



## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **About the Decade of Vaccines (DoV)**

#### **1. What is the “Decade of Vaccines”?**

The collective recognition of the need for a more widespread commitment to immunization led the global health community to call for a Decade of Vaccines in 2010.

The vision for the DoV is a world in which all individuals and communities enjoy lives free from vaccine-preventable diseases. Its mission 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.

#### **2. Is the DoV an organization?**

No. However, over the last year the Decade of Vaccine Collaboration (DoV Collaboration) has made an unprecedented global push to pool the collective expertise of vaccine experts from around the world to make this vision a reality. One of the principal responsibilities of the Decade of Vaccines Collaboration has been to coordinate the development of a Global Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP). The DoV Collaboration is guided by a Leadership Council represented by The World Health Organization, UNICEF, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the GAVI Alliance, the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and the African Leaders Malaria Alliance.

The core of the DoV Collaboration structure includes a steering committee and four working groups – Delivery, Global Access, Public & Political Support and Research & Development – responsible for developing the Global Vaccine Action Plan. Additionally, representatives from more than 290 distinct organizations participated in the consultation process to develop the Global Vaccine Action Plan.

### **About the Global Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP)**

#### **3. What is the Global Vaccine Action Plan?**

In May 2011, the Sixty-fourth World Health Assembly (WHA) endorsed the DoV vision and called for the development of a Global Vaccine Action Plan. The GVAP is a roadmap developed by multiple stakeholders involved in immunization—including governments and elected officials, health professionals, academia, manufacturers, global agencies, development partners, civil society, media and the private sector—to define collectively what the immunization community wants to achieve over the next decade.

#### **4. How is the GVAP different from past plans?**

The GVAP builds on the success of the Global Immunization Vision and Strategy (GIVS), which was launched in 2005 as the first-ever ten-year strategic framework to realize the potential of immunization.

The GVAP emphasizes both the importance of strengthening current immunization efforts, as well as the need to introduce new elements, such as: 1) a monitoring and evaluation framework with defined indicators and stakeholder responsibilities; 2) innovation as a guiding principle; 3) expanding from “Reaching Every District” to

“Reaching Every Community”; 4) creating supply-side interventions to ensure sustainable access and; 5) involving broader stakeholder participation.

### **5. Who will implement the GVAP?**

The DoVC was set up to be a time-limited structure to articulate an agenda for action over the decade. Its planned sunset in 2012 is a commitment to its original charter. A transition plan is under development to supplement the DoV’s monitoring and evaluation framework. Ultimately, the success of the DoV will depend on countries and communities taking ownership of the GVAP and civil society organizations supporting the implementation of many of the actions recommended.

### **6. Is this another top-down, ‘rich-country’-led initiative?**

The Global Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP) is an innovative initiative with a country-led focus, and with unprecedented stakeholder involvement. A cornerstone of the GVAP approach to country-led ownership is ensuring that families and communities are at the center of immunization efforts and are empowered to advocate for their right to healthcare, including vaccines. In addition, a diverse group of hundreds of stakeholders worldwide developed the priorities and approaches, and for the first time ever, stakeholders at the local level were heavily involved.

### **7. What does WHA endorsement mean?**

On May 24, 2012 the Sixty-fifth World Health Assembly voted to endorse the GVAP. Endorsement signals a global commitment to the actions outlined in the GVAP.

### **8. What are the next steps?**

The DoVC will seek endorsement from individual WHO Member States and will adapt the GVAP for regional and country level implementation. In the next six months DoV working groups will also develop a robust monitoring and evaluation framework and a body of supplemental documents to elaborate on the GVAP.

### **9. How will success be measured?**

The GVAP outlines indicators for achieving both the high level goals and the strategic objectives set forth for the decade. Within the next six months, a monitoring and evaluation framework will be developed to ensure each indicator is being met.

## **About the Benefits and Costs of the GVAP**

### **10. What can be achieved during the Decade of Vaccines?**

Approximately 24-26 million potential future deaths can be averted in this decade by reaching target immunization coverage in 81 countries.

In addition, through the implementation of the GVAP we will:

- Achieve a world free of polio.
- Meet global and regional disease elimination targets (such as targets for neo-natal tetanus, measles and rubella).
- Meet vaccination coverage rate targets in every region, country and community (90% national and 80% in district or its equivalent).
- Develop and introduce new and improved vaccines and technologies.
- Meet or exceed the Millennium Development Goal for a two-thirds reduction in global child mortality by 2015.

### **11. How much will it cost to implement the GVAP?**

A rigorous costing analysis determined that \$50-60 billion (USD) will be needed over the next decade to cover procurement and delivery costs to introduce or scale-up distribution of 18 vaccines in low- and middle-income countries.

We anticipate cumulative funding of \$32 billion from country governments and the GAVI Alliance, with an additional \$18-28 billion to achieve universal access to vaccines. Funding from GAVI is dependent on donor and country decisions yet to take place. The funding that will ultimately come from GAVI will be discussed with donors in the context of GAVI's long term resource mobilization strategy, to be presented to the GAVI Board in November 2012.

### **12. What costs are not included?**

The \$50-60 billion estimate represents the majority of the costs of achieving the DoV strategic objectives. However, this number does not include the costs for research and development of new vaccines, costs for scaling up seasonal influenza vaccination, additional resource needs for increased surveillance, increased civil society engagement, and current and additional technical agency support.

## **Additional Questions**

### **13. How does the DoV Collaboration work to prevent conflicts of interest?**

Members of the Steering Committee and Working Groups donate their time and expertise to the DoV Collaboration, serving in an individual, not institutional, capacity. The leadership of the DoV Collaboration includes representatives from the founding partners: World Health Organization, UNICEF, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The DoV Collaboration works to complement and broaden the efforts of its founding partners, rather than directly support them. Full declaration of interest disclosures of Steering Committee members and Working Group members are posted on our website [www.dovcollaboration.org](http://www.dovcollaboration.org).

### **14. To what extent is the private sector represented in the DoV Collaboration?**

Private sector expertise and contributions are critical to the success of this effort. Individuals currently working for vaccine companies did not serve on the Steering Committee, but contributed to the work of the R&D and Global Access Working Groups. We also engaged with manufacturers during the consultation process in a dialogue about how to get safe, effective, and affordable vaccines to the people who need them most.

### **15. To what extent does the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation influence the work of the DoV Collaboration?**

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation called for a Decade of Vaccines and has agreed to fund this policy work to determine the best way to extend the promise of vaccines to all people. The Foundation serves as a full and equal partner in this process; it is a member of the Leadership Committee and Foundation employees serve on Working Groups in an individual capacity. The Foundation's funding and policy decisions on vaccines and other health issues are separate from the DoV Collaboration process.