

Situation Analysis of Vaccine Expenditure



KEY FACTS, 2024

How much is spent annually on vaccine?

- Data from 140 countries¹ (more 100 million surviving children), spanning all income groups, shows that over the period 2021-2023, **US\$ 1.3 per capita** was spent annually on vaccines for routine immunization, or **US\$ 76 per surviving infant** (a total of over 6 billion US\$ per year spent on vaccines).
- This represented 0.3% of Current Health Expenditure (CHE) and 0.02% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- Public domestic funding paid for 82%** of the total expenditure on vaccines in the 140 countries. The rest was mostly funded by donors such as Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance.

Richer countries spend *more per capita* on vaccines in part because they pay higher prices for vaccines and they may offer a larger portfolio of vaccines stretching throughout life course (e.g., influenza vaccine). Less than 1 US\$ per capita is spent on vaccines in low-income countries (LICs) up to 6 US\$ per capita in high-income countries (HICs).

Governments in richer countries pay a *larger share of total expenditure* on vaccine, replacing donor funding, from 20% in LICs to 94% in HICs.

However, richer countries spend proportionally *less* on vaccines as a share of Current Health Expenditure (from 2% in LICs to 0.3% in HICs) or as a share of Gross Domestic Product (from 0.1% in LICs to 0.02% in HICs).

Summary of reported expenditure on vaccine used in routine immunization (ratio of 2021-2023 averages)

Ratio of 2021-2023 averages (N = 140 countries)	All (140 countries)	Average of low-income countries (N = 20)	Average of lower-middle income countries (N = 45)	Average of upper-middle income countries (N = 43)	Average of high-income countries (N = 32)
Total expenditure on vaccines, in USD per capita	1.3	0.7	1	2	6
Total expenditure on vaccines, in USD per surviving infant	76	22	50	148	653
Total expenditure on vaccines, % CHE*	0.3%	2%	1%	0.4%	0.3%
Total expenditure on vaccines, % GDP*	0.02%	0.1%	0.04%	0.03%	0.02%
Total expenditure on vaccines, share paid by government	82%	20%	54%	93%	94%
Public expenditure on vaccines, % GGHE-D*	0.4%	2%	1%	0.8%	0.3%
Public expenditure on vaccines, % GGE*	0.04%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.05%

GDP: Gross Domestic Product

GGE: General Government Expenditure

CHE: Current Health Expenditure (data for 2021 only)

Expenditure excludes expenditure on COVID-19 vaccine.

Country groups are determined using World Bank income groups published on 1 July 2024.

Data sources: World Health Organization (WHO)/United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Joint Reporting Form; International Monetary Fund's (IMF's) International Financial Statistics database and World Economic Outlook database; United Nations Population Division; WHO Global Health Expenditure Database.

GGHE-D: domestic General Government Expenditure on Health
(data for 2021 only)

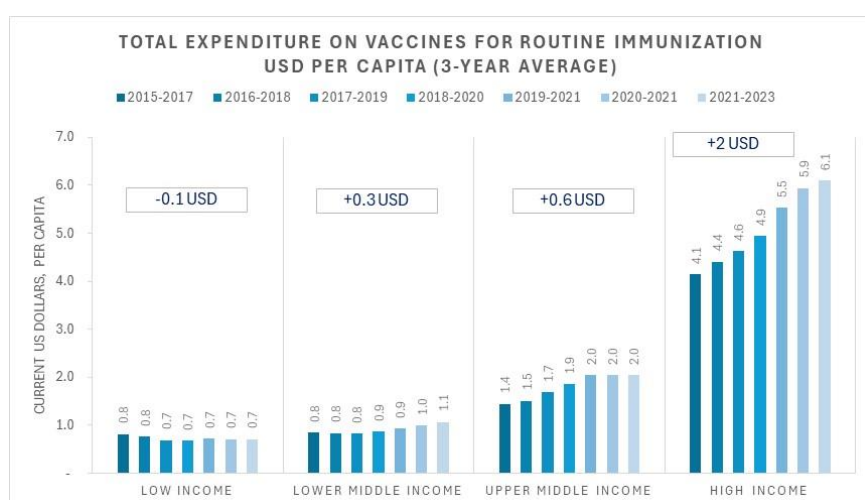
¹ See annex for list of countries

Has expenditure on vaccines for routine immunization increased over time?

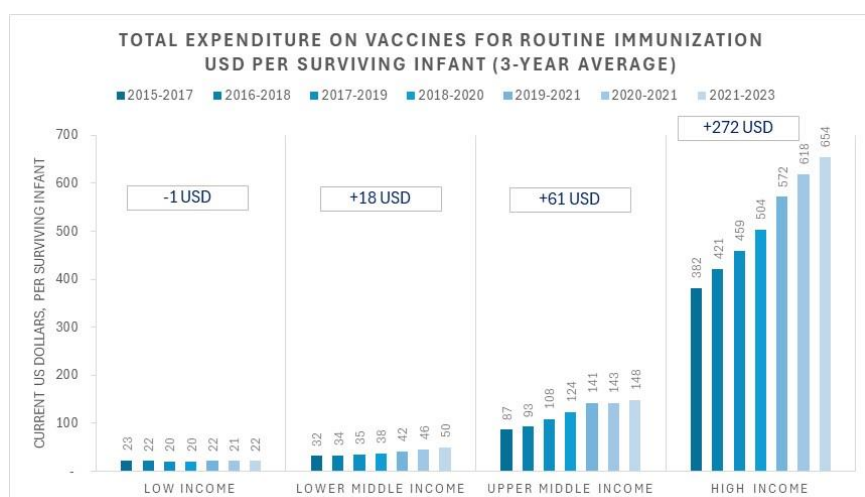
Data reported by 140 countries on total expenditure on vaccines for routine immunization between 2015 and 2023 shows an overall increase in expenditure on vaccines. The trends are presented by income group.

- Expenditure on vaccines in **low-income countries remained mostly constant** between 2015 and 2023. It however declined per capita or per surviving infant (from 0.8 to 0.7 US\$ per capita and from 23 to 22 US\$ per surviving infant).
- Expenditure on vaccines in **lower-middle income countries increased** between 2015 and 2023, including per capita and per surviving infant (from 0.8 to 1.1 US\$ per capita and from 32 to 50 US\$ per surviving infant).
- Expenditure on vaccines in **upper-middle income countries increased** between 2015 and 2023, including per capita and per surviving infant (from 1.4 US\$ to 2.0 US\$ per capita and from 87 to 148 US\$ per surviving infant).
- Expenditure on vaccines in **high-income countries increased** between 2015 and 2023, including per capita and per surviving infant (from 4.1 to 6.1 US\$ per capita and from over 380 to over 650 US\$ per surviving infant).

Trends in Expenditure on Vaccines PER CAPITA, 2015–2023 (ratio of 3-year averages)



Trends in Expenditure on Vaccines PER SURVIVING INFANT, 2015–2023 (ratio of 3-year averages)



Expenditure excludes expenditure on COVID-19 vaccine.

Country groups are determined using World Bank income groups published on 1 July 2024.

Data sources: World Health Organization (WHO)/United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Joint Reporting Form; United Nations Population Division.

Data sources & Methodology

Data sources used included:

- International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook, published in October 2024.
- United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division's 2024 revision of world population prospects.
- World Health Organization (WHO)/United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimates of national immunization coverage, published in July 2024.
- World Health Organization (WHO)/United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Joint Reporting Form, published in December 2024.
- WHO Global Health Expenditure Database data on total (current) health expenditure, primary health care expenditure and government health expenditure, extracted in December 2024.

Methodology:

- Data is presented as ratios of 3-year average. For instance, a country's expenditure on vaccines in US\$ per capita is calculated by averaging the expenditure on vaccines in US\$ for the years 2021, 2022, and 2023; averaging the population data for the same years; and then calculating the ratio.
- Country group estimates are calculated by averaging country ratios of 3-year averages.

Reporting countries (140):

Low-Income Countries (20): Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic (the), Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo (the), Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger (the), Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Togo, Uganda. **Lower-Middle Income Countries (45):** Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Comoros (the), Congo (the), Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Eswatini, Ghana, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, India, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic (the), Lebanon, Mauritania, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines (the), Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe. **Upper-Middle Income Countries (43):** Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, China, Colombia, Dominica, Dominican Republic (the), Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Georgia, Grenada, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Namibia, North Macedonia, Paraguay, Peru, Republic of Moldova (the), Saint Lucia, South Africa, Suriname, Thailand, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Ukraine, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). **High-Income Countries (32):** Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Barbados, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands (the), Oman, Panama, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea (the), San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Slovenia, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay.

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