

Encouraging Developments: New Manufacturers

In June 2020, HPV vaccine manufacturers committed to increase their manufacturing supply levels so that at least 84 million girls in the poorest countries (Gavi-supported countries) could receive HPV vaccines in the next 5-year period; averting 1.4 million future cervical cancer deaths.

The 5 players are: *MSD*, *GSK*, *Innovax*, *Serum Institute of India Pvt. Ltd.* and *Walvax*. Currently, only two manufacturers, MSD and GSK, produce WHOprequalified HPV vaccines. The other three are new to the field and are currently developing HPV vaccines which will then be reviewed for WHO prequalification. They should be approved and ready for distribution starting from 2021 in some cases, and 2022 in others.

Why is this significant?

To date we've faced a shortage in supply of the HPV vaccine, which has limited the number of girls that could be reached. Gavi's initial target to vaccinate 40 million girls between 2016 and 2020 was reduced to 14 million due to increasing global demand for, and limited supply of, HPV vaccine. This would have continued into 2021-2025 forecasts if it wasn't for the **new manufacturing commitments**; Gavi had initially forecasted that only 50 million girls would have access to the vaccine, this has been scaled up to 84 million girls.

How could this impact the WHO elimination targets?

It is hoped these new vaccines will be available at a substantially lower price than what is available today and will help to drive down the price available to countries. This means that more countries will be able to make this life-saving investment and introduce HPV vaccines into their routine immunisation programmes, bringing us closer to the WHO target of 90% of girls fully vaccinated by 2030. Note that some of this increased vaccine supply will also be available independent of Gavi. Read the press release <u>here</u>.

So, what now?

As new vaccines will be unavailable until 2021 at the earliest, we'd say to follow the usual steps. As a first step, to find out if your country can benefit from Gavi support, <u>click here</u>. We'll update our website regularly with any news.

How are countries working with Gavi to introduce the HPV Vaccine?

The Gambia recently launched the HPV vaccination into their routine immunization program, with assistance from Gavi and CCAE member, PATH. To learn more about the partnership in The Gambia, <u>click here</u>,



The GAVI Alliance, a public-private partnership dedicated to strengthening and expanding vaccine services, is the largest source of external financing for vaccines in developing countries.

Since the beginning of the GAVI HPV vaccine program in 2012, over 4million girls have been vaccinated. With the most recent fundraiser and commitments by vaccine manufacturers, GAVI estimates that up to 84million girls in qualifying countries could be vaccinated against HPV in the nest 5 years. To learn more about GAVI's HPV vaccine support, <u>click here.</u>

Although external financing support can help a country introduce HPV vaccine in the short-term, countries should plan to secure funding for long-term sustainability.

How can my country determine the cost of starting or scaling-up a national HPV vaccine program?

Financial sustainability is a key component for introducing or scaling-up a HPV vaccination program. To assist decisionmakers, <u>WHO has created a series of analytical tools</u> to assist countries with the financial planning and sustainability of HPV vaccination programs. Specifically, these tool assist countries evaluate both the financial and economic costs of settingup and scaling up HPV vaccine programs.



About Cervical Cancer Action for Elimination

Cervical Cancer Action for Elimination (CCAE) is a community of organizations and individuals working together to accelerate global progress towards cervical cancer elimination. CCAE builds connections and synergies between organizations advocating for cervical cancer elimination regionally and globally. It provides a forum for sharing information and resources, as well as amplifying the work of civil society and its shared messaging across the world. **To learn more about cervical cancer elimination, please visit** <u>https://cervicalcanceraction.org/</u> Picture Credit: pixabay