

Dr David Sergeenko
Minister of Labour, Health and Social Affairs
Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs
144, Ak. Tsereteli Ave.
Tbilisi 0119
Republic of Georgia

Geneva, 11 June 2018

Honourable Minister,

On behalf of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, we would like to thank you for taking time from your busy World Health Assembly schedule to meet with us.

We appreciated your insights on the strategic priorities of the national immunisation programme in Georgia and would like to take the opportunity to highlight the key issues we touched upon during our meeting.

Post transition engagement

The Gavi Alliance Board, at its meeting in November 2017, approved continued Alliance engagement in countries after they transition and allowed to exceptionally fund targeted and catalytic support in Phase 3 (self-financing) countries, if it is requested by countries like Georgia. The goal is to ensure that countries maintain gains achieved with Gavi support and to mitigate potential risks to sustainability of now self-financed vaccine programmes. The Gavi Secretariat is preparing a guidance note and application template for the post transition support and will share it with the country in the coming weeks. We would appreciate a fast turnaround from the country given the deadline for submission of the end of August 2018 so that Georgia could take advantage of full implementation period up to the end of 2020.

HPV national rollout

Georgia has successfully introduced the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine in December 2017 through Gavi approved HPV demonstration programme. We hope Georgia will move towards the national roll-out upon completion of this two-year demo programme. In 2018, Gavi, through its core alliance partners will continue to provide technical assistance related to HPV introduction.

Rabies vaccination

We take note of one of the priorities for your country related to rabies prophylactics. As we explained, Gavi currently does not support rabies in its portfolio of vaccines. Nevertheless, as part of the Vaccine Investment Strategy (VIS) review, Gavi is exploring possibilities to support additional vaccines in future. As we noted, we will ensure Georgia is included in the VIS consultation process to give you the opportunity to highlight the issue of rabies.

Gavi Mid-Term Review

Finally, we greatly appreciated your expressed willingness to support Gavi for the upcoming Mid-Term Review (MTR). The MTR is a key feature in our replenishment efforts that will allow us to continue to support strong immunization programs. Your willingness to speak out strongly and frequently in support of Gavi will be extremely helpful. Together we can ensure that no child goes unvaccinated.

We thank you for your partnership.

Yours sincerely,



Jamiliya Sherova
Senior Country Manager
Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

cc: NCDC Director General
National Immunization Program Manager
Georgian Permanent Mission in Geneva
WHO Regional & Country Offices
UNICEF Regional & Country Officer