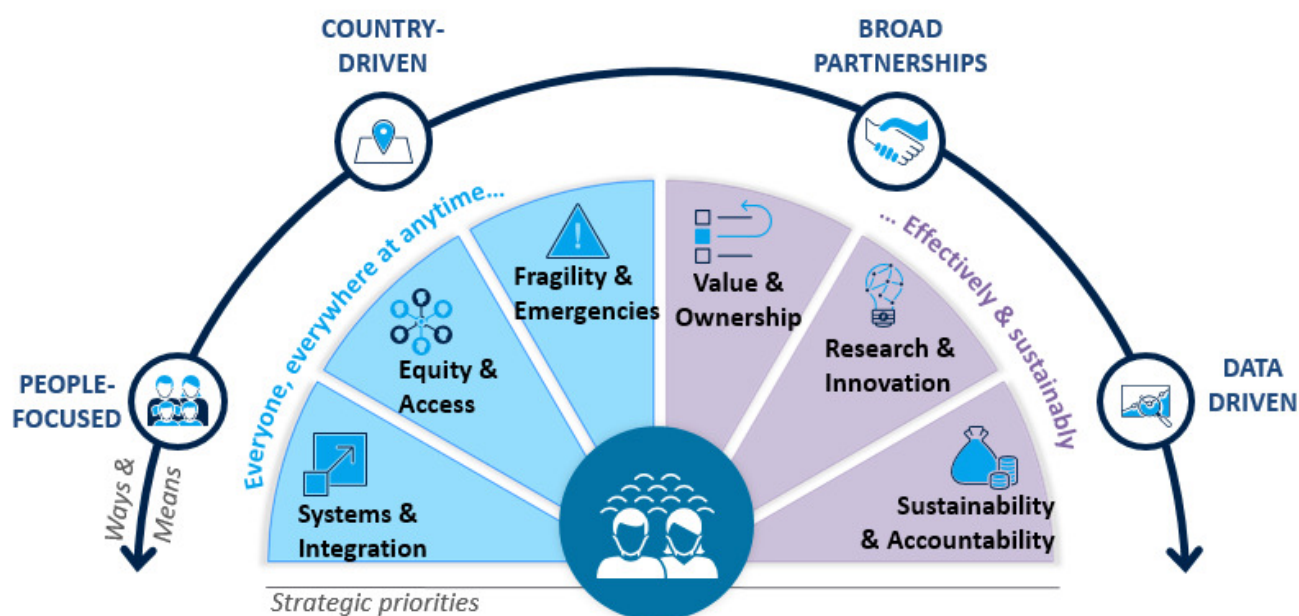
- **Healthier:** Beyond its direct benefits to people's health (SDG3), vaccination achieves a population reach that few other health services can match; it is a platform for enhanced primary healthcare and a springboard to advance universal health coverage.
- **Safer:** Vaccination plays a critical role in global health security by preventing infectious disease outbreaks and their spread across borders, and by contributing to the fight against drug-resistant infections.
- **More prosperous:** Vaccination reduces costs incurred by infectious disease, provides good return on investment, contributes to poverty reduction (SDG1), and promotes sustainable economic growth and a productive workforce (SDG8).

Focused priorities that are tailored and flexible to the changing world ahead

Immunization Agenda 2030 focuses on 6 priorities of strategic importance. They were chosen to guide efforts forward and because they are responsive to the profound changes in global context – one where uncertainty may be common, and adaptability to a changing environment will be key.

1. **[Systems & Integration] Bridging to stronger and more integrated immunization systems:** Ensuring that hard-fought immunization gains are sustained and that future systems deliver high-quality vaccination services integrated into wider national health systems throughout people's lives, as services are increasingly delivered along the life-course and as part of primary healthcare.
2. **[Equity & Access] Achieving equitable vaccination access in all settings:** Ensuring that the rights of everyone to access vaccination is guaranteed, irrespective of their geographical location, gender, socioeconomic status or any other factor that might prejudice their access to services – especially in the context of large pockets of unimmunized and substantial within country variations in coverage.
3. **[Fragility & Emergencies] Ensuring vaccination services in acute and chronic emergencies:** Ensuring the risk of outbreaks is minimized, and that support is provided in acute and chronic emergency situations so that essential vaccination services are maintained in areas affected by conflict, political instability, and the consequences of natural disasters and climate change – especially in the context of rising vaccine preventable outbreaks, new disease threats and large scale population movements, and displacements due to conflicts.

The strategic priorities and ways and means



4. **[Value & Ownership] Strengthening public demand and strengthening political commitment:** Ensuring that the public, political leaders, and other stakeholders such as development agencies and civil society organizations value, prioritize, advocate for and commit financial and other support to immunization – especially in the context of social change, communication technologies, and rapid spread of information.
5. **[Research & innovation] Accelerating research and innovation for continuous improvements:** Encouraging and intensifying the development of new game-changing vaccines, novel vaccine technologies, delivery and programmatic innovations to enhance equitable access to vaccinations, particularly among underserved populations – especially in the context of ever-changing epidemiology and emerging infectious disease threats.
6. **[Sustainability & Accountability] Building sustainable systems:** Ensuring a reliable global supply of affordable vaccines of assured quality and a clear pathway for countries to programmatic and financial self-sustainability of their vaccination programmes – especially in the context of global vaccine shortages and concerns over sustainable transitions out of globally supported programmes (polio and Gavi).

Adaptive ways and means

- **[People-focused]**
Placing people at the heart of vaccination: The design, management, implementation and delivery of vaccination services are shaped by and responsive to the dynamic needs of people and families.

- **[Country-centred]**
Placing countries at the centre: All efforts – at local, regional or international levels – adopt tailored approaches to strengthen country vaccination programmes that are shaped by local contexts and supported by communities.
- **[Broad partnerships]**
Building on existing and new alliances: Maximizing coordination and collaboration for collective results, and expanding partnerships to include a wider range of CSOs, the private sector and other sectors beyond immunization.
- **[Data-enabled and evidence-based]**
Using data, evidence, and enhanced monitoring and evaluation: Emphasizing the use of subnational data to guide programme interventions that enhance impact; generating evidence from implementation research, delivery science, and social and behavioural research to drive continual improvements; and tracking progress with enhanced monitoring and evaluation.

Achieving greater impact

A comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework will be developed as part of the Immunization Agenda 2030, to assess progress towards strategic priorities and more specific areas of strategic focus. Specific goals and targets will be developed at global, regional and country levels, reflecting different regional and national priorities, and building on existing immunization goals and targets.

A flexible pathway for implementation and accountability

The Immunization Agenda 2030 will be taken forward in a flexible and dynamic process, in which the vision, ways and means, and strategic priorities will guide the development of regional and individualized country roadmaps, and plans are adapted in line with lessons learned over time.

Immunization Agenda 2030

The Strategic Framework

A world where everyone, everywhere, fully benefits from vaccines to improve health and wellbeing

Introduction

Immunization has proven the test of time as one of public health's most cost-effective interventions, saving over 2.5 million lives every year. The number of people immunized – more than 117 million every year – has reached the highest level ever reported.

The risk of backsliding

Nevertheless, low vaccination coverage nationally, and subnational pockets of unvaccinated children, illustrate the vulnerability of existing gains, with progress in some countries being reversed in recent years. Simply sustaining immunization gains year on year will remain a significant challenge. Without constant attention, national immunization systems can easily backslide, undermined by complacency. The surge in large-scale measles and diphtheria outbreaks has caused thousands of deaths – stark reminders that hard-won gains of today are easily lost tomorrow, even in countries with well-established immunization systems.

Slow progress towards disease-specific goals

Progress towards the eradication of wild poliovirus and the elimination of measles, rubella, and maternal and neonatal tetanus is currently too slow to be achieved as planned. Re-energized and innovative efforts are required to achieve these goals.

Growing challenges

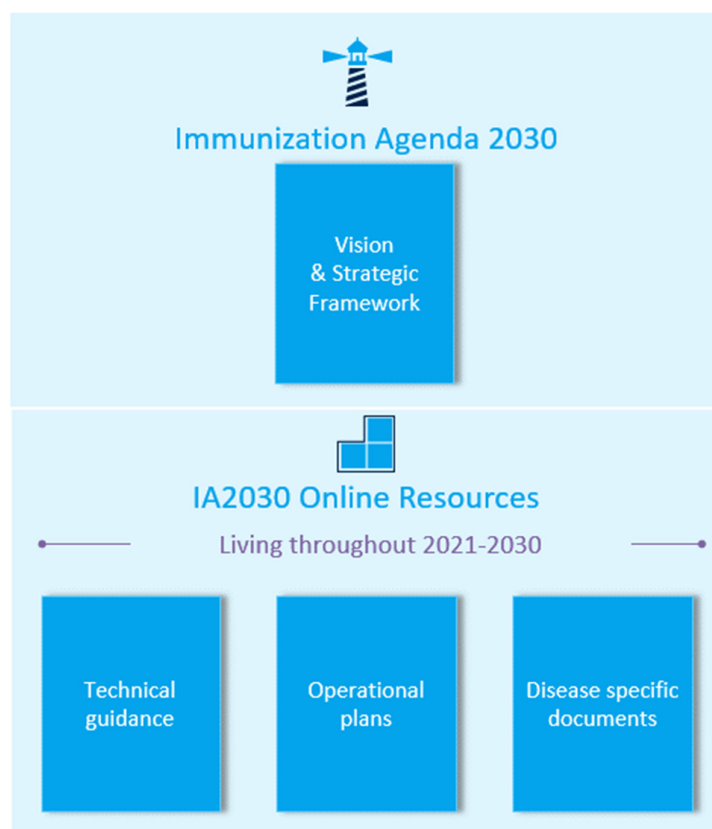
Continuing mass urbanization and migration, population growth, geopolitical uncertainty and conflict, natural disasters and environmental disruption will present major challenges to national immunization systems. Delivering services to remote rural populations will continue to be a significant challenge, while meeting the new challenge of rapid growth in urban slum populations are vital to overcome if we are to achieve equitable access to vaccination by 2030.

Meeting the challenges

Against this backdrop, Immunization Agenda 2030 aims to ensure that the immunization community maintains its hard-won gains – but also does more and does things better. It positions vaccination as an indisputable human right and an investment to make the world healthier, safer and more prosperous. The full Immunization Agenda 2030 will be composed of a vision and strategic framework alongside a living online resource through the decade, together creating a dynamic, adaptable, responsive and interconnected way forward.

Immunization Agenda 2030 is intended for country, regional and global audiences including immunization, health and development stakeholders, and development agencies.

Fig. 1 – The elements of the Immunization Agenda 2030.



The Case for Immunization

Immunization is the bedrock of public health services and national health security – saving lives, protecting health, and contributing to healthy and productive working populations. Vaccination is an investment delivering multiple benefits:

1. **Saving lives and ensuring healthier lives:** Vaccination has saved countless lives. Smallpox has been eradicated globally and polio all but vanquished. Deaths from other vaccine-preventable diseases have been in precipitous decline – vaccination saves more than an estimated 2.5 million lives every year. Beyond the threat of mortality, vaccine preventable diseases can be disabling, impair child growth and development, and prevent children from achieving their full educational and productivity potential. Vaccines give children the opportunity to flourish.

Moreover, vaccines for older age groups along the life-course have significant potential to save lives and ensure healthier futures for adolescents, pregnant women, adults and older people. By preventing infection-related cancers, they also reduce the burden of non-communicable disease.

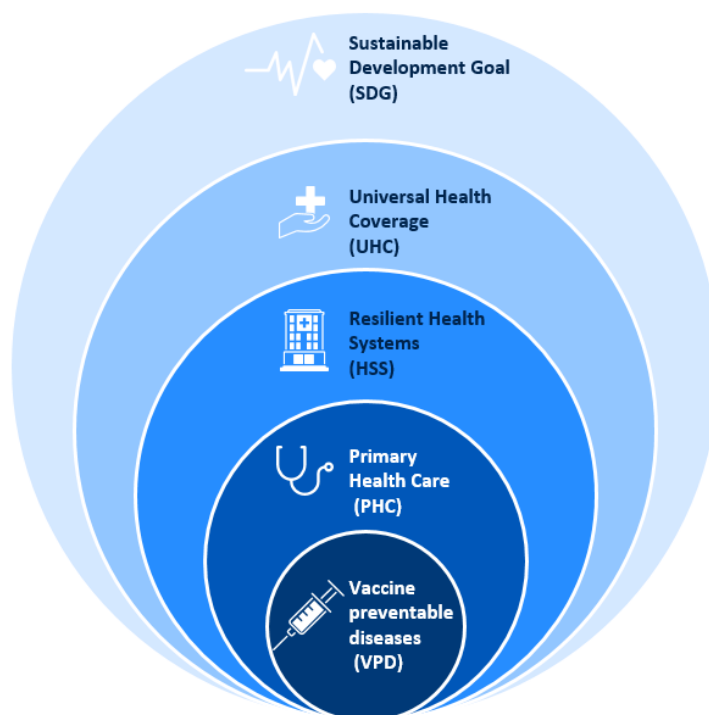
2. **An accelerator for primary health care and universal health coverage:** The renewed commitment to primary health care (PHC) through the 2018 Astana Declaration emphasizes its critical role in achieving universal health coverage (UHC) and health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Immunization programmes have a population reach that no other health services can match. Immunization infrastructures and ways of working can be used as a platform for enhanced PHC systems along the life-course and as a springboard to advance UHC.

In addition, prevention and health promotion are increasingly recognized as core to sustainable health systems. Vaccination is core to preventive medicine, emphasizing the importance of strengthening links between immunization and other key areas of public health, such as water, sanitation and hygiene, behaviour change, and vector control, in coordinated approaches to prevention of infection.

3. **Ensuring health security:** Vaccination is key to national, regional and global health security. As well as their immediate impacts on people's health, infectious disease outbreaks are costly to contain and can profoundly disrupt key areas such as trade and tourism. Well-immunized populations are resilient to outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases, while swift responses with immunization campaigns are central to effective outbreak responses and halting of transmission.

Control of emerging infections is fundamentally dependent on the development of new vaccines and their rapid deployment in times of need. Importantly, immunization and health security have common interests in surveillance – to detect infectious disease threats, to shape responses, and to evaluate the response effectiveness. Vaccination is one of the core capacities of International Health Regulations (IHR), providing a mechanism for integrated national capacity development. In addition, prevention of infection is a critical aspect of the battle against antimicrobial resistance. Prevention of infections by vaccination that otherwise result in antibiotic treatment will reduce the need for antibiotics. Furthermore, vaccination provides a means to prevent infections that are increasingly difficult to treat because of resistance.

Fig. 2 – Immunization as a core function of primary health care systems and central to achieving UHC and SDGs.



4. **Delivering economic benefits:** Treating infectious disease imposes a financial cost on individual households and national health systems. Infections also absorb carers' time, while disease outbreaks can have a calamitous impact on national finances – not just because of the direct costs of treatment and control but also through impacts on health systems, economies, trade and travel. Vaccination incurs an immediate cost. But in return it not only reduces treatment costs – it also helps to create a healthy and productive workforce, and prevents potentially catastrophic shocks to national economies. In low- and middle-income countries, vaccination's return on investment is estimated at 44 times the cost of vaccination when broader economic and social benefits are factored in.
5. **Promoting sustainable development:** Vaccination will play a critical role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Most directly, it contributes to SDG3 – to ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages. But by reducing the economic burden of infectious disease, vaccination helps to eliminate poverty (SDG1) and promotes sustainable economic growth and productive employment (SDG8). By protecting urban public health, it also contributes to sustainable cities (SDG11). In addition, vaccination acts synergistically with other development objectives, enhancing the benefits achieved by other SDGs. For example, the impact of enhanced food security and reduced hunger (SDG2) on child development and maternal health will be greater if vaccine-preventable diseases are also controlled. Similarly, quality education (SDG4) will deliver greater benefits if children are protected against these illnesses.

Fig. 3 –Immunization’s contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals.ⁱ



- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 Healthy children & families =
INCREASED PROSPERITY | 6 Clean water, sanitation & hygiene
(WASH) + vaccines = LESS DISEASE | 11 Protected urban public health =
HEALTHIER CITIES |
| 2 Immunization + nutrition
= HEALTHIER FAMILIES | 7 Efficient supply chain equipment =
CLEANER ENVIRONMENT | 13 Vaccines = MITIGATION OF CLIMATE
CHANGE IMPACT |
| 3 Immunization = HEALTHY LIVES &
WELL-BEING | 8 Healthy population = MORE
PRODUCTIVE WORKFORCE | 16 Strong health systems = LONG-
TERM STABILITY |
| 4 Vaccines support cognitive
development through better health
= IMPROVED LEARNING | 9 Healthy vaccine market =
INNOVATION | 17 Innovative partnership =
UNPRECEDENTED PROGRESS |
| 5 Immunization = EMPOWERED
WOMEN & GIRLS | 10 Better health = INCREASED
EQUALITY | |

The Changing Context and Emerging Challenges

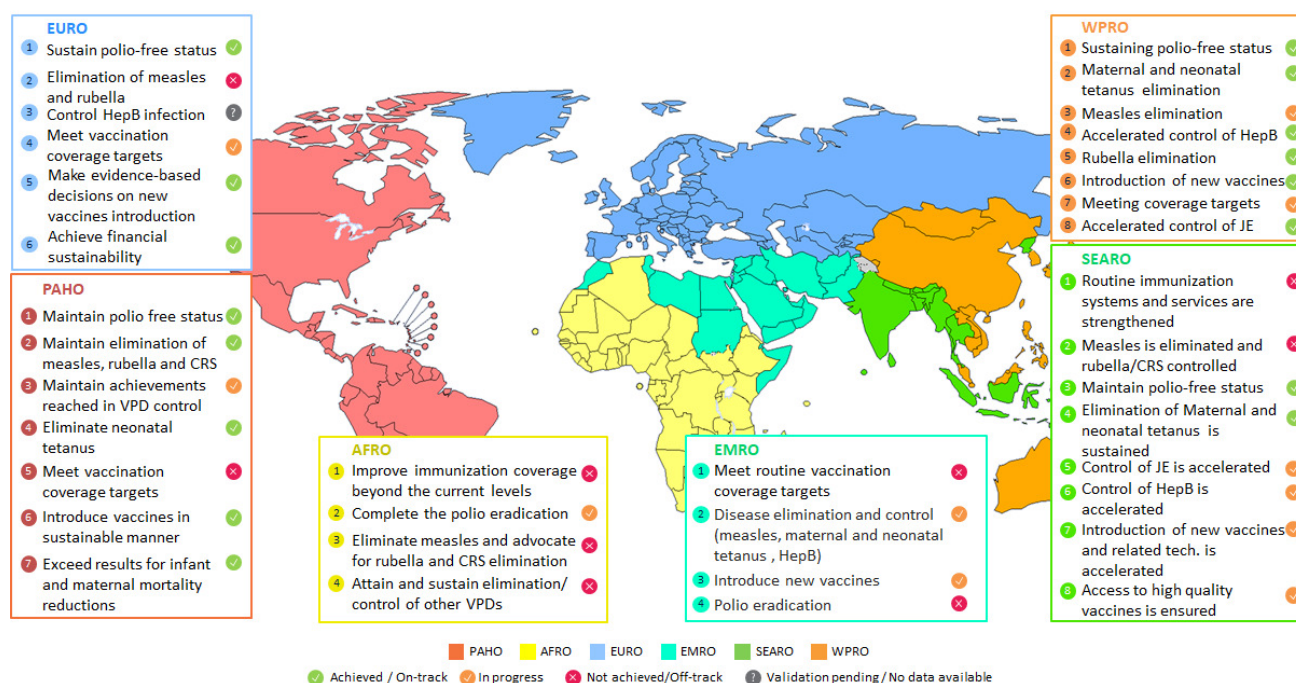
The Immunization Agenda 2030 builds on past lessons and takes account of changes in global context and new realities that have far-reaching implications for the future of vaccination.

Building on lessons from the past: The Decade of Vaccines and the Global Vaccine Action Plan 2011–2020 (GVAP) included ambitious global coverage, elimination and other goals. Although many were missed, the Decade of Vaccines nevertheless saw great progress, with many new vaccines introduced and more children vaccinated than ever before. The Immunization Agenda 2030 is designed to capitalize on and consolidate the gains achieved under GVAP, recognizing that many of its core elements remain relevant and important moving forward in this next decade.

Building from the lessons learned from GVAP, the Immunization Agenda 2030 differs in certain key respects:

1. Strengthening the basics of immunization programmes, and linking to the larger PHC and UHC agendas to mitigate any risk of backsliding, and to provide a foundation for future gains.
2. Expanding the benefits of vaccination beyond infancy to other age groups along the life-course, including pregnant women, adolescents and older people, and with a focus on gender equality in access to vaccination, and in all factors that influence the success of vaccination programmes.
3. Addressing issues at local levels by making better use of subnational data to drive greater impact
4. Placing the development of national immunization systems at the heart of a global vaccination strategy, with country-driven and tailored approaches adapted over time in light of changing circumstances.
5. Making people and communities at the heart of the design, management and implementation of national immunization programmes, and central to their oversight.

Fig. 4 –Regional goals.ⁱⁱ



Responsive to changes in global context: The modern world is complex and uncertain, and changes in global context will have far-reaching implications for the delivery of vaccination services.

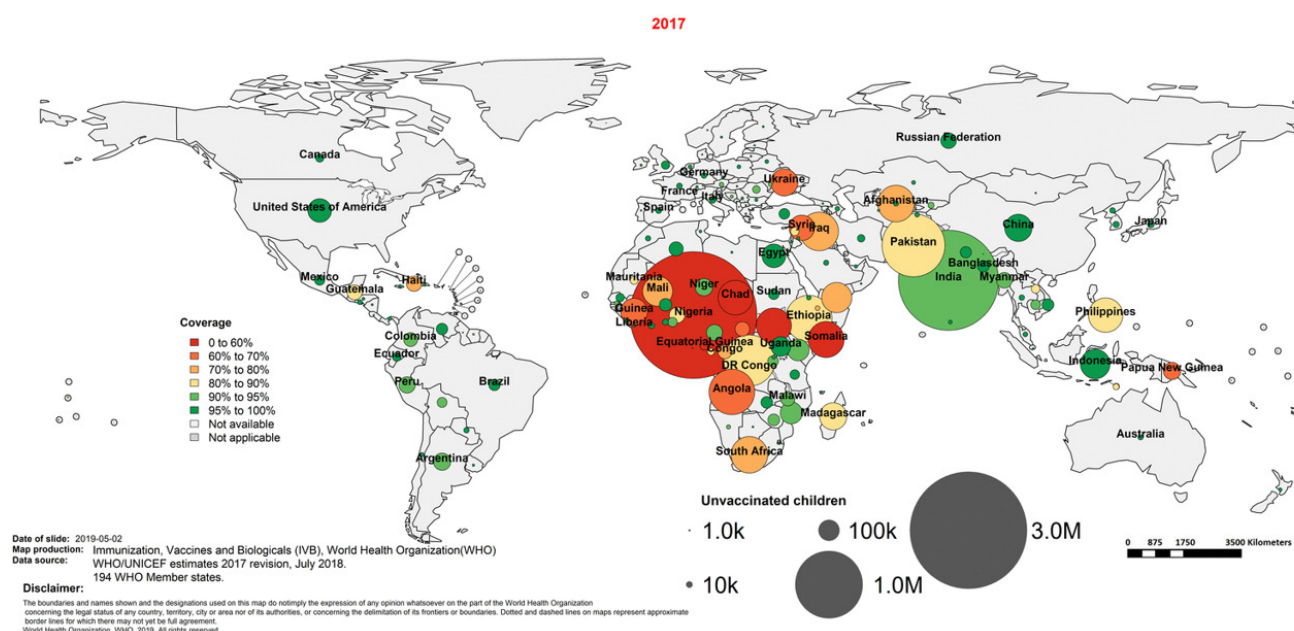
Reaching all in need and tackling disparities

The benefits of vaccination are spread unevenly, both between and within countries. A key challenge is therefore not just to improve national vaccination coverage but to ensure that vaccination gaps are closed within countries. In many countries, remote rural communities have presented the greatest challenges. Increasingly, however, poor urban communities with few health services are home to significant numbers of incompletely vaccinated. Other challenges include mobile and marginalized communities with limited access to healthcare services – social or political as well as geographical factors may explain why underserved populations are missing out.

It will also be important to ensure gender equality in access to vaccination, and that no gender-related barriers exist in service delivery. Gender-sensitive services will be particularly important at other stages of the life-course, for example vaccination of pregnant women and adolescent girls.

Addressing disparities also needs to adopt a subnational focus. Currently, the majority of the world's under-vaccinated children are living in disadvantaged communities in middle-income countries.

Fig. 5 – Coverage and unvaccinated children for DTP1.ⁱⁱⁱ



Changing demographics, urbanization, migration and growing fragility

The world will see significant demographic shifts in the future, creating important changes in the age structure of the population. In some settings, growth will largely be the result of an ageing population with an expanding life expectancy. This will require an expansion of vaccinations for age groups beyond infants. In addition, there are significant shifts in where communities of people are located. The growing phenomenon of urbanization in low- and middle-income countries will require new and different vaccination strategies – most of our current strategies have focused on reaching remote rural communities. In addition, migration of populations will continue to create

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pockets of unprotected individuals at risk for vaccine-preventable diseases – particularly in post-conflict areas or those experiencing prolonged crises.

Table 1: Top 12 immunization challenges for 2021–2030.

The challenge	The response
1. Delivering vaccines to additional age-groups along the life-course	Increasing the impact of vaccines and across the entire life course through more integrated services within a PHC system including for pregnant women and adolescent girls.
2. Including gender-specific interventions to vaccination services	
3. Addressing wide subnational variation in coverage, including large pockets of under-immunized populations	Achieving equitable vaccination access in all settings to ensure everyone gains access to vaccination, irrespective of their geographical location, gender, socioeconomic status or any other factor that might prejudice their access to services.
4. Responding to changing demographics, urbanization and mass migrations	
5. Implementation of services during and following conflict, emergencies and political instability	Preventing outbreaks and respond to acute and chronic health emergencies to protect populations and the discontinuation of essential vaccination services in areas affected by conflict, political instability, and the consequences of natural disasters and global warming.
6. Responding to outbreaks of emerging and re-emerging infections and growing antimicrobial resistance	
7. Ensuring access to vaccines, and optimal use of vaccines, against key infections	Accelerating research and innovation for continuous improvements with the development of new vaccines, novel vaccine technologies, and innovations that can enhance equitable access to vaccinations, particularly the underserved population.
8. Harnessing innovations to improve programme function and coverage	
9. Mobilizing support to respond to the decreasing awareness of the value and benefits of vaccines and vaccination	Mobilizing public support through CSO, political leaders and champions to raise the appreciation of vaccination and to seed the value, confidence, and demand for vaccination at the community level.
10. Addressing vaccine hesitancy and anti-vaccination activism	
11. Ensuring global vaccine supplies meet national needs	Securing a reliable global supply of affordable vaccines of assured quality and for countries have a clear pathway to programmatic and financial self-sustainability of their vaccination programmes.
12. Uncertain programmatic and financial self-sustainability	

Outbreaks and re-emerging disease threats

The world continues to be affected by infectious disease outbreaks, many of them of vaccine-preventable diseases. As well as fragile states and disaster-affected regions, outbreaks are also occurring in stable countries that have not maintained sufficiently high levels of vaccination coverage. Vaccination gaps enable infections such as measles, diphtheria and yellow fever to take hold. The threat of re-emerging disease outbreaks will likely continue or even worsen with climate change, which could spread the risk of certain vector-borne diseases such as dengue or yellow fever.

Vaccine hesitancy

Vaccine hesitancy is fast becoming recognized as a global problem. If ensuring that all populations can access reliable and quality vaccination services isn't challenging enough, the reluctance of care-givers to use vaccination services when they are available is a growing concern. The reasons for vaccine hesitancy are complex and context-specific but can contribute to large pockets of susceptible individuals, compromising herd immunity and increasing the risk of transmission of diseases.

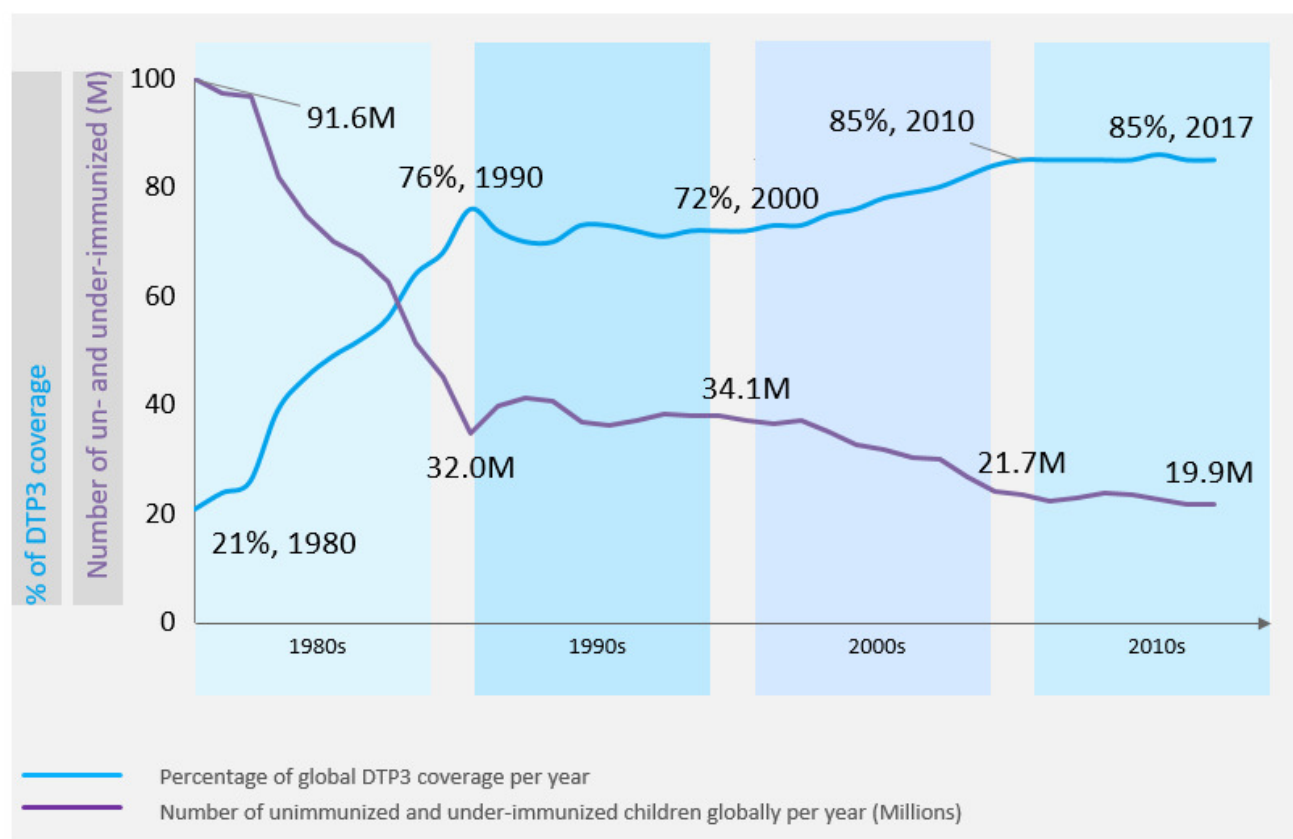
Maintaining global supplies

Every year, many countries experience disruptions in the supply of vaccines, affecting the delivery of immunization services. These can reflect global supply issues, when international production levels cannot meet the combined demand from countries. The cost of vaccines is another key barrier to access, and countries have markedly different capacities and access to mechanisms to procure vaccines at affordable prices.

Adaptability in the way forward

Given the unpredictability of the modern world, the Immunization Agenda 2030 will be a dynamic and responsive strategy. Just as the battle against infectious disease requires agile and flexible immunization programmes, so a global vaccination strategy must also be sensitive to rapid shifts, constantly evolving according to changing needs. The first half of the next decade will likely require a strong focus on addressing coverage and equity gaps, while the second half of the decade could see the deployment of game-changing new vaccines and innovations.

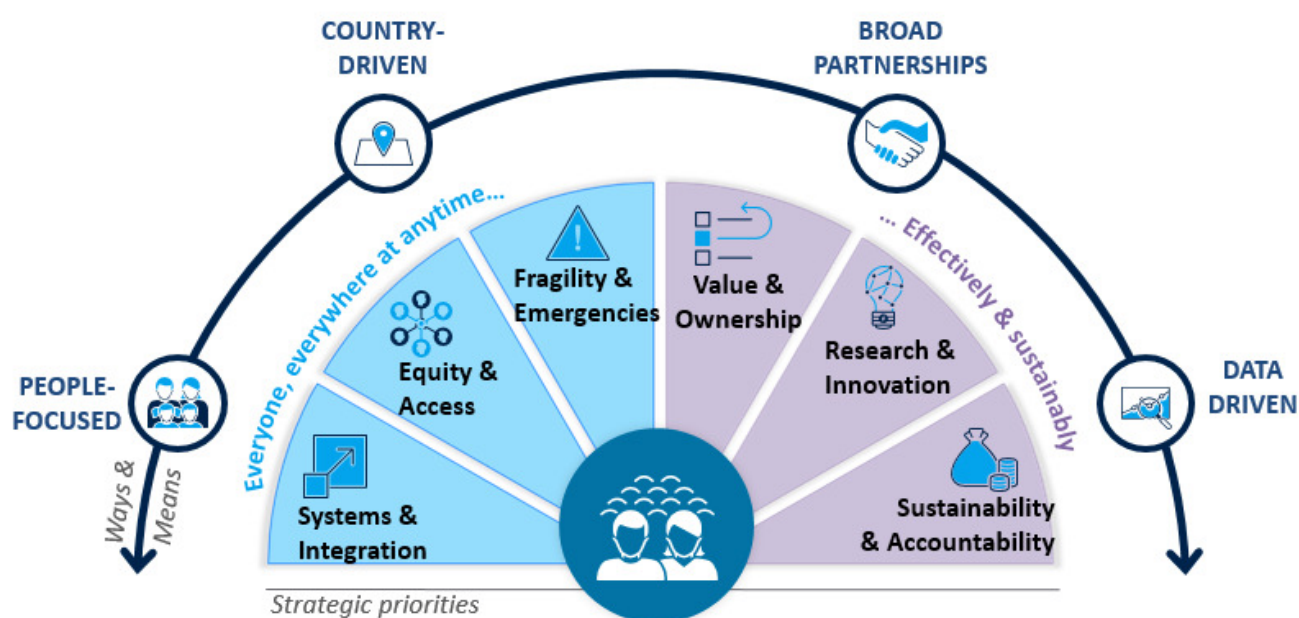
Fig. 6 – Progress on DTP3 coverage and numbers of un-under-immunized.^{iv}



Strategic Priorities

Consolidating the gains made during the Decade of Vaccines and taking account of an ever-changing world, the Immunization Agenda 2030 establishes six strategic priorities for the decade ahead.

Fig. 7 – The six strategic priorities for 2021-2030.



[SP 1] Systems & Integration

Alternative names: Systems & integration / Maintaining strong integrated immunization systems

Objective: Ensuring that hard-fought immunization gains are sustained and that future systems deliver high-quality vaccination services integrated into wider national health systems throughout people's lives, as services are increasingly delivered along the life-course and as part of primary healthcare.

The key focus: Achieving this objective will require investing efforts to:

- Implement a health systems approach to immunization and embed disease-specific efforts in national programmes within PHC services, ensuring that vaccine-preventable disease control, elimination and eradication initiatives are part of integrated healthcare systems.
- Build resilient immunization systems with all essential components – including management, financing, health care workforce, supporting supervision, supply chain, surveillance and data to drive actions – working efficiently to deliver vaccination services.
- Expand the immunization platform and its linkage for broader health outcomes using integrated health strategies (such as comprehensive approaches to prevent and control pneumonia, diarrhoea, malaria, cervical cancer, antimicrobial resistance, food- and water-borne diseases), by collaborating with programmes outside of health (such as water, sanitation and hygiene programmes, education programmes for school-based interventions).

- Establish a responsive and more comprehensive vaccine-preventable disease and case-based surveillance system (including epidemiology and laboratory capacity) that builds on the successful platforms and networks created by the polio eradication and measles elimination initiatives and that support outbreak detection, response, global health security and the tracking of antimicrobial resistance.
- Ensure immunization programmes have fit-for-purpose and user-centred data and immunization information systems integrated within national health information systems that enable health personnel to collect and use immunization and surveillance data for reaching people and for programmatic decision-making and efficiency.

[SP 2] Equity & Access

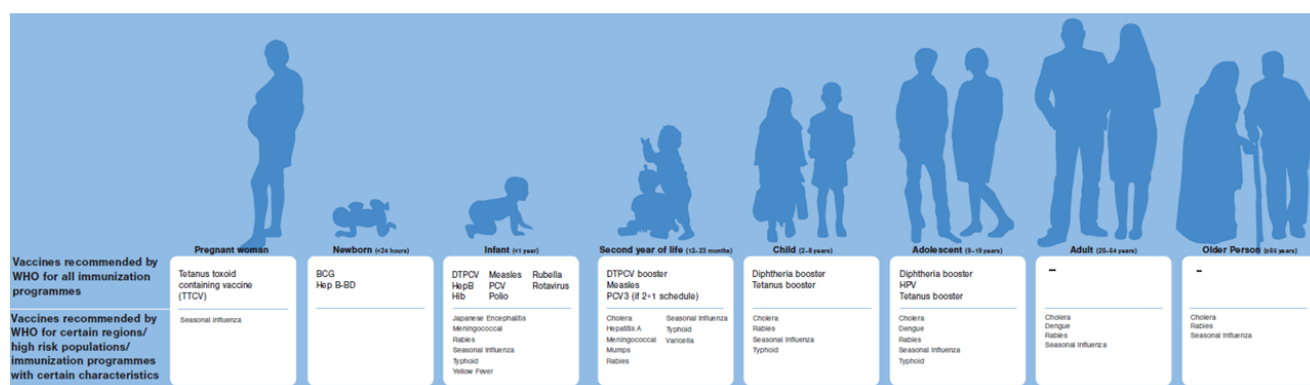
Alternative names: Equity & Access – Equitable Access / Maximizing Equitable Access

Objective: Ensuring that the rights of everyone to access vaccination is guaranteed, irrespective of their geographical location, gender, socioeconomic status or any other factor that might prejudice their access to services – especially in the context of large pockets of unimmunized and substantial within country variations in coverage.

The key focus: Achieving this objective will require investing efforts to:

- Expand access to vaccines and services along the life-course to age groups including pregnant women, adolescents, adults and older peoples.
- Track and target unimmunized and under-immunized populations sub-nationally irrespective of national borders and with widespread deployment of proven and new innovative solutions to reach them (ex: Missed Opportunities to Vaccinate and Home-Based Records).
- Design agile, tailored, evidence-driven and people-centred service delivery strategies for underserved communities including the urban poor, the remote rural, migrants and displaced persons.
- Ensure gender sensitivity in approaches to improve coverage and equity with proven solutions to overcome specific gender-related barriers.
- Address the immunization performance lags and bottlenecks in middle-income countries and their equitable access to new vaccines.

Fig. 8 – Examples of immunization opportunities throughout the life-course.^v



[SP 3] Fragility & Emergencies

Alternative names: Outbreaks & Emergencies / Vaccination in Special Settings / Ensuring Vaccination in Fragile and Emergency Settings

Objective: Ensuring the risk of outbreaks is minimized, and that support is provided in acute and chronic emergency situations so that essential vaccination services are maintained in areas affected by conflict, political instability, and the consequences of natural disasters and climate change – especially in the context of rising vaccine preventable outbreaks, new disease threats and large scale population movements, and displacements due to conflicts.

The key focus: Achieving this objective will require investing efforts to:

- Monitor populations in high-risk communities and strengthen outbreak preparedness by investing in preparedness plans and country capacity for epidemic-prone diseases aligned with international health regulations (IHR).
- Support emergency relief and outbreak responses in areas affected by vaccine-preventable diseases and strengthen international and national coordination mechanisms and governance for the direct, rapid deployment of vaccines, medical counter-measures, and other emergency relief efforts where needed.
- Implement tailored approaches to vaccinate populations in fragile states affected by conflict and political instability by engaging with communities to identify unmet health needs, build trust and involve community members in vaccination responses and in community-based surveillance, including apps using SMS messaging or low-bandwidth cellular networks.
- Increase the use of geographic information system (GIS) technology to map populations and population movements; the use of mobile-phone-based financial transactions in absence of traditional banking services.
- Connect routine immunization recovery plans to each outbreak to address the underlying root cause of the outbreak, and build resilient immunization services even in fragile settings.

[SP 4] Value & Ownership

Alternative names: Ownership & Accountability / Establishing Vaccines as a Social Norm and Common Responsibility

Objective: Ensuring that the public, political leaders, and other stakeholders such as development agencies and civil society organizations value, prioritize, advocate for and commit financial and other support to immunization – especially in the context of social change , communication technologies, and rapid spread of information.

The key focus: Achieving this objective will require investing efforts to:

- Mobilize increased public demand for vaccinations through CSO, political leaders and champions to enhance support and the appreciation of the value of vaccination, to promote the immunization cause, and to ensure that everyone understands their right to vaccination and their responsibility to ensure that communities are protected from vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Continuously advocate with political decision-makers and key global stakeholders to prioritize and commit financial and other support to vaccines and immunization.
- Ensure that regional and local stakeholders support immunization and collaborate to mutual benefit.

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- Expand the range of stakeholders beyond immunization and health, and ensure they work together to promote the immunization cause.
- Build community engagement, promoting confidence in and demand for vaccination at the community level with high-quality services.

[SP 5] Research & Innovations

Alternative names: Innovations and new Product Development / Fostering Ongoing Research and Innovations

Objective: Encouraging and intensifying the development of new game-changing vaccines, novel vaccine technologies, delivery and programmatic innovations to enhance equitable access to vaccinations, particularly among underserved populations – especially in the context of ever-changing epidemiology and emerging infectious disease threats.

The key focus: Achieving this objective will require investing efforts to:

- Expand new product R&D using approaches that are able to respond to rapidly changing epidemiology and emerging infectious disease threats, while ensuring continued progress on new vaccines for HIV, TB and malaria.
- Optimize vaccine delivery technologies by promoting new research and development on novel ways to administer vaccines based on identified country needs and operational research and acceptability studies – including needle-free injection systems that offer the prospect of more convenient, safer and people-friendly delivery of vaccines and technologies suited to low volume and low skill environments.
- Optimize regulatory and policy mechanisms and expand the role of implementation research and delivery science to accelerate the licensure, recommendation, introduction, scale-up, and impact of novel products and technologies.
- Innovate in delivery mechanisms with deliberate efforts to encourage research into user-centred ways to deliver vaccines more equitably to even greater numbers of people.
- Deploy innovative digital solutions for improving vaccine data systems, including the standardization of existing data tools and systems.
- Promote the establishment of birth registration systems, as a foundation for more effective monitoring of vaccine coverage.
- Strengthen the innovation ecosystem to identify country-driven, evidence-based product and delivery innovation priorities; strengthen the coordination across all functions and pathways of the innovation ecosystem; and build organizational capacity through investment in existing personnel, introduction of new disciplines/talent, and constant feedback and iterative learning.
- Promote a local co-creation pathway to implementation to ensure innovations are closer to the problem and are demanded by local managers, and ensure that country programmes have the capacity to identify and manage innovation, including identifying priorities for innovation, evaluating possible innovations and their barriers to implementation, and bringing these to scale.

[SP 6] Sustainability & Accountability

Alternative names: Availability & Sustainability / Ensuring continued Availability & Sustainability

Objective: Ensuring a reliable global supply of affordable vaccines of assured quality and a clear pathway for countries to programmatic and financial self-sustainability of their vaccination programmes – especially in the

Draft Zero in developing together the vision and strategy for immunization (2021-2030) context of global vaccine shortages and concerns over sustainable transitions out of globally supported programmes (polio and Gavi).

The key focus: Achieving this objective will require investing efforts to:

- Maintain a reliable global supply of affordable and equitably priced vaccines of assured quality and optimized country supply chain and logistics systems for effective national procurement and effective vaccine management from end-to-end.
- Safeguard adequate, reliable and sustainable financing of national and sub-national immunization systems, including cost-effective approaches to optimizing delivery strategies and a focus on securing funding for operational expenses, increasing domestic financing and predictable long-term international support.
- Support immunization planning and budgeting within health sector planning, budgeting and health financing processes and mechanisms.
- Build on essential polio and immunization functions, through implementation of the polio transition strategy as the funding for polio eradication activities ramp down.
- Assure sustainable transitions in countries moving out of programmes supported by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) and Gavi.
- Ensure that strong leadership and management capacities are built into national immunization programmes to drive forward sustainable improvements in performance.
- Build decision-making capacity and ability to set evidence-based policies and priorities for immunization systems (National Immunization Technical Advisory Groups (NITAGs), or similar mechanisms) supported by regional and global policymaking mechanisms.
- Identify robust approaches to governance and accountability.
- Build from successful immunization partnerships (Polio, Gavi) and establish new effective global models of collaboration where roles, responsibilities and accountability of each development agency are clearly defined, transparent and monitored.

Ways and Means

The Immunization Agenda 2030 is underpinned by a set of ‘ways and means’ that will shape the nature of actions undertaken to achieve the six strategic priorities.

People-focused: Placing people at the heart of immunization

The design, management and delivery of immunization services must be shaped by and be responsive to the needs of the people and families being served by the programme. By involving communities in the design, monitoring implementation and services, vaccination programmes are likely to be more sustainable, more acceptable and more appropriate to those in greatest need. Giving people and communities a greater stake in immunization programmes will foster a greater sense of ‘co-ownership’, and joint accountability for maximizing population coverage.

Country-centred: Ensuring countries are the focal point of global immunization strategy

Ultimately, countries have responsibility for protecting the health of their populations. Controlling vaccine-preventable diseases is fundamentally dependent on the effectiveness of national immunization programmes. Each country faces its own challenges and unique context, and requires tailored solutions. Regions are best placed to develop locally tailored strategies to support countries, and to develop regional resources to support individual countries. Globally, development agencies can support countries by continuing to advocate for vaccination, coordinating technical and financial support, and by focusing on global initiatives that advance the vaccination cause based on country needs.

Broad Partnerships: Building alliances to maximize impact

Coordination and alignment of activities among development agencies – globally, regionally and locally – will avoid duplication of efforts and maximize impact. The Immunization Agenda 2030 will build on successful existing partnerships and establish new global models of collaboration – for example with the development assistance community, recognizing the core role of health protection in sustainable development, with the private sector, which makes a major contribution to immunization in many settings, and with a wider range of CSOs.

Data driven and evidence-led: Using data, evidence and research

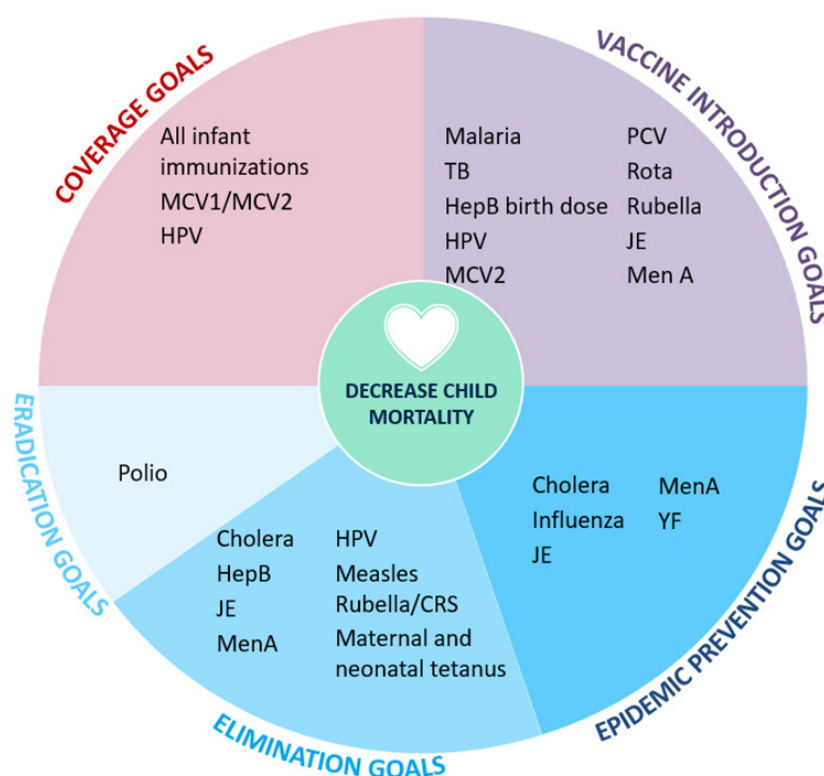
Vaccination should be an evidence-based practice. Policymaking needs to be supported by independent expert advice, and programme data should be used to improve programme performance. Implementation research, delivery science, operational research, and social and behavioural research will generate an evidence base to drive continual improvement in national immunization systems. Sharing of knowledge will promote uptake of evidence-based best practice and cost-effective use of resources.

Goals and Targets

Specific goals and targets are important for motivating action and assessing progress, and will be a critical component of the Immunization Agenda 2030. Reflecting its country-centred approach and overarching nature, the Immunization Agenda 2030 envisions that countries and regions will establish aspirational but achievable goals and targets, guided by the strategy and principles outlined in this document.

Several disease-specific goals have already been endorsed by countries, Regional Committees and the World Health Assembly. It is important that countries honour these commitments. Currently, there are specific goals for diseases like polio, measles and neonatal tetanus because they are acknowledged as a global good and/or due to the morbidity and mortality they cause. In addition, these diseases, in particular measles, remain strong pathfinders for identifying weaknesses in immunization systems.

Fig. 9 – Existing disease specific regional and global Goals.^{vi}



The goals and targets included in the GVAP encompassed both existing targets and aspirational new goals, and we expect to include a similar mix in the Immunization Agenda 2030. Two out of the five goals in GVAP, the introduction of new vaccines and the overall decrease in child mortality, are almost on track, but the three others will not be reached by 2020 – on eradication, elimination and vaccination coverage. Learning from this, we have to ensure that goals are both ambitious as well as achievable. A new comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework, aligning global, regional and country goals and targets, will be developed for the Immunization Agenda 2030, to assess progress towards the goals and targets by the WHA in 2021.

The Path Forward

The Immunization Agenda 2030 provides a lasting strategic framework, but it will be flexible and responsive to changing circumstances. Areas of strategic focus will be reviewed and updated every three years, and strategic priorities will be reassessed after six years. Given that the challenges to immunization will extend well beyond the next decade, it is anticipated that the strategic framework will continue to be updated beyond 2030.

The strategic framework will be implemented through actions at global, regional and country levels.

Globally, the focus will be on:

- Global strategy development, focusing on alignment among global development agencies, support for regional and country activities, and strategic priorities with a strong global element.
- Developing monitoring and evaluation frameworks (global, regional and national).
- Implementing a communications and advocacy strategy to build momentum and mobilize global support for immunization.

Regionally, the focus will be on:

- Developing updated regional vaccine action plans, to operationalize the Immunization Agenda 2030.
- Supporting the development of national vaccine action plans.
- Providing tailored support according to the maturity status of national immunization programmes.
- Coordinating partner support at a national level.
- Developing regional resources and structures to advance the regional immunization agenda.

Nationally, the focus will be on the development and implementation of integrated national vaccination action plans, to provide a roadmap towards achieving the Immunization Agenda 2030 vision, with stretching but achievable national goals and targets as milestones. These strategic plans should complement comprehensive multiyear plans but focus more strongly on the Immunization Agenda 2030's strategic priorities.

Conclusion

Vaccination has been a brilliant success story. Thanks to vaccination, millions of lives have been saved and millions of people have been given the chance to live fulfilling and productive lives. Yet millions of people are still not gaining these benefits. Many others are dying from infections for which effective vaccines have yet to be developed.

History shows us that there are few problems human ingenuity cannot solve, once we apply ourselves. We already have in our hands the tools to eliminate unnecessary death and disability from vaccine-preventable infectious disease. By committing to the vision of the Immunization Agenda 2030, working together in global, regional and national partnerships, and recognizing the contributions that everyone can make, the world has within its grasp the ability to make vaccination for all a reality.

ⁱ Gavi - Immunisation and the sustainable development goals <https://www.gavi.org/library/publications/gavi-fact-sheets/immunisation-and-the-sustainable-development-goals/>

ⁱⁱ GVAP, Regional reports on progress towards GVAP RVAP goals, Annex to the GVAP Secretariat annual report 2018.

ⁱⁱⁱ Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals, World Health Organization (WHO).

^{iv} <https://ourworldindata.org/vaccination> Share of vaccinated one-year-olds globally, WHO/UNICEF coverage estimates 2017 revision data from 1980-2017, as of 15 July 2018.

^v Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals, WHO, Working together – an integration resource guide for immunization services throughout the life course (WHO).

^{vi} UNICEF – Child survival and the SDGs, Global Measles & Rubella Strategic Plan, Eliminate YF Epidemics Strategy, Global Influenza Strategy 2019-2030, Epidemic Meningitis Control, Polio endgame 2023, Cholera Global Roadmap 2030, 2016-2021 Global Health Sector Strategy on viral hepatitis, Global Vector Control Response 2017-2030, Zero by 30 (Rabies).