



1730 Rhode Island Ave. NW
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20036

Phone (202) 783-7100
Fax (202) 783-2818
www.results.org

FY 2013 REQUESTS FOR FOREIGN OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

House

Rep. Kay Granger, Chair
Rep. Nita Lowey, Ranking Member

Senate

Sen. Patrick Leahy, Chair
Sen. Lindsey Graham, Ranking Member

GAVI

FY13 Request: Provide \$145 million to the GAVI Alliance for Childhood Vaccinations

Funding History

Fiscal Year	FY08 Final	FY09 Final	FY10 Final	FY 11 Final	FY12 Final	FY13 President's Request	FY13 RESULTS' Request
Funding Level	\$72.5 million	\$75 million	\$78 million	\$78 million	\$130 million	\$145 million	\$145 million

Cost Effective Tools to Save Children's Lives

- **Vaccines** are the one of the most effective and least expensive forms of preventative healthcare. The **GAVI Alliance** has contributed to saving 5.5 million lives by investing in new and under used vaccines in poor countries that most need them. By ramping up investment in the GAVI Alliance and getting more children access to vaccines, we have the opportunity to dramatically reduce child mortality globally by preventing the two leading childhood killers — pneumonia and diarrhea.
- **Pneumococcal disease** is the leading cause of pneumonia, which is the biggest killer for children under the age of five. The disease is an infection from a bacterium which, though common, can attack young children with deadly results. When pneumococcal disease develops into pneumonia, the bacterium infects the lungs and causes fever, coughing, and difficulty breathing. Pneumococcal disease can also cause meningitis by infecting the brain, which can leave survivors with permanent disabilities, including mental retardation and seizures. The World Health Organization estimates that 500,000 children die from pneumococcal disease, and the vast majority of these deaths occur in Africa and Asia.

Since GAVI's first roll out of the pneumococcal vaccine in May 2011, they have supported 15 developing countries to introduce the new vaccine. Through rapid scale up to the 58 countries that have been approved for funding, GAVI and its partners can drastically increase the number of children receiving vaccines and can avert over 650,000 deaths by 2015.

- **Rotavirus** is the leading cause of the second biggest child killer — diarrhea. Rotavirus kills over 450,000 children when acute diarrhea leads to severe dehydration. While many other causes of diarrhea, such as bacteria and parasites, can be prevented by improving water and sanitation, rotavirus is so resilient that these efforts are not enough. Children must be vaccinated to protect them from this virulent disease.

Rotavirus vaccine roll outs in GAVI have begun in 14 countries including Nicaragua, Bolivia, and Sudan. Fully funded, GAVI will be able to reach 50 million children in 40 of the world's poorest countries with vaccines.

Fulfilling U.S. Pledge to GAVI

- At GAVI's donor pledging conference in 2011, the U.S. committed \$450 million dollars over three years to the GAVI Alliance for implementation of rolling out new and underused vaccines in developing countries. To ensure a timely scale up and to seize the unprecedented opportunity presented by new vaccines, the U.S. must fulfill its pledge by appropriating \$145 million for FY2013.
- Donors pledged a total of \$4.3 billion to GAVI in 2011. With full funding between now and 2015, GAVI can immunize an additional 240 million children against pneumococcal disease, rotavirus, and other life-threatening conditions. **This effort would save an estimated 4.2 million lives.**

The Power of Vaccines

- Vaccines are widely regarded as one of the "best buys" in global health. While other critical health interventions may cure or treat illness, vaccines prevent children and adults from getting sick in the first place. By preventing deaths, promoting health, and reducing the burden on stretched health care systems, vaccines are extremely cost effective. Widespread vaccination even benefits individuals who may not be immunized by reducing the overall prevalence of the disease in a community and breaking the chain of transmission, an effect known as "herd immunity."
- Vaccines are responsible for some of the most important achievements in public health. For example, after a concerted global vaccination effort, smallpox, which had afflicted human society since the ancient Egyptians, was eradicated in 1979. Polio was a devastating cause of death and disability worldwide and is now endemic in just three countries thanks to eradication efforts. Vaccination against measles has produced rapid improvements in children's health, reducing the number of cases from 733,000 in 2000 to 164,000 in 2008. In Africa, there was a 92 percent reduction in measles deaths in the last decade.

The GAVI Alliance

- The GAVI Alliance is a unique public-private partnership dedicated to protecting children from vaccine-preventable diseases. GAVI is a true partnership, with representation on its governing board from developing and donor governments (including the U.S), non-governmental organizations, multilateral health organizations like the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF, philanthropic foundations, and private sector vaccine manufacturers.
- Since its founding in 2000, the GAVI Alliance has supported the immunization of nearly 326 million children. **These efforts are estimated to have prevented five and a half million future deaths.**
- GAVI is particularly focused on rapidly increasing access to new vaccines as they become available. An important part of GAVI's approach is to shape the vaccine market, both by assuring manufacturers that there will be a reliable demand for vaccines and by using the market's size and purchasing volume to help drive down costs. Thanks to GAVI pneumococcal vaccines now cost developing countries \$3.50 a dose versus over \$70 a dose in Western countries. GAVI also has a strict co-financing policy that requires the developing countries that receive assistance to contribute to the cost of the vaccines from their own budgets. This co-financing policy helps ensure the countries are full partners and build long-term political and financial support for the program within the country.
- Last year, the GAVI earned top marks in both the UK government's comprehensive Multilateral Aid Review and in Australia's aid review. UK's Prime Minister, David Cameron has said, "GAVI delivers tangible results by saving lives with excellent value for money."

For additional information, please contact:

John Fawcett
Legislative Director
RESULTS
(202) 783-7100 x107
jfawcett@results.org