

Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Netherlands' Global Health Strategy through Gavi

The Netherlands is a leader in global health through its historic emphasis on equity, multilateralism, and sustainable development. A central pillar of this engagement is its support for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance—a public-private partnership that has immunized more than 1.2 billion children, saved more than 20 million lives, contributed to reducing under 5 mortality rates by 50%, generating more than \$280 billion in countries Gavi supports, and strengthened health systems in low-income countries. Gavi's sustainability strategy has allowed 17 countries to graduate from Gavi support. Gavi offers a powerful platform through which the Netherlands can operationalize its priorities at scale. To implement its strategy more effectively, the Netherlands could leverage Gavi not only as a vaccine delivery mechanism, but as a strategic partner for systems strengthening, equity, and resilience.

1. Ensure Predictable, Long-Term Financing, and engagement with the private sector

A cornerstone of the Netherlands' global health strategy is its commitment to universal health coverage and pandemic preparedness. Gavi directly contributes to these goals by expanding access to life-saving vaccines and strengthening immunization systems. However, Gavi's ability to deliver depends heavily on donor reliability. The Netherlands enhances its impact through its multi-year funding commitment to Gavi. The Netherlands' is also leveraging its financial strength through Gavi's International Financing Facility for Immunisation (IFFIm) to use the power of capital markets to frontload funding for immunisation. Diversified markets add to global resilience in the face of shocks like pandemics. Predictability enables Gavi to expand vaccine supply, negotiate lower vaccine prices, invest in system strengthening, and scale new vaccine rollouts—such as for malaria or HPV—more effectively. The Netherlands has a strong track record in fostering innovation and public-private partnerships. Leveraging this strength within Gavi can accelerate progress. Through the Matching Fund, the Dutch government encourages collaboration between Gavi and the private sector, such as through the partnerships with Tony's Chocolonely and Douwe Egberts, to find innovative and sustainable solutions to immunisation challenges.

2. Strengthening Global Health Systems and Advancing SRHR

A central objective of the Dutch strategy is to promote strong, equitable health systems with particular emphasis on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Through Gavi, the Netherlands can support the integration of immunization services with broader primary healthcare delivery. Immunization platforms—often the most widespread and regularly accessed health services—provide a critical entry point for delivering SRHR interventions, particularly for women and adolescents. For example, the Netherlands can champion the expansion of Gavi's HPV vaccination programs, linking them with cervical cancer screening, education, and broader reproductive health services. This approach aligns with Dutch priorities on gender equality and rights-based healthcare. Additionally,

the Netherlands could leverage its leadership position to advocate for stronger investment in community health workers, gender-sensitive programming, and equitable access for underserved populations, particularly “zero-dose” children and marginalized women and girls.

3. Enhancing Pandemic Preparedness and Cross-Border Health Security

The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the urgent need for robust global health security systems. Gavi plays a key role in pandemic preparedness through its support for vaccine stockpiles, outbreak response mechanisms, and coordination platforms. To strengthen preparedness, the Netherlands could prioritize investment in resilient immunization systems that can rapidly scale during health emergencies, such as the current ebola outbreak. This includes cold chain infrastructure, disease surveillance systems, and data integration across borders. By supporting Gavi’s health systems strengthening efforts, the Netherlands can help build capacities that are essential not only for routine immunization but also for outbreak detection and response, thereby protecting people globally as well as in the Netherlands against disease outbreaks, and the next pandemic. Supporting Gavi’s market-shaping role to incentivize regional production reduces dependency on global supply chains and enhances rapid access during crises. This aligns with broader Dutch priorities on strategic autonomy and equitable access.

4. Addressing the Health Impacts of Climate Change

Climate change is increasingly recognized as a major threat to global health, exacerbating infectious diseases, disrupting health systems, and disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations. One key area of action is strengthening climate-resilient health systems. The Netherlands supports Gavi in investing in sustainable cold chain technologies (e.g., solar-powered refrigeration), climate-adapted logistics, and infrastructure that can withstand extreme weather events. These investments not only reduce carbon footprints but also ensure continuity of essential health services in fragile environments. Moreover, climate change is altering the epidemiology of infectious diseases, increasing the risk of outbreaks such as malaria, dengue, and cholera. By supporting the introduction and scale-up of vaccines against climate-sensitive diseases, the Netherlands can help mitigate these risks. Gavi’s role in introducing new vaccines, including for malaria, is particularly relevant here.

Conclusion

The Netherlands’ investment in global health is an investment in resilient and sovereign independence. Through Gavi, the Netherlands can translate global development priorities into massive economic benefits, country partnerships, expand vaccine markets and lower costs. Gavi represents a strategic vehicle through which the Netherlands can translate its global health priorities into tangible impact. By aligning its financial contributions, policy advocacy, and technical expertise with Gavi’s evolving mandate, the Netherlands can strengthen health systems, improve pandemic preparedness, and address the growing health impacts of climate change.