UNDP and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Gavi), share a common vision to ensure equitable access to vital health services for all people across the globe. Collaboration between the two organizations represents a catalytic force for the acceleration of countries’ progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 3: healthy lives for all.

The partnership

UNDP’s health policy and programme support to governments prioritizes actions to achieve universal health coverage (UHC) and reduce inequalities that drive poor health to ensure that no one is left behind. This work depends upon safe and affordable access to essential vaccines for children in the world’s poorest countries, the core mission of Gavi.

Both organizations are guided by common approaches based on sustainability, national ownership, and effective multi-sector partnerships. Each work to strengthen national systems for health, including the development of country infrastructure, systems, and procedures that drive inclusive service delivery.

Mirroring Gavi’s reliance on public-private partnerships, a defining characteristic of its sustainability model, UNDP works in close coordination with national governments, civil society, private sector, and affected populations to build resilient health systems supported by predictable, long-term financing.

The UNDP-Gavi partnership leverages complementary initiatives to achieve holistic health interventions, including UNDP’s support to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (Global Fund), a key partner to Gavi.

Ongoing engagement

In 2015, UNDP joined forces with Gavi and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of India to pilot the Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN), a digital logistics management information system leveraging mobile phone technology to improve the efficiency of vaccine cold chain systems in India. The initial roll out of eVIN led to impressive results in a short time, including an 80 percent reduction in vaccine stock-out incidents across eVIN-enabled health centers. The success of the project, which is now scaling to the rest of India, has since inspired plans to implement the initiative in other countries, including Indonesia, Sudan, and Malawi.

The UNDP-Gavi partnership has continued to expand to new geographic as well as policy and programmatic focus areas. In addition to India, UNDP has partnership agreements with Gavi in Tajikistan and Zambia, facilitating joint support to national health institutions for infrastructure improvement and financial management, respectively.

Outside of direct programmatic engagement, UNDP coordinates closely with Gavi in a number of other countries, providing support in the form of knowledge sharing, policy guidance, and technical assistance. Its service offering ranges from full end-to-end support for grant management and project implementation to specialized assistance in a single technical area. UNDP currently engages with Gavi in Afghanistan, Chad, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, and South Sudan, and continues to jointly explore collaboration opportunities in other countries.

The UNDP-Gavi partnership also contributes to the UNDP-led initiative for Sustainable Procurement in the Health Sector, which brings together seven UN agencies, Gavi, and the Global Fund, as well as the multi-stakeholder International Health Partnership for UHC 2030.
Implementation and management of large scale health programmes, including grant-making, reporting, procurement, risk assurance, and management of sub-recipients. UNDP’s far-reaching Global Fund partnership allows it to build on existing processes at country level and promote synergies between Global Fund- and Gavi-funded projects;

Capacity development of national governments and civil society organizations, including technical assistance for financial management, fiduciary controls and oversight, and monitoring and evaluation. A key focus includes harnessing innovation to promote sustainable and resilient health systems;

Policy engagement to foster an enabling environment for immunization programmes, drawing on experiences shaping policies to promote human rights and gender equality, good governance, and anti-corruption initiatives in the health sector, including in challenging operating contexts.

This work is underpinned by:

Knowledge sharing to help inform programmes and policies. UNDP offers practical lessons, tools, and templates for grant management and capacity development through an online capacity development toolkit and health implementation guidance manual. At the country level, it shares relevant reports such as stakeholder capacity assessments;

Coordination leadership to harmonize multiple partners’ technical assistance to the government;

A focus on promoting country ownership and sustainability to ensure cohesive multi-sector responses and transformative health and development outcomes.

At a Glance

**UNDP India** took the lead of a US$38.5 million component of a Gavi health systems strengthening (HSS) grant to support the government with the roll out of eVIN, the national M&E framework for immunization, and national research, in partnership with UNICEF and WHO. The eVIN project extended to a second phase (2017-2021), with up to US$40 million in funding.

**UNDP Tajikistan** and Gavi signed a US$1.4 million agreement in 2017, in partnership with WHO and UNICEF, to support the government to build 10 new health facilities and refurbish 30 health facilities. It includes the provision of equipment and mobile service, with staff training and monitoring.

**UNDP Zambia** and Gavi have an agreement to provide financial mentorship to seven District Health Offices as part of an HSS grant. The support will not only improve reporting to Gavi, but will also improve service delivery by minimizing delays in disbursements caused by missing or incomplete reports.

What UNDP brings to the partnership

UNDP’s collaboration with Gavi is grounded in its comparative advantages and tailored to each country context. It brings unique added value to the partnership particularly through its:

- Vast country presence and diverse experiences implementing large-scale health programmes;
- Ability to operate simultaneously at the level of policy and programme support;
- Substantive expertise in strengthening national systems for health, underpinned by an emphasis on improving financial management, monitoring, and ensuring good governance;
- Strong risk assurance and control frameworks for project management, tailored to the country context and in coordination with other partners;
- Robust capacity development approach that has supported the successful transition of partner-funded health programmes to national ownership;
- Procurement and supply chain management expertise, supported by innovative partnerships;
- Access to the technical expertise of the UN family and broad network of public and private partners beyond the health sector;
- Wealth of knowledge and tools, ranging from guidance on financial and programme reporting to case studies on health systems strengthening approaches;
- Community of practice across UNDP and roster of experts for timely deployment and implementation structure to ensure synergies and cost efficiencies.