

# What is the GVAP?

## GVAP: Global Vaccine Action Plan

In May 2012, the World Health Assembly – comprised of health officials from 194 countries – endorsed the Global Vaccine Action Plan for the Decade of Vaccines (2011-2020). If the GVAP is translated into action and resources are mobilized, **between 24.6 and 25.8 million deaths could be averted** by the end of the decade, billions of dollars in productivity will be gained, and immunization will help reduce by two-thirds the under-five mortality rate (Millennium Development Goal 4). The GVAP builds on the Global Immunization Vision and Strategy 2006–2015, the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the GAVI Alliance Strategy and the United Nations Secretary-General’s Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health.

- ❑ **Vision:** *Universal access to immunization*
- ❑ **Mission:** *improve health by extending by 2020 and beyond the full benefits of immunization to all people, regardless of where they are born, who they are, or where they live.*

## GVAP Guiding Principles

Although the Global Vaccine Action Plan will need to be translated into specific regional, country and community contexts, its guiding principles are universally applicable and relevant to each of the Decade of Vaccines’ goals and strategic objectives (below).

1. **Country ownership.** Countries have primary ownership and responsibility for establishing good governance and providing effective and quality immunization services for all.
2. **Shared responsibility and partnership.** Immunization against vaccine-preventable diseases is an individual, community and governmental responsibility that transcends borders and sectors.
3. **Equity.** Equitable access to immunization is a core component of the right to health.
4. **Integration.** Strong immunization systems are essential to immunization goals.
5. **Sustainability.** Informed decisions and implementation strategies, appropriate funding and improved financial management and oversight are critical.
6. **Innovation.** Continuous improvement and innovation in research and development, innovation and quality improvement are essential.

## GVAP Goals and Objectives

The Decade of Vaccines is about taking action to achieve ambitious goals. By 2020 the goals are to: (1) Achieve a world free of poliomyelitis; (2) Meet vaccination coverage targets in every region, country and community; (3) Exceed the Millennium Development Goal 4 target for reducing child mortality; (4) Meet global and regional elimination targets; and (5) Develop and introduce new and improved vaccines and technologies.

The GVAP’s specific objectives are below. **Note that each objective includes indicators and targets for planning, tracking and evaluating performance.** Reference the GVAP for a list of recommended actions for each specific objective.

- 1) All countries commit to immunization as a priority.
- 2) Individuals and communities understand the value of vaccines and demand immunization as ***both their right and responsibility***.
- 3) The benefits of immunization are ***equitably*** extended to all people.
- 4) Strong immunization systems are integral to a well-functioning health system.
- 5) Immunization programs have ***sustainable access*** to predictable funding, quality supply and innovative technologies.
- 6) Country, regional and global research and development innovations maximize the benefits of immunization.

## Role of Civil Society in the GVAP

The GVAP was developed under the auspices of the [Decade of Vaccines Collaboration](#) leadership, composed of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the GAVI Alliance, UNICEF, the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and WHO. ***Civil society was an integral part of developing the GVAP.*** Civil society representatives sat on the Steering Committee and formed part of each of the four Working Groups. They also took part in online consultations, issue-specific gatherings and regional consultative meetings held around the world. In total, 1,100 individuals representing more than 140 countries and 290 organizations were involved.

The success of the GVAP is dependent on all stakeholders – including civil society.

[According to WHO](#), ***civil society's roles include the following:***

- Get involved in the promotion and implementation of immunization programs.
- Participate in the development and testing of innovative approaches to deliver immunization services that reach the most vulnerable people.
- Follow national guidelines and regulations in the design and delivery of immunization programs that fulfill the duty of accountability to national authorities.
- Educate, empower and engage vulnerable groups and communities on their right to health, including vaccines and immunization.
- Build grass-roots initiatives within communities to track progress and hold stakeholders accountable for providing high-quality immunization services.
- Contribute to improved evaluation and monitoring systems within countries.
- Engage in country, regional and global advocacy beyond the immunization community to ensure vaccines and immunization are understood as a right for all.
- Collaborate within and across countries to share strategies and build momentum for improved health, vaccines and immunization.

## For more information

- [The Global Vaccine Action Plan 2011-2020](#)
- [GVAP Goals](#)
- [GVAP Objectives](#)
- [GVAP Accountability Framework](#)
- [World Health Organization site on the GVAP](#)

