

World Health Assembly 78

Statement by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

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Agenda item 13.7 – Health and care workforce

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Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

With over 4.5 billion people lacking access to essential health services, and a projected shortfall of 11 million health workers by 2030, it is critical to invest now in a skilled, motivated, and fairly remunerated health workforce.

Within this workforce, community health workers are essential to bring primary health care services closer to the communities they belong to and serve. By championing essential interventions like immunisation, community health workers help reduce health inequities and drive progress toward universal health coverage.

Gavi is committed to working with countries and partners to ensure its investments contribute to system-wide efforts to strengthen the health workforce.

Gavi calls upon Member States to:

- Legally recognise community health workers within the national health workforce, while ensuring they are adequately skilled, remunerated, supervised, and protected.
- Leverage the critical role of community health workers in reaching missed communities with immunisation and other essential services, such as by promoting awareness on the importance of vaccines.
- Ensure that women health workers receive fair compensation and equal pay, have opportunities for professional development and career growth and are safeguarded against violence and harassment.