
Global Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP)

Introduction

1. In May 2012, the Sixty-fifth World Health Assembly endorsed the global vaccine action plan (GVAP) which defines what the immunization community wants to achieve collectively over the Decade of Vaccines 2011–2020 (resolution WHA65.17). The mission of the Decade of Vaccines is to extend, 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. The goals of the Decade of Vaccines are to: achieve a world free of polio; meet global and regional elimination targets; meet vaccination coverage targets in every region, country and community; develop and introduce new and improved vaccines and technologies; and exceed the Millennium Development Goal 4 target for reducing child mortality.
2. The GVAP includes six guiding principles and six strategic objectives that collectively will enable the achievement of the goals.

Six guiding principles

3. The guiding principles of the GVAP are:
 - country ownership and responsibility for establishing good governance and for providing effective and quality immunization services for all;
 - shared responsibility and partnership between individuals, communities and government that transcends borders and sectors;
 - equity in access to immunization;
 - integration and close coordination with other primary health care delivery programmes;
 - sustainability through appropriate levels of financial investment, and improved financial management and oversight; and
 - innovation, learning and continuous improvement in research and development.

Six strategic objectives

4. The strategic objectives of GVAP are as follows.
 - All countries commit to immunization as a priority.
 - Individuals and communities understand the value of vaccines and demand immunization as both their right and responsibility.
 - The benefits of immunization are equitably extended to all people.
 - Strong immunization systems are an integral part of a well-functioning health system.
 - Immunization programmes have sustainable access to predictable funding, quality supply and innovative technologies.
 - Country, regional and global research and development innovations maximize the benefits of immunization.

Progress towards achieving the goals in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

5. Two countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan, are still endemic for polio.
6. Thirteen countries achieved the routine vaccination target at national level (at least 90% coverage with the third dose of diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine, DTP3) in 2014 and Yemen

was close to doing so. However, five countries had DTP3 vaccination coverage below 80% in 2014 (Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Somalia and Syrian Arab Republic).

7. Substantial progress has been made since 1997, when countries of the Region resolved to eliminate measles, with a 80% reduction in reported measles cases between 1998 and 2014. However, the Region is unlikely to achieve measles elimination by the target date of 2015.

8. The occurrence of outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases, especially measles outbreaks, in countries that constantly report high routine vaccination coverage raises questions about the quality of immunization data in several countries.

9. A number of countries are experiencing increasing challenges, including a decline in routine vaccination coverage and occurrence of measles outbreaks, as a result of the emergency and security situation.

Eastern Mediterranean Vaccine Action Plan (EMVAP): a framework for implementation of GVAP

10. Resolution WHA65.17 urges Member States to report every year to the regional committees during a dedicated Decade of Vaccines session, on lessons learnt, progress made, remaining challenges and updated actions to reach the national immunization targets. The resolution requested the Director-General to foster alignment and coordination of global immunization efforts by all stakeholders in support of the implementation of the GVAP.

11. The Eastern Mediterranean Vaccine Action Plan (EMVAP) provides a framework for Member States to implement the GVAP, taking into consideration the regional specificities. In line with the Decade of Vaccine goals, the targets of EMVAP are:

- to achieve coverage with DTP3 of at least 90% at the national level and 80% in each district;
- to attain and maintain elimination of measles;
- to attain and maintain maternal and neonatal tetanus elimination;
- to attain and maintain the regional target of hepatitis B control: a reduction of HbS antigen prevalence to below 1% among children less than 5 years of age
- to introduce under-used and new vaccines of regional and national priority.

12. EMVAP adopts the guiding principles and strategic objectives of the GVAP and proposes regional strategies for its implementation based on regional specificities.

Action by Member States

13. Member States are invited to endorse the Eastern Mediterranean Vaccine Action Plan (EMVAP) as a framework for developing and updating their comprehensive multiyear plans (cMYP) for immunization in order to implement the GVAP and achieve the regional immunization goals.

14. Member States will need to invest in strengthening their immunization systems and in providing effective and quality immunization services to all individuals and communities, especially remote populations living in conflict and emergency situations.

15. Member States will need to integrate immunization programmes and coordinate immunization activities with other primary health care programmes and civil society organizations, especially in conflict-affected areas, to improve vaccine delivery and ensure equity.