

Statement by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

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Agenda item 12 – Health and care workforce

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Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

A skilled, motivated, fairly remunerated and efficient health workforce is essential for equitable and sustainable immunisation services. Community health workers play a pivotal role in identifying and reaching unvaccinated children.

These zero dose children mostly live in underserved areas where vaccination often serves as the first contact with the health system. By building trust, they bridge gaps between health services and communities.

As highlighted in the WHO report under this agenda item, 4 million Community Health Workers are currently supporting health service delivery around the world. The increase in salaried CHWs is a promising step toward stronger and more equitable health systems.

Gavi welcomes WHO's efforts to analyse CHW training programmes and develop a curriculum to enhance their education and integration. At the same time, improved disaggregated data and gender analyses on CHW will be crucial for evidence-based decision-making and tailored investments.

Gavi is committed to working with countries and partners, including the Community Health Delivery Partnership, to ensure its investments contribute to system-wide efforts to strengthen the health workforce.

To conclude, Gavi calls on Member States to:

- Prioritise investment in the health workforce to address critical shortages, particularly at primary care level.
- Leverage innovative and digital technologies to improve health worker learning, performance management, and service delivery.
- Ensure community health workers are remunerated and have decent working conditions, and importantly, ensure that women access professional development, safeguarding and equal pay.

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