

EB158 – NORWAY written statement

19. Poliomyelitis

- Norway supports polio prevention, surveillance and response as an integrated part of national health systems – as well as in regional and global preparedness and response systems. This is an important strategy towards preparing and sustaining a polio-free world.
- We would like to see an increased focus on integration of immunization in primary health care services and believe this is a sustainable strategy for reaching all children with vaccines. In places with weak routine immunization systems, we need to ensure that campaigns are effective and complementary to routine systems.
- We welcome reporting on gender equality and note the set targets. In future updates we would welcome reporting on the performance of this work.
- Collaboration is key; we positively note the recent joint board meetings between the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) and the Gavi Alliance. Collaboration between relevant actors, especially civil society, is key for demand creation, operational alignment and integration on the ground, as well as for the success of the polio transition agenda.
- An integrated approach provides the strongest case for financial support. Parallel systems don't make sense and are costly for governments to sustain.
- We therefore call for national governments to invest in health of their populations through building strong health systems providing integrated care, accessible for all.