



The Needs of the Poor

A specialised group within EFPIA

"We must invest in the future - for new drugs, new vaccines and new diagnostic tools. Our challenge is to create the incentives - and the right kind of economic environment - that will give priority to the diseases that create and perpetuate poverty. Research and development is a critical part of the strategy."

Dr Gro Brundtland
Director-General,
World Health Organization

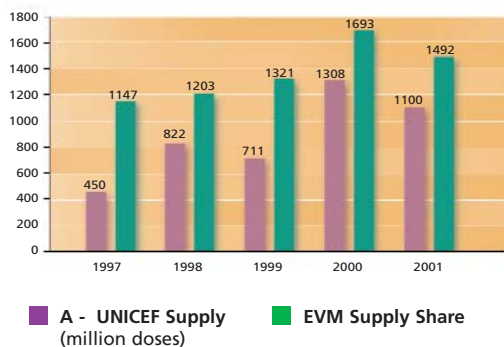
"Protecting and improving health standards, particularly of the poor and vulnerable, is crucial to social and economic development. Societies cannot prosper unless their people are healthy. Children cannot learn and adults cannot earn if they succumb to illness. Households are devastated when breadwinners fall ill or die prematurely. Protecting and improving health is a development issue, and is recognized as such by the World Health Organization's strategic framework on health and poverty reduction"

Kofi Annan
UN Secretary-General

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

The European Vaccine Manufacturers have a long tradition of providing vaccines for the children of the world. EVM companies have been helping to improve public health by supplying their high quality vaccines, which are prepared at European standards, to developing countries at prices that are affordable. Affordable prices to developing countries have been common practice among vaccine manufacturers due to the possibility of recouping research investment from industrialised countries. Without the very large proportion of vaccines that comes from EVM member companies, vaccination of the world's children, particularly those who benefit from the World Health Organization's Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI), would not be possible.

EVM companies are the largest suppliers of vaccines to UNICEF, by providing more than 70% of the vaccines UNICEF delivers to the world's children.



AN AIDS VACCINE - THE WORLD'S BEST HOPE FOR ENDING THE AIDS EPIDEMIC

With 95% of the world's 40 million HIV-infected people living in developing countries, this represents the greatest global health crisis in history. While the immediate challenge is to improve health care, including treatments for opportunistic infections and anti-retroviral therapy in the hardest-hit regions of the world, long-term success against the scourge of AIDS will come only from the development

and massive use of an HIV / AIDS vaccine.

Given the shortage of public research funds and often the restricted purchasing capacity of affected populations, public-private partnerships for vaccine development and clinical testing activities become imperative. The successful development of vaccines like those against tropical diseases requires extensive collaboration among industry, scientists and institutions, usually in the disease endemic countries.

R&D

- International Aids Vaccine Initiative (IAVI)
- Malaria Vaccine Initiative (MVI)
- The African Malaria Vaccine Testing Network / African Malaria Network (AMVTN / AMANET)
- Children's Vaccine Program (CVP) at PATH (Program for Appropriate Technology in Health)
- National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- US Agency for International Development (USAID)

Procurement and delivery

- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI)
- Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)

EVM members are working in partnership with the public sector in joint R&D activities, clinical trials partnerships, and in cooperation with international vaccine distributors and other non-governmental organisations.

On a worldwide scale, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI), combines the skills and knowledge of its stakeholders (including WHO, governments, private sector and NGO's), to broaden effectiveness of vaccine research, production and supply to all parts of the globe.

and massive use of an HIV / AIDS vaccine.

EVM companies are engaged in research and development of AIDS vaccines, where clinical trials are already underway. In addition to developing vaccines for prevention of AIDS, therapeutic AIDS vaccines are being developed that will be suitable for use in all regions of the world.

DAYS OF TRANQUILLITY

achieving the right to survival and health for children through immunisation

So-called "days of tranquillity" have been organised in several countries where armed conflict has existed since the 1980s. During these days conflict ceases, and women and children are immunised. Such schemes have taken place in Afghanistan, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lebanon, Nicaragua, Sierra Leone and the Sudan, among others.

One recent example was in Burundi where, in June and July 2002, the UN and the WHO vaccinated over 3 million children against measles, over half a million against polio, and over a million children received Vitamin A supplements.

Only through observing "days of tranquillity" could a nation-wide vaccination campaign be successful.

OTHER VACCINE R&D FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

While R&D for AIDS vaccines is a major undertaking within the vaccine industry, it is important to note that vaccines are being developed for a number of other diseases that particularly burden developing countries. EVM companies are investing in major research and development

programmes for vaccines against diseases such as dengue, leishmaniasis, rotavirus, malaria, and tuberculosis (among others).

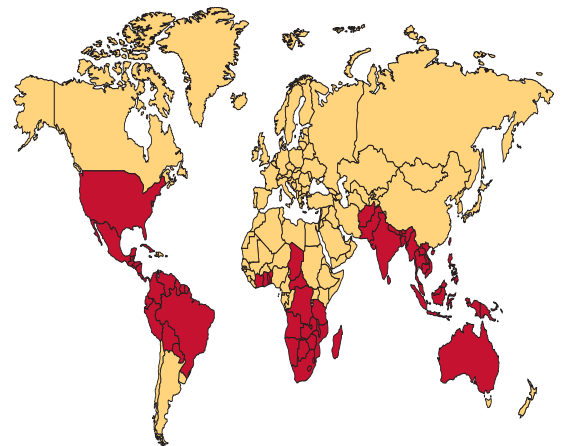
Moreover, EVM companies are developing combined vaccines that are adapted to developing countries.

EXAMPLE: THE NEED FOR A DENGUE FEVER VACCINE

Dengue and dengue haemorrhagic fever (DHF) are today a major public health problem. The primary vector mosquito has spread throughout the tropics and into susceptible human populations in urban areas, and vector control has not halted the explosion in transmission of the disease, especially during the last several years.

There is no specific treatment for dengue fever, and it is therefore crucial that research and development efforts are directed towards developing a vaccine. At present, the only method of controlling dengue and DHF is to combat the vector mosquito through chemical control and environmental management, by eliminating potential breeding sites for vector mosquitoes

DENGUE FEVER: 100 endemic countries



BUILDING VACCINE AWARENESS: NATIONAL IMMUNISATION DAY



Children being immunised in New Delhi streets

Mass vaccination programmes often require extensive organisation, management, resources and, above all, crucial funds and

support from international organisations, local experts and volunteers.

This was clearly demonstrated in India, on National Immunisation Day on 19 December 1999. 4,000 vaccination centres were established and 16,000 volunteers participated in this major operation. The campaign was widely announced throughout New Delhi, and polio vaccinations were given to thousands of children in public areas, schools, in buses and on the streets. School children were mobilised to go from house to house educating families on the benefits of vaccination.

CONCLUSION

There are still many challenges that need to be overcome before all people benefit from vaccinations that will protect them against infectious diseases. Access to immunisation varies greatly across the world. A child in a developing country is ten times more likely to die of a vaccine-preventable disease than a child from an industrialised one. In some countries, up to 70% of children do not receive the full set of vaccines; the lowest coverage is found in sub-Saharan Africa. In Africa as a whole, over 40% of children are not immunised against measles, a major cause of infant mortality that kills one child every minute. A number of factors combine to challenge vaccination efforts – including lack of funding, political priorities, lack of adequate health care infrastructure, and missed immunisation opportunities for mobile populations and those caught up in wars. Between 1997 and 2001, EVM member companies supplied 4092,9 million polio vaccine doses to UNICEF and PAHO.

EVM member companies:

Aventis Pasteur | Aventis Pasteur MSD | Baxter | Berna Biotech | Chiron Vaccines | GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals | PowderJect Pharmaceuticals | Solvay Pharmaceuticals | Wyeth Vaccines