

# UNDP and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

JOINING FORCES TO BUILD HEALTHY LIVES

UNDP and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Gavi), share a common vision to ensure equitable access to vital health services for all people across the globe. Collaboration between the two organizations represents a catalytic force for the acceleration of countries' progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 3: healthy lives for all.

## The partnership

In line with the [UNDP Strategic Plan 2018-2021](#) and [HIV, Health and Development Strategy 2016-2021: Connecting the Dots](#), UNDP's health policy and programme support to governments prioritizes actions to achieve universal health coverage (UHC), reduce inequalities that drive poor health, and ensure that no one is left behind. This work depends upon equal access to safe and affordable vaccines for children in the world's poorest countries, the core mission of Gavi.

Both organizations are guided by approaches based on sustainability, national ownership, and effective multi-sector partnerships. Each works to strengthen national systems for health, including the development of the needed infrastructure, systems, and procedures that drive equitable service delivery.

Mirroring Gavi's reliance on public-private partnerships, a defining characteristic of its sustainability model, UNDP works in close coordination with national governments, civil society, private sector, and affected populations to build resilient health systems supported by predictable, long-term financing.

The UNDP-Gavi partnership leverages complementary initiatives to achieve holistic health interventions, including [UNDP's long-standing support to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria](#) (Global Fund), a key partner to Gavi.

## Ongoing engagement

UNDP's **partnership activities range from full end-to-end support for Gavi grant management and project implementation, to specialized assistance** in a single technical area. Its first partnership agreement with Gavi started in 2015 in India. The project supported the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to roll-out the [Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network \(eVIN\)](#), an electronic logistics management information system (eLMIS) that leverages mobile cloud-based technology to improve the efficiency of vaccine cold chain systems.

Implementation of eVIN led to impressive results in a short time, including an 80 percent reduction in vaccine stock-out incidents across eVIN-enabled health centers. The success of the project, which is now scaling to the rest of India, has since inspired plans to implement similar initiatives in other countries, including Malawi and Sudan.

Building on the collaboration in India, the **UNDP-Gavi partnership has continued to expand to new geographic as well as policy and programmatic focus areas**. UNDP currently has partnership agreements with Gavi in Tajikistan, Indonesia, and Zambia to support national institutions with health infrastructure improvements, the expansion of an eLMIS adapted from eVIN, and capacity building to strengthen public financial management and reporting, respectively.

Outside of direct programmatic engagement, UNDP coordinates closely with Gavi in a number of other countries through **knowledge sharing and the provision of policy guidance and technical assistance**. At the global level, UNDP and Gavi collaborate with other UN agencies and multilateral health financing institutions at the intersection of health and environment as part of the [Sustainable Procurement in the Health Sector](#) initiative.

## Key collaboration areas

UNDP offers Gavi three interconnected and mutually reinforcing pillars of support:

- ➔ **Implementation and management** of large scale health programmes, including grant-making, reporting, procurement, risk assurance, and management of sub-recipients. UNDP's far-reaching Global Fund partnership allows it to build on existing processes at country level and promote synergies between Global Fund- and Gavi-funded projects;
- ➔ **Capacity development** of national governments and civil society organizations, including support to strengthen capacities for financial management, risk mitigation, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E). A key focus includes harnessing innovation to promote sustainable and resilient health systems;
- ➔ **Policy engagement** to foster an enabling environment for immunization programmes, drawing on experiences shaping policies to promote human rights and gender equality, good governance, and anti-corruption initiatives in the health sector, including in challenging operating contexts.

This work is underpinned by:

- 💡 **Knowledge sharing** to help inform programmes and policies. UNDP offers practical lessons, tools, and templates for grant management and capacity development through an online [capacity development toolkit](#) and [health implementation guidance manual](#). At the country level, it shares relevant reports such as stakeholder capacity assessments;
- 🔄 **Coordination** to harmonize multiple partners' technical assistance to the government;
- 🔄 **A focus on promoting country ownership and sustainability** to ensure cohesive multi-sector responses and transformative health and development outcomes.



Photo: UNDP India  
A cold chain handler enters data into the eVIN application.

## At a Glance

**UNDP India** took lead of a US\$38.5 million component of a Gavi health systems strengthening (HSS) grant to roll out eVIN and support a national immunization M&E framework as well as national research, in partnership with UNICEF and WHO. eVIN extended to a second phase (2017-2021), with up to US\$40 million in funding.

**UNDP Indonesia** supported the Ministry of Health to pilot **SMILE**, an eLMIS based on the eVIN technology, in 2018. It is now supporting its scale-up through a Gavi US\$12 million agreement as well as UNDP funding.

Since 2017, **UNDP Tajikistan** is implementing an agreement with Gavi, in coordination with WHO and UNICEF, to enhance infrastructure. UNDP has built 10 new health facilities and rehabilitated 6 to date, with ongoing work in 2020-21. It has likewise provided equipment, mobile service, and support to train staff.

**UNDP Zambia** is providing financial mentorship to the Ministry of Health Headquarters and 11 District Health Offices as part of a Gavi HSS grant. The support has not only improved reporting, but also enhanced service delivery by minimizing disbursement delays.

## What UNDP brings to the partnership

UNDP's collaboration with Gavi is grounded in its comparative advantages and tailored to each country context. Its service offer includes:

- Vast country presence and diverse experience implementing large-scale health programmes;
- Integrator role, allowing it to connect the dots with relevant partners, such as the Global Fund and WHO;
- Ability to operate simultaneously at the level of policy and programme support;
- Expertise in strengthening national systems for health, with a focus on improving financial management, monitoring, and good governance;
- Strong risk assurance and control frameworks for project management, tailored to the country context and in coordination with other partners;
- Robust capacity development approach that has supported the successful transition of partner-funded health programmes to national ownership;
- Procurement and supply chain management expertise underpinned by strong quality assurance;
- Ability to leverage the technical competence of the UN family and broad network of public and private partners beyond the health sector;
- Established global processes and tools to deliver efficient and effective implementation support, including a roster of experts for timely deployment.