

FY 2012 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 Alliance — Childhood Vaccines

FY12 Request: Provide \$175 million for the GAVI Alliance for Childhood Vaccines

GAVI Alliance Funding History

| Fiscal Year | FY06 | FY07 | FY08 | FY09 | FY10 | FY11 House | FY11 Senate | FY12 President's Request | FY12 RESULTS' Request |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Funding Level | \$69.3 million | \$69.3 million | \$72.5 million | \$75 million | \$78 million | \$95 million | \$105 million | \$115 M | \$175 million |

New Tools to Save Children's Lives

- There are breakthrough opportunities to dramatically reduce child mortality thanks to two new vaccines that prevent common childhood killers — pneumonia and diarrhea.
- **Pneumococcal disease** is an infection from a bacterium which, though common, can attack young children with deadly results. Every year 800,000 children die from pneumococcal disease, and the vast majority of these deaths (95 percent) occur in Africa and Asia. Most pneumococcal disease deaths (90 percent) are from pneumonia, which occurs when the bacterium infects the lungs and causes fever, coughing, and difficulty breathing. Pneumococcal disease can also cause meningitis by infecting the brain.
- **Rotavirus** is a major cause of a leading childhood killer — diarrhea. Rotavirus kills over 500,000 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.
- New vaccines to combat pneumococcal and rotavirus present an extraordinary opportunity, but the vaccines are not yet widely available to the children in poor countries who need them most. **Of the 129 million babies born in 2008, only 7 percent received the pneumococcal vaccine and only 8 percent received the rotavirus vaccine.**

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 300 million children. **These efforts are estimated to have prevented five million 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. 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.
- To seize the unprecedented opportunity presented by new vaccines, GAVI will need the strong support of donor countries like the U.S. 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 four 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.

U.S. Support is Key

- In June 2011, donors from around the world will gather in London for a pledging conference to determine their future contributions to GAVI. **A U.S. contribution in FY2012 of \$175 million** would set strong positive tone for that conference, and provide critical support for GAVI's plans to accelerate access to vaccines. Without strong support, the world will miss an opportunity to close the gap in the between wealthy and the poor.

For additional information, please contact:

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