

January 11, 2024

Dear Director Young and Associate Director Meier,

As you finalize priorities for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 President's Budget Request (PBR), we respectfully urge you to fully fund the Global Health Community's request of \$340 million for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and to reiterate your support for a multi-year pledge in support of Gavi in the PBR as has been done for previous Gavi replenishments.

Acknowledging the significant constraints due to the budget agreement, the FY 2025 President's Budget holds particular significance for Gavi as it is the **Administration's final budgetary commitment before the "Gavi 6.0" replenishment conference this fall. A strong increase in FY2025 and a public statement of support for the upcoming replenishment present a critical opportunity to influence other donors,** who will look to the United States as they determine their own multi-year pledges to Gavi. This additional \$40 million would also have direct programmatic impacts, including the procurement of the new R21 malaria vaccine. Data from the trials indicate the vaccine can save 1 life for every 200 children vaccinated, making these among the most effective vaccines available.

While we laud the incredible support for COVAX through supplemental appropriations bills, U.S. support for Gavi's routine immunizations has been flat funded for six years. Maintaining the prior year level of \$300 million would indicate a U.S. retrenchment in global immunization, just as we are attempting to reach the more than 85 million under-immunized children as a result of COVID-19 and as we are seeing incredible new opportunities for turning the tide against infectious diseases. And while a forthcoming U.S. pledge could signal increases in *future* budgets, enabling a larger multi-year pledge, such a pledge would have more weight if included as a formal request in the FY 2025 President's Budget. The last U.S. pledge to Gavi in 2020, made concurrently with the release of the FY 2021 President's Budget, helped mobilize more than \$7 billion total from donors. It was the most successful Gavi replenishment to date - in no small part because of U.S. leadership.

Global immunization is a rare issue that enjoys **longstanding, bipartisan support**. If the Administration provides an increase for Gavi in the FY 2025 Budget, we are confident that Congress would be receptive. [Last year over 150 House members of the House called for \\$340 million to be included in the FY 2024 SFOPS State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill.](#) Following this, both the House and Senate included the President's FY 2024 \$300 million request for Gavi in their respective FY 2024 State and Foreign Operations (SFOPS) Appropriations bills. Even in a constrained budget environment, there is consensus that routine immunizations are the backbone of health systems and therefore **expands the impact of other U.S. global health investments** that our organizations also support.

In addition to supporting Gavi's existing portfolio of lifesaving childhood vaccines, an increased Gavi contribution in the FY 2025 PBR would uniquely position the U.S. to expand access to new malaria vaccines, including the R21 vaccine that secured WHO-prequalification in December. Malaria killed an estimated 580,000 children in Africa in 2022, and so these vaccines are in extraordinarily high demand.

However, R21 is currently unfunded because it was approved significantly earlier than expected. As a result, without increased funding, Gavi will need to make tradeoffs within its portfolio of vaccines to enable procurements in 2024 and 2025. Were the PBR to provide an increase for FY 2025 with a special mention of malaria vaccines, the **United States could rightfully claim credit being the first donor to expand access to malaria vaccines in dozens of countries, saving thousands of lives.**

President Biden has made vaccination and pandemic response a key part of his legacy, entrusting Gavi with the distribution of the vast majority of surplus U.S. COVID-19 doses. COVAX delivered more than 600 million American doses to 100 countries, saving hundreds of thousands of lives and helping end the pandemic. The U.S. burden share for Gavi core programs is only around 12% and comes in as the third largest donor for child immunization programs. Because of this leadership, other donors will look to the United States – specifically to the FY 2025 Budget – before pledging to Gavi through 2030. The impacts of this Administration’s FY 2025 Budget will ripple through the end of the decade and help set a trajectory for success to ensure all children are protected by routine immunization, and that Gavi is prepared to seize opportunities to roll out new life saving vaccines, like R21 for malaria.

In considering this request, we also respectfully urge you to provide robust funding for USAID’s Maternal and Child Health programs and not to cut core MCH funding in order to increase funds to Gavi, as these critical bilateral resources are vital for systems building and getting shots in arms. Gavi Alliance partners administer vaccines in USAID-funded clinics, so the two investments are mutually dependent.

We look forward to working with you to continue to build the next U.S. pledge to Gavi and how to continue strengthening U.S. leadership on global immunization.

Sincerely,

Action Against Hunger
Alliance to End Hunger
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
CARAM Asia
CARE USA
ChildFund International
Christian Connections for International Health
CORE Group
Education for All Coalition
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation
Food for the Hungry
Friends of the Global Fight Against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
Global Citizen
Global Communities
Global Health Advocacy Incubator

Global Health Council
Global Health Technologies Coalition
GlobalPartnersUnited
Health GAP
Heartland Alliance International
IAVI
International Medical Corps
IntraHealth International
Maestral International
Malaria No More
Management Sciences for Health
Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health Roundtable
ONE Campaign
PAI
PATH
Pathfinder
Project HOPE
RESULTS
Save the Children
Shot@Life
Task Force for Global Health
The Borgen Project
The Hunger Project
Treatment Action Group (TAG)
UNICEF USA
United to Beat Malaria
What to Expect Project
World Vision