

## **World Health Assembly - dWHA 71**

### **Advocacy messages**

#### **GAVI, The Vaccine Alliance**

##### ***Cholera prevention resolution (WHA71 agenda item 11.2)***

Cholera disproportionately affects remote, poor areas and urban slums, where clean water and sanitation as well as access to rapid treatment are lacking. This puts severe burden on vulnerable communities and already weak health systems.

The inclusion of prevention, surveillance, health systems strengthening as well as acknowledging cholera as a disease epidemic separate from other diarrhoeal diseases and the need for a coordinated and multi-sectoral approach is welcomed and should be retained.

Please find below some suggestions to further strengthen the resolution:

- Strengthening cholera surveillance capacity through the availability of reliable rapid diagnostic testing to allow cholera to be distinguished from other types of diarrhoeal diseases and the timely reporting of cholera cases to allow for more targeted, efficient use of the international vaccine stockpile.
- Including Oral Cholera Vaccine (OCV) as part of multi-sectoral, comprehensive response to cholera, including basic water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services.
- Stimulating the development and production of new cholera vaccines.
- Developing cholera surveillance systems that are integrated with multi-disease surveillance systems.
- Mainstreaming cholera within broader disease control initiatives, development plans and SDG implementation, including monitoring plans with disaggregated data.
- Including natural disasters, conflicts and displacements as critical determinants.

##### ***Polio eradication and containment (WHA71 agenda items: 11.3 and 12.9)***

Gavi fully supports the effective implementation of the Polio Eradication and Endgame Strategic Plan 2013–2018 and the effort made by Governments, GPEI and other actors in this regard.

Regarding discussions on polio eradication and polio transition, Gavi would like to highlight the following:

- The need for further elaboration of governance structures, implementation modalities and costs needed to determine key actors' engagement with the Post Certification Strategy;
- Accelerate development of nationally owned polio transition plans and ensure a robust sector-wide dialogue at country level to determine essential functions to maintain cross cutting expertise.
- Polio transitioning represents a significant risk with potential a negative impact, particularly in fragile countries;

- Strengthen primary health system and immunisation coverage and equity, particularly in high-risk geographies as essential components to maintain a zero-polio state;

Gavi welcomes the resolution on containment of polioviruses and supports its recommendations, adoption and implementation. Furthermore, Gavi supports WHO and MS efforts to reduce the list of Polio Essential Facilities to a manageable number

Please find below some suggestions to capture the important role that immunisation plays in the containment of polioviruses.

- Polio Essential Facilities (PEF) countries should have strong and high performing national immunisation programmes and understand the implication related to Inactivated Poliovirus Vaccine (IPV) use;
- Maintain the inclusion of IPV into routine immunisation programmes worldwide;

### ***Non Communicable Diseases (WHA agenda item: 11.7)***

Non-communicable diseases, including cervical cancer, impose a heavy burden on national health systems and national health budgets. Please find below some suggestions for discussions and decisions at WHA:

- WHA Resolution 70/12 on cancer prevention and control in the context of an integrated approach was adopted at the 70<sup>th</sup> session of the WHA including paragraph 8 to "Prioritise increased access to vaccinations to prevent infections associated with cancers, as part of national immunization schedules, based on country epidemiological profiles and health systems' capacities"
- Prioritise cost-effective, affordable and evidence – based prevention focused solutions that have a high return on investment and can significantly reduce these costs and save lives.
- Integration of 'best buys', and gender-based approaches into national health policies and programmes can reduce health inequities.
- Include "increased access to vaccination to prevent infections associated with cancers, as part of the national immunisation schedules, based on country epidemiological profiles and health systems' capacities" in the outcome of the Non-Communicable Diseases High Level Meeting taking place on 27 September 2018 in New York.