THE IMMUNIZATION AGENDA 2030: EXTENDING THE BENEFITS OF VACCINES TO EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE

The COVID-19 pandemic has reminded the world of the power of vaccines to fight disease, save lives, and create a healthier, safer, more prosperous future. At the same time, disruptions caused by COVID-19 have severely impacted immunization programmes, leaving tens of millions of children at risk for deadly diseases.

To maintain hard-won gains in immunization, recover from disruptions caused by COVID-19, and increase equitable access to vaccines for everyone, WHO and its partners are marking World Immunization Week by launching the Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030).

What is IA2030?

IA2030 is an ambitious global strategy to maximize the lifesaving impact of vaccines that, if fully implemented, will save 50 million lives over the next decade.

- **IA2030 seeks to create a world where everyone, everywhere, at every age fully benefits from vaccines** for good health and well-being.

- **It is designed to inspire action around the world, and inform how health ministers and other leaders develop immunization programmes and set priorities.** It will also strengthen global immunization efforts by aligning all stakeholders around a shared vision, priorities, and goals.

- **IA2030 is guided by four principles: it puts people in the centre, and is led by countries, implemented through broad partnerships, and driven by high-quality data.** As an adaptive and flexible strategy, IA2030 will be tailored by countries to meet their needs, and revised as new opportunities and challenges emerge.

- **Unlike many global plans, IA2030 was developed through a collaborative “bottom up” co-creation process** that engaged thousands of stakeholders around the world. This approach has helped ensure it reflects the real needs of countries that face the greatest health inequalities. It also draws on lessons learned from implementation of the Global Vaccine Action Plan (2011-2020) and disease-specific initiatives such as polio and measles eradication efforts.

The Importance of Immunization

Immunization services are an essential part of primary health care systems, and a key contributor to people’s fundamental right to health. Some populations – often the poorest, the most marginalized, and the most vulnerable – have little or no access to immunization services. Currently, close to 20 million infants do not receive a full course of even basic vaccines, and many more miss out on newer vaccines. Of these, over 13 million “zero dose” children receive no vaccines through immunization programmes at all.

Vaccines are critical to the prevention and control of many communicable diseases, which is an essential part of global health security. In some countries, progress in immunization has stalled, or even reversed, and we risk undermining past immunization achievements. Outbreaks of
measles, diphtheria and polio are stark reminders that strong immunization programmes and effective disease surveillance are necessary to sustain high levels of immunization coverage, and to eliminate and eradicate diseases.

The Path Forward

IA2030 is designed to help advance the following strategic priorities over the next decade:

- Immunization services are accessible to all as an essential part of primary care
- Immunization is valued and sought by all people
- Everyone is protected by immunization, regardless of location, age, wealth, or gender-related barriers
- All people benefit from recommended immunizations, effectively integrated with other essential health services, at every age
- Immunization programmes prepare for, detect, and rapidly respond to disease outbreaks, and ensure service delivery during emergencies and in communities affected by conflict, disaster, and humanitarian crisis
- All countries have a reliable supply of high-quality, affordable vaccines, and sustainable financing for immunization programmes
- Innovations to increase the reach and impact of immunization programmes are rapidly made available to all countries and communities

Moving forward, IA2030 will continue championing a collaborative, country-owned partnership approach to immunization. It will now become operational through regional and national strategies and a monitoring and evaluation framework to guide and enhance country implementation.

For more information, visit [www.immunizationagenda2030.org](http://www.immunizationagenda2030.org).

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