

In this issue...

GAVI and The Vaccine Fund Launch the Global Campaign for Child Immunization	1
Letter from the President	2
GAVI and The Vaccine Fund at the World Economic Forum	3
U.S. Members of Congress Travel to Tanzania	4
Jens Stoltenberg visits Senegal	5
EPIVAC -- An Innovative Training Program Promotes Capacity Building in West Africa	6
Donor Support	7

GAVI and The Vaccine Fund Launch New Campaign to Save More Children

On February 27, GAVI and The Vaccine Fund launched The Global Campaign for Child Immunization. Its goal: to save one million children in the world's poorest countries between 2004 and 2006.

More than 30 million children are still missing out on immunization, resulting in two to three million deaths each year. To address this tragic inequity and reduce the gap between those children who have access to vaccines and those in the poorest countries who do not, The Vaccine Fund aims to raise \$400 million annually during the next three years.

The launch of the Global Campaign for Child Immunization took place in London. Guest speakers included Her Majesty Queen Rania of Jordan; Mrs. Mary Robinson, former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; Paul Boateng, U.K. Chief Secretary to the Treasury and Jens Stoltenberg, leader of the Norwegian Labour party who brought their

(continued on page 8)

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The Vaccine Fund is a non-profit organization. Contributions to The Vaccine Fund are tax-deductible and may be sent to the above street or web addresses.



Her Majesty Queen Rania of Jordan; Paul Boateng, U.K. Chief Secretary to the Treasury and Jacques-François Martin, President and CEO of The Vaccine Fund meet in London for the launch of the Global Campaign for Child Immunization.

Letter from the President



Jacques-François Martin

Welcome to The Review, the quarterly newsletter of The Vaccine Fund. In this issue, I am happy to share with you information on our recent activities and other important news from the GAVI partners.

Just a few weeks ago, members of our Board of Directors were in London to participate in the launch of our new Global Campaign for Child Immunization aimed at promoting awareness and raising additional funds to support GAVI's efforts; the event was successful and I am very grateful to all those involved, particularly Paul Boateng, U.K. Chief Secretary to the Treasury and members of The Vaccine Fund Board - Her Majesty Queen Rania, Mary Robinson, Jens Stoltenberg and Dwight Bush - for their active role and valuable contribution to the launch.

More than 500,000 lives are being saved thanks to support provided by GAVI and its partners, yet much more needs to be done. With the Global Campaign for Child Immunization, our goal is to raise \$400 million per year for the next three years and save an additional one million lives, continuing the momentum achieved by countries receiving support from GAVI and The Vaccine Fund. At the occasion of the launch, GAVI released an update on Progress and Challenges. The report describes the many successes of the Alliance but it also addresses the challenges that lie ahead of us.

I would also like to thank all the guests who attended the GAVI and Vaccine Fund event during the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, particularly Bill Gates for taking part in the event and expressing his views on our activities.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that GAVI and The Vaccine Fund staff are working towards the production of a new joint-publication to replace both "Immunization Focus" and "The Review". I hope you find this last issue of The Review informative. Thank you for supporting GAVI and The Vaccine Fund and for helping every child, everywhere live a healthier life.

Jacques-François Martin
President and CEO of The Vaccine Fund

EVENTS

GAVI and The Vaccine Fund at the World Economic Forum

GAVI, represented by Tore Godal and The Vaccine Fund by Jacques-François Martin hosted an event in Davos, Switzerland at the occasion of the 2004 annual meeting of the World Economic Forum. Bill Gates, co-founder of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Jens Stoltenberg, Vaccine Fund Board Member and leader of the Norwegian Labour Party were in attendance and they both gave short remarks.

In his remarks, Bill Gates stressed the importance of capacity building and GAVI's contribution to health systems in developing countries and he also mentioned the amount of progress that has been made by GAVI and The Vaccine Fund in such a short time, calling it the "best investment I ever made". For his part, Jens Stoltenberg announced that the Government of Norway had decided to increase its funding to The Vaccine Fund by 50%, bringing its total contribution to 300 million Norwegian Kroners (approximately 43 million US dollars) per year through 2010.

Other guests included Mary Robinson, former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and Larry Summers, President of Harvard University, both members of The Vaccine Fund Board of Directors; Francisco Songane, Health Minister of Mozambique and member of the GAVI Board; Hank McKinnell, chairman and CEO of Pfizer; Jan Coene, chairman of Belgacom; and Grammy award winning singer Peter Gabriel.

The WEF has always played a special role for GAVI and The Vaccine Fund; its annual meetings are an important venue enabling us to share information on GAVI activities with prominent business leaders and members of the Press. We thank the WEF team for their support, particularly Michel Ogrizek, Managing Director for Communications. •



Bill Gates and Vaccine Fund Board member Jens Stoltenberg meet at the World Economic Forum to encourage support for The Vaccine Fund.

***"Any way you look at it,
the results are fantastic.***

Best investment I ever made."

*- Bill Gates, co-founder,
The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation*

U.S. Members of Congress Witness GAVI and Partners at Work While Touring a Clinic in Tanzania



Congresswoman Nita Lowey at a clinic in Dar es Salaam.

In February, several members of the U.S. Congress traveled to South Africa, Botswana and Tanzania to experience first hand the impact of development programs related to U.S. foreign assistance.

In Tanzania, Rodney Phillips, the UNICEF representative, spoke to the U.S. delegation about GAVI and immunization activities while touring a health clinic in the capital, Dar es Salaam, and explained to the delegates the country's achievements in immunization. According to Phillips, Tanzania's high immunization coverage rate (89%) is due to a combination of factors, including political will, a strong health information system and the use of targeted immunization campaigns.

The delegation included Congressman Jim Kolbe (Republican, Arizona), Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations; Congresswoman Nita Lowey (Democrat, New York), Ranking Democrat on the House Appropriations Committee on Foreign Operations; Congressman Roger Wicker

Tanzania - A Few Facts...

Population:	36, 276,000
GNI per capita income:	\$270
child (under 5) mortality rate:	161/1000
DTP3 coverage:	89%

Source: WHO, 2002 figures

(Republican, Mississippi), a senior member of the House of Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations; and Mark Murray, Minority Staff Director of the House of Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations.

The Vaccine Fund and GAVI estimate that their total commitment to Tanzania will reach approximately \$40 million over five years. So far, Tanzania has received more than \$11 million worth of new vaccines – the combination DTP-hepatitis B vaccine; approximately \$700,000 for health care infrastructure and more than \$16, 000 for immunization safety supplies.

The U.S. government was one of the first donor countries to provide financial assistance to The Vaccine Fund and GAVI. •



U.S. congressional delegation led by Congressman Jim Kolbe (left, inner circle) meets with healthcare professionals in Tanzania.

Jens Stoltenberg of The Vaccine Fund Board Travels to Senegal to Participate in a National Vaccination Program

Jens Stoltenberg, leader of the Norwegian Labour party, traveled to Senegal last December to participate in the country's first National Vaccination Forum. The goal of the event was to bring together health specialists and politicians to discuss immunization progress as well as to promote awareness among the Senegalese population. Mr. Stoltenberg, who participated in the Forum chaired by President Abdoulaye Wade, was extremely pleased to be part of this unprecedented event.

Mr. Stoltenberg expressed his enthusiasm during his address at the national forum; he began his speech by congratulating President Wade for his "wisdom and leadership" in the field of childhood immunization.

During his visit, Mr. Stoltenberg went to the Gaspard Camara Health Center and the Dakar Pasteur Institute, a major yellow fever vaccine producer and worldwide distributor. He spoke with doctors and health workers about immunization issues in Senegal. He also spent time with mothers to learn about their experiences.

At the Forum, Mr. Stoltenberg together with Jacques-François Martin, President of The Vaccine Fund and Tore Godal, Executive Secretary of GAVI, announced a 24 million dollar five year commitment (2004 to 2009) to immunize children against hepatitis B, the second largest preventable cause of cancer after tobacco. GAVI and The Vaccine Fund support will help prevent children from contracting this deadly disease. It is estimated that the grant will help immunize approximately 1.4 million children over the next five years. More than 273,000 children will be reached this year.

Senegal is also benefiting from other forms of support through GAVI and The Vaccine Fund. By the end of 2003, Senegal had received approximately \$247,000 to improve immunization services and over \$582,000 for immunization safety supplies.



Jens Stoltenberg looks on while a child is being weighed at a clinic in Dakar.

"Child immunization is not only a moral duty, not only a moral imperative, but it is also an act of love. When I look at my children, it is the children of Senegal and the children of the world I see. When I look at the children of the world, it is the future of the planet that I see. We cannot tolerate the death of children from diseases that can be prevented through vaccination. We all share a responsibility in building a better tomorrow," said M. Stoltenberg. •

Senegal - A Few Facts...

Population:	9,855,000
GNI per capita income:	\$490
child (under 5) mortality rate:	105/1000
DTP3 coverage:	Less than 50%

Source: WHO, 2002 figures

EPIVAC - An Innovative Training Program Promotes Capacity Building in West Africa



EPIVAC is a capacity building program designed to build stronger and sustainable health services by improving the management and performances of public health systems, particularly in the field of immunization. This program seeks to strengthen the technical and managerial skills of health district medical officers in order to enable them to optimize the performances of their immunization programs at district level. Each year, approximately 50 health district officials from GAVI eligible countries in francophone Africa are selected to enter the program by their respective Ministry of Health and ICC.

Last December, 39 district medical doctors from four West African countries; Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte-d'Ivoire and Mali received the first inter-university diploma in "Applied Vaccinology" following a one year training program.

The program's objective is to contribute to a steady increase in immunization coverage in all GAVI eligible francophone countries in West and Central Africa within five years. Strong healthcare systems are essential to improving people's health through vaccination. With EPIVAC, health care professionals bring an important contribution to their country and the efforts of GAVI and The Vaccine Fund by focusing on capacity building and sustainability.

The program is an Aventis Pasteur initiative implemented by the *Association pour l'aide à la Médecine Préventive* (AMP) and developed in partnership with the national governments of the recipient countries, the universities of Cocody, Abidjan (Côte-d'Ivoire) and Paris-Dauphine (France) in collaboration with WHO, UNICEF and The Vaccine Fund. •

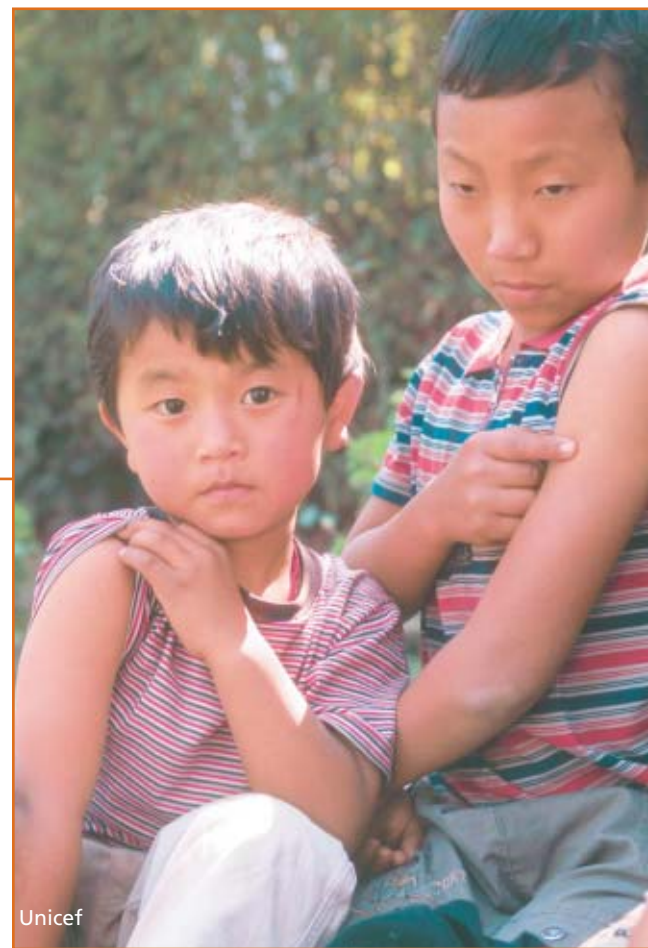
DONOR SUPPORT

The European Union Gives \$1 million

In late December 2003, The European Union (EU) made a \$1 million contribution to The Vaccine Fund for the year 2003, bringing our total donor commitments to \$1.3 billion. This initial contribution shows the commitment of the European Union in supporting immunization programs, including the work of GAVI and The Vaccine Fund. On December 18, 2003, the European Parliament voted in favor of a €3 million budget line for 2004 that includes support for vaccination programs. •

Merck Donates Hepatitis B Vaccines

In January 2004, Merck made a new donation of hepatitis B vaccines to The Vaccine Fund to support immunization programs in Kyrgyzstan and Georgia. This donation brings the overall number of hepatitis B vaccines received by Merck to a total of 527,640 doses over the past two years. This recent donation from Merck (137,940 doses) follows an initial donation of over 380,000 doses of hepatitis B vaccines in February 2003. •



Unicef

(continued from page 1)

support to the campaign and called upon the international community to help The Vaccine Fund raise new and additional funds for childhood immunization.

Members of The Vaccine Fund Board of Directors - Her Majesty Queen Rania of Jordan, Mrs. Mary Robinson and Jens Stoltenberg addressed the audience including members of the press, business leaders and representatives of the diplomatic corps. Dwight Bush, Principal of Stuart Mill Capital and the most recent member of The Vaccine Fund Board was also part of the event.

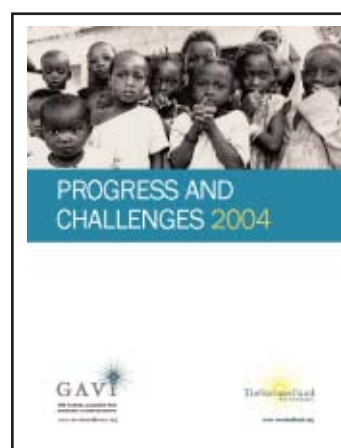
In addition, GAVI and The Vaccine Fund released its 2004 update on Progress and Challenges the day of the launch. It is estimated that more than 500,000 lives are being saved around the world by vaccines delivered with support from GAVI, The Vaccine Fund and its partners. Since its inception in 2000, the Alliance has enabled 40 of the world's poorest countries to immunize 35.5 million children against

hepatitis B, making it the largest cancer prevention effort ever undertaken by immunization.

Results also show that many countries have increased access to all vaccines – more than eight million additional children have received basic vaccination. Furthermore, 6 million children have been vaccinated against Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) and 2.7 million children have been vaccinated against yellow fever.

Despite the remarkable progress made by GAVI, millions of children remain without access to immunization. To allow GAVI to build upon its success and prepare for the availability of new vaccines against rotavirus and pneumococcal disease, GAVI and The Vaccine Fund hope that governments from industrialized countries, corporations and other supporters will respond to the call and contribute to this effort. •

NEW RESOURCE



For comments and suggestions please e-mail:
vkouame@vaccinefund.org.

To request a copy of GAVI and The Vaccine Fund's new publication please contact gavi@unicef.org.