

Gavi CSO Constituency

for Immunisation and Stronger Health Systems

Helping to reach Every Child with Immunisation and Health Services

COVID-19 pandemic response: CSO constituency's call to action

As the coronavirus continues to spread globally, immediate actions to fight the pandemic are a major priority for the global health community. In this time of crisis, the timeliness of response is critical, especially in countries with limited resources and challenged health systems to prevent and respond while ensuring continued availability of essential health services. COVID-19 is demonstrating the consequences of under-funded health systems and weak public health emergency preparedness.

The Civil Society Constituency supported by the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) urges national health authorities and partners to take the following bold and urgent actions:

Protect and support community health workers

Community health workers are the front line in the fight against COVID-19. They are critical in efforts to mitigate the outbreak and ensure that communities maintain access to essential health services. These health care workers should be adequately empowered and supported, with the right training, skills, equipment, resources and supplies to respond to COVID-19 and other health needs of the population. Health authorities and partners need to ensure equitable access to personal protective equipment (PPE) to prevent COVID-19 transmission within the health care setting. At the community level, community health workers need training, job aides and logistic support to ensure that vulnerable residents are shielded from COVID-19.

Actively engage and collaborate with civil society organizations (CSO)

CSO are currently engaging on many fronts to support COVID-19 outbreak response with strategies adapted to their local context. CSOs play an important role in hard-to-reach and 'vulnerable' settings such as IDP and refugee camps, urban slums, mobile populations and immigrant communities. The role of CSOs in the COVID-19 response is essential to support community mobilization, awareness creation as well as case detection and referrals. CSOs also advocate with and hold governments, the private sector and development partners accountable for supporting fragile health systems and the communities they serve.

CSOs can play an important role supporting public health interventions, including hygiene promotion, infection prevention control, and WASH as well as maintenance of essential health services at the community level.

Commit to equitable access and availability of the future COVID-19 vaccine

CSOs are very much supportive of Gavi's role in shaping markets from development, to manufacturing, to distribution, so that there is equitable access at scale to them. Gavi is working with partners under the leadership of WHO to help select and accelerate candidate COVID-19 vaccines and ensure they are managed as global public goods.

During emergencies, establishing vaccine stockpiles, as part of strong health systems, helps safeguard against disease outbreaks and reduces the threats to global health security. Gavi is the sole funder of emergency stockpiles of yellow fever, oral cholera, Ebola and meningococcal meningitis vaccines. Once a vaccine against COVID-19 is available, the Alliance is well positioned to build a vaccine stockpile and make it available for countries at an affordable price - particularly low and middle-income countries - so to ensure universal coverage, prioritizing the most at-risk communities.

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Securing a fully funded Gavi for 2021-2025

The CSO constituency is fully supporting the efforts to reach the replenishment goal of at least \$7.4 billion pledged for 2021-2025. The pandemic is creating new risks to immunization. The communities benefiting from vaccination services, the countries and their front line immunization staff who rely on Gavi funding; and the manufacturers making vaccines available at scale to Gavi countries – all need confidence, more than ever, that Gavi will be fully funded up to 2025.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

We call for solidarity and coordination among the global health community. The only way to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic is through robust and resilient health systems, concerted risk reduction measures, uninterrupted essential health and social protection services, and data-driven solutions that reflect local realities.

We call for strategic investments to build global capacity for novel-pathogen epidemic preparedness and response. This includes making early pledges to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, which plays a key role in building resilient and well-supported health systems across the world. We stand beside Gavi partners to advocate for a successful replenishment, so that Gavi can continue to save many more lives in the future.

*****SEE BELOW LIST OF OFFICIAL SIGNATORIES**

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OFFICIAL LIST OF SIGNATORIES

	ORGANIZATION	COUNTRY
1	Hope for Future Generations	GHANA
2	Management Sciences for Health (MSH)	USA
3	ABAC/ONG	BURKINA FASO
4	ACTION, the Global Health Advocacy Partnership	USA/Global
5	Advocacy, Research, Training and Services (ARTS) Foundation	PAKISTAN
6	AFENET	NIGERIA
7	Agence de Médecine Préventive (AMP) Afrique	COTE D'IVOIRE, BENIN, TOGO, BURKINA FASO, GUINEE
8	ANCHOR INITIATIVE FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (AICD)	NIGERIA
9	Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal)	SPAIN
10	Centre for Adolescents and Women's Health Initiative (CAWHI)	GHANA
11	Centre for Community-Driven Research	SWITZERLAND
12	Centre for Youth Empowerment and Civic Education (CYECE)	MALAWI
13	Children and Young People Living for Peace.	NIGERIA
14	CLERC FAMILLE ESPOIR	BENIN
15	CORE Group	USA/Global
16	D-tree International	USA/Global
17	Fondation Joseph The Worker/ Structure Lazarienne	BENIN
18	Global Health Advocates France	FRANCE/EU
19	Health Alert-Sierra Leone	SIERRA LEONE
20	HealthRight International	USA (Headquarters), Burundi, Kenya, Uganda, Ukraine, Vietnam
21	Initiative for Rural Empowerment (IRE)	SOUTH SUDAN
22	Initiative for Rural Empowerment (IRE)	GHANA
23	International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	SWITZERLAND
24	International Pediatric Association	USA/Global
25	John Snow, Inc. (JSI)	USA/Global
26	Kenya AIDS NGOs Consortium (KANCO)	KENYA
27	KOLKATA RISTA	INDIA
28	Lubana Corridor Environmental Development Strategy (LCEDS)	TANZANIA
29	MISSIONNAIRE DE LA LIBERTÉ	BENIN
30	Muslim Family Counselling Services	GHANA
31	NIDA	PAKISTAN
32	Nigerian Women Agro Allied Farmers Association (NIWAAFA)	NIGERIA
33	Nigerian Youth Champions for Universal Health Coverage	NIGERIA
34	ORES Tanzania	TANZANIA
35	Pakistan CSOs Coalition for Health and Immunisation - PCCHI	PAKISTAN
36	Public Health Initiative Liberia-PHIL	LIBERIA
37	RESULTS CANADA	CANADA

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38	RESULTS International AUSTRALIA	AUSTRALIA
39	RESULTS UK	UK
40	Rural Empowerment & Institutional Development (REPID)	PAKISTAN
41	Save the Children	GLOBAL
42	Seed of Health And Developement (SHAD)	CAMEROON
43	Silver Lining for the Needy Initiative (SLNI)	NIGERIA
44	Speak Up Africa	SENEGAL
45	TANGA PARALEGAL FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN	TANZANIA
46	Tanzania Agricultural Modernization Association (TAMA)	TANZANIA
47	Tanzania Peace and Youth Development Centre (TPYDC)	TANZANIA
48	UBUNTUSPEAKS, LLC	USA
49	Union des ONG du Togo(UONGTO)	TOGO
50	Vaccine Network for Disease Control	NIGERIA
51	Vietnam Public Health Asociation (VPHA)	VIETNAM
52	VillageReach	USA, DRC, MALAWI, MOZAMBIQUE
53	VITAL Pakistan Trust	PAKISTAN
54	WAZEE NA MAENDELEO NKASI	TANZANIA
55	Women Advocates for Vaccine Access (WAVA)	NIGERIA