



OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH GAVI, THE VACCINE ALLIANCE

APRIL 2024

Sixty-seven million children missed routine vaccinations between 2019 and 2021. While immunization coverage has started rebounding, over 14 million children around the world still did not receive a single vaccine in 2022. Vaccines are one of the most effective investments to prevent child deaths, and they are best administered as part of a strong health system. USAID partners with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Gavi) to ensure children everywhere receive lifesaving vaccinations.

Half of all vaccine-preventable deaths occur among children who have never received routine immunization, also referred to as “zero-dose children,” and many of them live in priority countries for USAID’s maternal and child survival programs (Figure 1). These countries have the highest needs and account for 70 percent of preventable maternal and child deaths.

Gavi, with support from USAID and other donors, is dedicated to enhancing access to new and underused vaccines for millions of underserved children in lower- and middle-income countries. With a vaccine portfolio that helps to fight against 20 life-threatening diseases such as measles, pneumonia, and meningitis, Gavi helps countries to access vaccines; protect communities; strengthen primary health care systems; advance progress in achieving the United Nations’ (UN) Sustainable Development Goals; and enhance global health security.



SINCE 2001, USAID HAS PARTNERED WITH GAVI, THE VACCINE ALLIANCE, SUPPORTING THE **VACCINATION OF OVER ONE BILLION CHILDREN.**



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

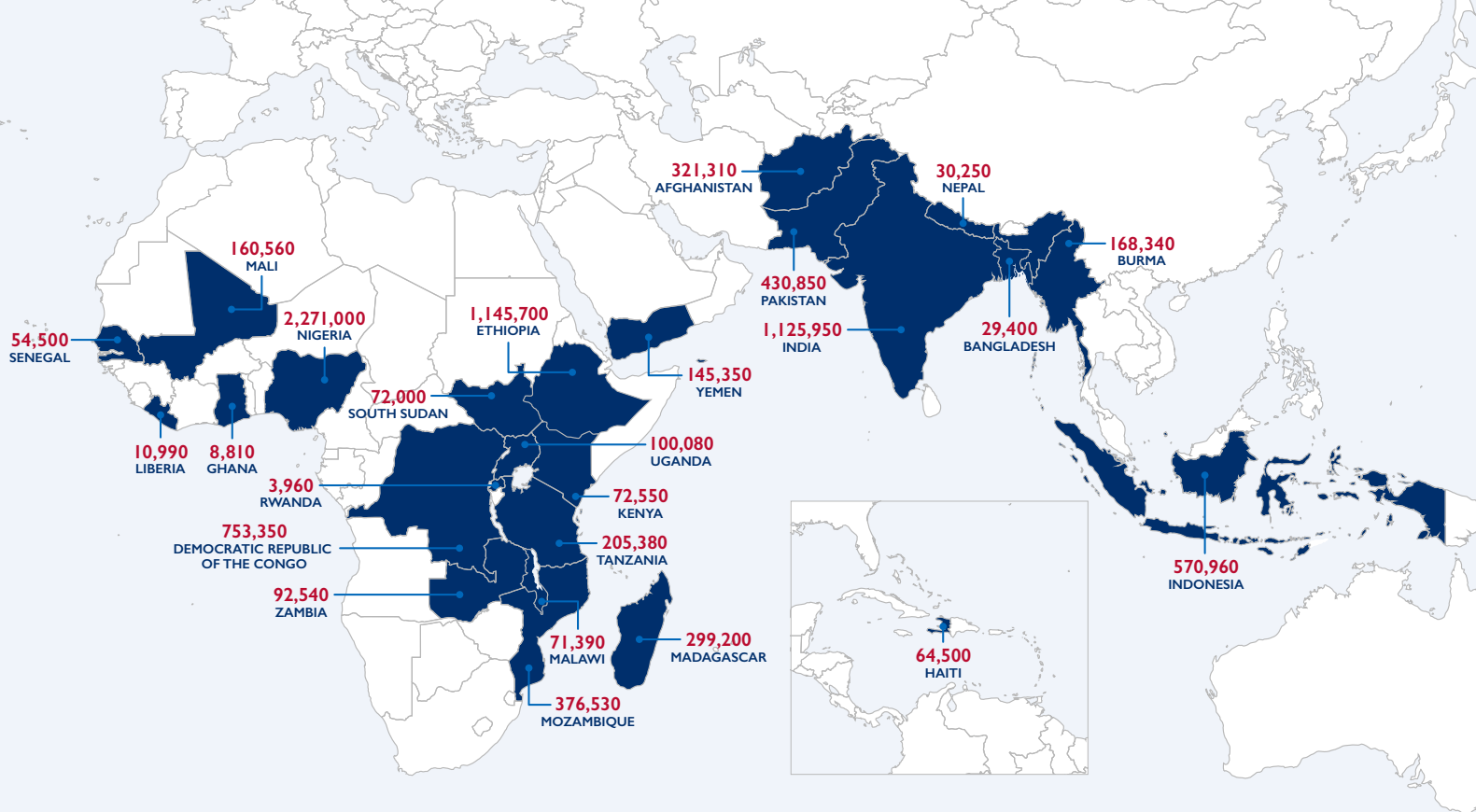


Figure 1. Number of Zero-Dose Children in USAID Maternal and Child Survival Priority Countries

COUNTRY	NUMBER	COUNTRY	NUMBER	COUNTRY	NUMBER
Nigeria	2,271,000	Tanzania	205,380	Malawi	71,390
Ethiopia	1,145,700	Burma	168,340	Haiti	64,500
India	1,125,950	Mali	160,560	Senegal	54,500
Democratic Republic of the Congo	753,350	Yemen	145,350	Nepal	30,250
Indonesia	570,960	Uganda	100,080	Bangladesh	29,400
Pakistan	430,850	Zambia	92,540	Liberia	10,990
Mozambique	376,530	Kenya	72,550	Ghana	8,810
Afghanistan	321,310	South Sudan	72,000	Rwanda	3,960
Madagascar	299,200				

Gavi coordinates with implementing countries and donor governments, the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, the World Bank, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation—as well as partners from the vaccine industry, research and technical institutes, civil society, and other private sector partners to transform lives and boost economies of lower-income countries to make the world a safer place through the power of vaccines.

USAID works with Gavi in three main ways to increase equitable access to vaccines:

1. DIRECT INVESTMENT:

USAID provides funding directly to Gavi to support its programs and initiatives.

2. ALIGNMENT AT COUNTRY LEVEL:

USAID coordinates its efforts with Gavi in specific countries to ensure that their activities complement each other and maximize impact.

3. GLOBAL AGENDA SETTING:

USAID and Gavi collaborate on setting priorities and strategies at the global level to address key health challenges effectively.

INVESTING IN GAVI

USAID is one of the largest and earliest investors in Gavi and continues to be a key partner in the global effort to vaccinate children. Since Fiscal Year (FY) 2001, USAID has contributed \$3.65 billion to Gavi, enabling the immunization of over 1 billion children with lifesaving vaccines and preventing more than 17 million deaths (Figure 2). USAID's partnership with Gavi is a key part of our efforts to prevent child and maternal deaths, which contributes to global progress toward Sustainable Development Goal 3 to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being.

Figure 2. Gavi Through the Years: U.S. Contributions

FISCAL YEAR	U.S. CONTRIBUTION
2001-05	\$283 MILLION
2006-10	\$363 MILLION
2011-15	\$733 MILLION
2016-20	\$1.40 BILLION
2021-25	\$1.47 BILLION*

*This total includes \$290 million/year for FY2021-23, \$300 million for FY2024, and subject to annual appropriations from U.S. Congress, an additional \$300 million in FY2025. Moreover, the US contributed \$4 billion to the COVAX Advance Market Commitment.

BUILDING STRONGER IMMUNIZATION SYSTEMS WITH GAVI

USAID works with Gavi to support countries to build strong routine immunization systems and to enable more equitable access to lifesaving vaccines. While Gavi plays a leading role in determining global vaccine availability and facilitating access to vaccines in lower-income countries, USAID complements these efforts by investing in national immunization systems to support the equitable distribution of vaccines to everyone who needs them.

Immunization remains a critical part of and clear entry point to primary health care, which contributes to resilient health systems that boost global health security. USAID's country programs support planning; train healthcare workers; enhance data collection; use and monitor systems to track vaccination performance; improve supply chain systems for vaccine storage and distribution; and support communications strategies and vaccination campaigns to build confidence and demand for vaccination.

- In **Bangladesh**, a USAID supported community health committee identified the urgent need for a primary health care center in an underserved region. Through USAID's advocacy, local funds were used to open a primary health care center, and between January and September of 2023, the center provided immunization services to more than 4,000 children.
- In **Madagascar**, USAID recruits, trains, and supports community health workers to raise awareness around the critical need of routine immunization and contribute to the identification of underimmunized and zero-dose children. These activities complement Gavi's ongoing efforts around garnering greater political will for immunization and increased accountability in reaching zero-dose children and increasing immunization coverage. This is especially critical for countries like Madagascar, where in 2022, 34 percent of children did not receive even the first dose of the pentavalent vaccine, which prevents five life-threatening diseases, and is often seen as a key marker for vaccine coverage.
- In **Mozambique**, USAID helped to increase coverage of the third dose of the pentavalent vaccine, which prevents five life threatening diseases and is often seen as a marker for overall immunization performance, from less than 50 percent to 80 percent in Nampula and Zambezia provinces. USAID provided technical assistance to the Government of Mozambique in developing a post-COVID-19 childhood routine immunization recovery plan, intensifying outreach vaccination efforts, increasing the use of data to improve vaccine stock management, and monitoring cold chain performance. This contributes to Gavi's post-pandemic priority for "The Big Catch-Up," which focuses on supporting countries to recover from unprecedented backsliding of immunization coverage and to urgently reach children who missed essential vaccines during the pandemic.

SUPPORTING THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW VACCINES

Gavi plays a key role in helping lower-income countries finance and introduce effective vaccines into their national immunization programs. USAID works with Gavi to support the introduction of new vaccines, such as the malaria vaccine and the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine to prevent cervical cancer. While Gavi works to bring vaccines to countries and prepare them for vaccine introductions, USAID—through its local presence and partnerships—ensures that countries have a plan with the key components for new vaccine introduction in place. This includes training for health workers, communications campaigns, strategies for community engagement, and sufficient cold chain capacities.

- To facilitate the introduction of the malaria vaccine, Gavi and USAID are closely collaborating to support the development of guidance, tools, and workshops as a part of comprehensive malaria control programs. In **Kenya and Burkina Faso**, USAID is supporting communications activities to increase awareness and confidence in the vaccine. In Zanzibar, **Tanzania**, USAID complemented Gavi's efforts in the delivery of and assistance for an HPV vaccine introduction. USAID worked with local partners to increase coverage and enable the distribution to increase access to programs for adolescent girls. With USAID's support, distribution points for the HPV vaccine now also include social and behavior change messaging, nutrition screening, and an entry point for broader primary health care services. As a result of USAID's involvement and the Ministry of Health Zanzibar's commitment, coverage of the HPV vaccine in Zanzibar increased from 14 percent to over 85 percent within a four-month period.

STRENGTHENING COORDINATION FROM THE NATIONAL TO THE COMMUNITY LEVEL

The effective distribution and acceptance of vaccines, supported by Gavi, rely on close coordination within countries and the active involvement of partners like USAID, which work directly with communities. USAID participates with Gavi in government-led technical and strategic discussions, such as in-country technical working groups that inform national policies and guidelines, and address barriers to success. USAID also supports coordination at subnational and community levels, building on other USAID and partner programs. By fostering strong connections with national governments and Gavi partners, USAID ensures strong linkages with other investments in the health system, especially those addressing other causes of maternal and child mortality.

- In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Mozambique, and Nigeria**, USAID supported new research to identify barriers that caregivers and providers face when fully vaccinating children. USAID's support for the study resulted in the three countries implementing the recommended solutions. They included empowering providers and giving the community a voice and participation in problem-solving that improved the experiences they have with the health system, and increased demand for immunization.
- In **Kenya**, USAID supported the training of health workers at 98 public health facilities on how to set targets and develop microplans at a subnational level in order to reach the most vulnerable children, which resulted in detailed plans at each of the facilities that help to coordinate and systematize efforts to reach every community and every child with essential vaccines.

PREPARING COUNTRIES TO SUSTAIN INVESTMENTS MOVING FORWARD

Gavi engages with countries to support and co-finance vaccines until countries are able to operate and fully fund their own immunization programs. As of 2023, 19 countries have transitioned from relying on Gavi support to fully self-financing their vaccines. As part of the process to transition, countries need to not only financially plan for securing vaccine supplies, but also for sustaining strong immunization programs with domestic resources. USAID works with countries to prioritize domestic funding for essential components such as training health workers, transportation and safe storage of vaccines, procuring supplies to deliver vaccines, and the future purchasing of vaccines that are accounted for in national budgets. These investments benefit children now as well as in the future.

- USAID supported regions in **Nigeria** and the **DRC** to develop financing solutions by convening health and finance officers at the national and subnational levels to identify challenges in securing resources needed to reach zero-dose communities, support routine immunization, as well as to map key health and non-health stakeholders involved in the budget allocation and planning processes. This is part of a longer process to support country ownership and prepare DRC and Nigeria to self-fund their national routine vaccination programs in the future.



GAVI HAS A VACCINE PORTFOLIO THAT HELPS TO FIGHT AGAINST 20 LIFE-THREATENING DISEASES SUCH AS MEASLES, PNEUMONIA, AND MENINGITIS.



SHAPING GLOBAL IMMUNIZATION STRATEGY AND PRIORITIES

USAID plays a critical role in shaping global immunization efforts, including through its involvement with the Gavi Board and committees as a sovereign donor country. This means that USAID contributes to decision-making on consequential immunization strategies, policies, and programs that impact countries around the world. That impact includes adding new vaccines into the Gavi portfolio, like the recent additions of malaria and hexavalent, as well as establishing platforms for pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response.

- In December of 2023, USAID supported Gavi's decision to provide an initial \$290 million and a one-time waiving of co-financing requirements to allow countries to more readily access needed catch-up doses. With over 20.5 million children who missed out on timely vaccinations in 2022, this decision allowed many countries to significantly accelerate efforts towards reversing declines in childhood vaccinations as a result of the pandemic. This will help protect communities from the otherwise growing number of large and disruptive disease outbreaks happening around the world.

PARTNERING TO ADVANCE GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY AT HOME AND ABROAD

The U.S. government was the largest donor to the Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment with a \$4 billion contribution, which supported the delivery of 2 billion COVID-19 vaccines to lower-income countries—preventing 2.7 million deaths from COVID-19. USAID and Gavi's coordination to distribute COVID-19 vaccines and integrate them into routine immunization platforms directly contributed to strengthening future routine immunization systems and increasing international focus on the need for equitable access to health resources and services.

- The U.S. supported Gavi to establish platforms that will prepare countries for the next health emergency, including the Day Zero Financing Facility, which will enable access to immediate financing for low- and middle-income countries at the onset of a future pandemic and allow for a more rapid response. Additionally, the African Vaccine Manufacturing Accelerator is a new financing instrument that will provide up to \$1 billion in funding over the next ten years to catalyze sustainable vaccine manufacturing in Africa. Jointly, these platforms will create opportunities for African manufacturers to contribute to the global market as well as equip lower-income countries to rapidly respond in times of outbreaks and future health emergencies to protect their citizens.

Learn more about USAID's Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition Programs:

[usaid.gov/global-health/health-areas/maternal-and-child-health](https://www.usaid.gov/global-health/health-areas/maternal-and-child-health)

Read our latest annual report:

[usaid.gov/PreventingChildandMaternalDeaths](https://www.usaid.gov/PreventingChildandMaternalDeaths)

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