

STRENGTHENING GLOBAL IMMUNIZATION SYSTEMS

WHAT IS THE PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE?

About 2.4 million children die each year from vaccine-preventable diseases because 30% of the world's children do not receive all of the available vaccinations. Globally, child immunization programs routinely use vaccines to prevent nine diseases, preventing over 2 million child deaths each year. Working together, the countries of the world have eradicated smallpox and hope to eradicate polio by 2005, and eventually measles. Because of the risk of disease importation, no country is truly free of these diseases unless all countries have effective immunization programs.

WHAT HAS CDC ACCOMPLISHED?

CDC is committed to improving access to sustainable and safe immunization services worldwide. Together with international partners, CDC helps to reduce illness and death caused by vaccine-preventable diseases by strengthening routine immunization activities and building a strong platform for the introduction of new vaccines in the developing world.

Strengthening Childhood Immunization Services

- Since 2001, CDC has collaborated with international partners in projects at the country and regional levels to provide technical assistance to strengthen immunization programs; improve health information systems and use of data; and increase coordination with polio eradication and measles morbidity reduction strategies.
- CDC is providing epidemiologic and programmatic expertise and funding support for the development of standardized computer entry and analysis modules for vaccination coverage and surveillance data.

Supporting the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations

- CDC is working closely with international partners in the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations (GAVI). GAVI's mission is to help provide vaccines to the 36 million unimmunized children around the world. Through the generosity of partners such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Vaccine Fund, GAVI will provide more than \$1.2 billion to support childhood immunization over the next 5 years, with more than 60 countries receiving GAVI funding support.
- For the past 3 years, CDC has served as the technical institute representative on the GAVI Board. CDC has provided technical support at the global, regional, sub-regional, and country levels in the implementation and evaluation of GAVI-related activities. Other partners include the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Bank, the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association, other public health and research institutions, and national governments.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

CDC will expand its work with developing countries and partners to increase access to sustainable and safe immunizations; develop and evaluate best practices to strengthen routine immunization; and use these findings to help sustain achievements towards polio eradication, measles elimination, and mortality reduction from all vaccine-preventable diseases. CDC also plans to work with partners to evaluate the impact of GAVI funding on strengthening routine immunization, introducing new vaccines and enhancing safety of injections given for immunization. CDC will use these findings to develop better programs.

For additional information on this or other CDC programs, visit www.cdc.gov/program

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