



Australia and the GAVI Alliance

Saving lives through immunisation

March 2012

The challenge

Every year nearly **two million** children die from vaccine-preventable diseases, mainly in developing countries. That's one child every 20 seconds. Immunisation not only saves lives but promotes health, allowing children to fully benefit from opportunities such as education. Good health leads to social and economic development enabling people to reach their full potential as active and productive members of society.

What is GAVI?

The GAVI Alliance is a unique public/private partnership of international organisations, donor governments, developing countries, financing institutions and vaccine manufacturers committed to protecting people's health through increasing access to immunisation.

AusAID and GAVI

Australia, through AusAID, is supporting the GAVI Alliance to provide life-saving immunisations in the world's poorest countries. GAVI is a critical partner for AusAID in meeting our objective of saving lives, improving maternal and child health, and achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Since 2006, Australia has provided \$94 million to GAVI and has committed to provide a further \$140 million by 2013. Australia is also providing \$250 million over 20 years to GAVI's International Finance Facility for Immunisation. Australia's support to GAVI and IFFIm helps countries build their health systems by providing better maternal and child health care services, training health staff, improving health facilities, and supplying essential drugs.



Since 2000, AusAID and GAVI have contributed to:

- the immunisation of more than 325 million children against a variety of preventable diseases in the world's poorest countries
- the prevention of 5.5 million deaths through immunisation against preventable diseases
- the development and roll out of new vaccines that protect against pneumonia and diarrhoea – the two leading killers of children under the age of five
- an increase in vaccine coverage to 82 per cent in developing countries, with a particular focus on the poorest children
- a significant reduction in global vaccine prices.

Photo: UNICEF, 2010 – Habibul Haque (Bangladesh)

