

# Core Recommendations of the APEC Action Plan on Vaccination Across the Life-Course

## APEC economies should move to take measures to:

- 1  Promote recognition of the value of vaccination & vaccine innovation
- 2  Prioritize access to & uptake of vaccination across the life-course
- 3  Build whole-of-government capacity in health security & pandemic preparedness
- 4  Strengthen confidence in vaccination & build resilient immunization program
- 5  Enable investment & innovation in vaccine R&D, manufacturing, and delivery
- 6  Accelerate regulatory harmonization for vaccines across APEC economies
- 7  Establish proven & innovative mechanisms for sustainable immunization financing

Under a life-course approach, immunization is recognized as a strategy to prevent diseases and maximize health over one's entire life, regardless of an individual's age. It is analogous to a life-course approach to nutrition and exercise.

## Background



Vaccines save between 2 and 3 million lives every year, and are expected to keep millions of people out of poverty over the coming decade, clearly indicating a strong societal return on investment.<sup>1,2</sup>



Vaccination can also reduce the risk of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) that emerges from the misuse of antibiotics against infectious diseases, which in itself is projected to take 10 million lives annually by 2050.<sup>3</sup>



It has been estimated that measles, rotavirus, and pneumococcal conjugate vaccines could ultimately help avert \$4.6 billion in out of pocket expenses in Gavi-eligible economies between 2016 and 2030.<sup>4</sup>



Another study estimates that by 2020, vaccinations administered since 2001 in Gavi economies will have averted as much as \$350 billion in total costs due to illness. A study of five major EU economies estimated that full implementation of a vaccination program for influenza alone could result in savings of over €1.6 billion in reduced primary care visits and hospitalizations.<sup>5,6</sup>



One study of a Gavi proposal to extend the use of various childhood vaccines to 75 low-income economies found that the labor productivity benefits from expanded coverage alone could yield a return on investment of 12-18% between 2005 and 2020.<sup>7</sup>



In Indonesia, the cost of lost productivity resulting from influenza and resulting lower respiratory tract infections was estimated at \$866 million in one year alone, with an additional \$19.2 million in direct medical costs.<sup>8</sup>



In the US, the economic burden of adult-vaccine-preventable diseases was found to amount to as much as \$15 billion in a single year.<sup>9</sup>



With 50 million cases worldwide as of November 2020 (over a third in the APEC region), continuing spread, and no vaccine yet available on the market, the pandemic offers a stark demonstration of the opportunity cost of investment in immunization programs.<sup>10</sup>

Immunization programs also yield economic benefits. As demonstrated by a research study conducted in the Philippines, vaccination can induce improvements in test scores in children, which yields a return on investment as high as 21% when translated into the earnings of adults.<sup>11,12</sup>



# Pillar 1

Promote recognition of the value of vaccination and vaccine innovation by policymakers and key decision-makers.

## Target 1.1

By 2030, all APEC member economies have introduced standardized systems, based on the respective needs and priorities of economies, to generate data on direct and indirect benefits of vaccination that meet quality standards, including the full societal value, to drive policy decisions and prioritization

### INDICATOR

Percentage of APEC economies that have in place a facility to generate data on both the direct and indirect benefits of vaccination

## Target 1.2

By 2030, all APEC member economies have introduced value assessment frameworks that are used to drive policy and decision-making processes, taking into account direct, indirect, economic, and societal value of vaccination

### INDICATOR

Percentage of APEC economies that utilize comprehensive value assessment frameworks for the evaluation of immunization programs' health, social, and economic impact to drive vaccine policy and decision-making

## Target 1.3

By 2030, all APEC economies commit to incorporating the latest knowledge and data on the value of vaccination into the decision-making processes of leaders

### INDICATOR

Percentage of APEC economies that have established a communications plan to translate data and analysis of value of vaccination into policy recommendations accessible to stakeholders

# Pillar 2

Prioritize access to and uptake of vaccination across the life-course for all individuals

## Target 2.1

By 2030, each APEC member economy has established comprehensive domestic immunization calendars and immunization programs that cover all stages of life (including all ages) to provide broad access to protection against vaccine-preventable diseases for all populations

### INDICATOR

Vaccine coverage rate for routine immunizations in each APEC economy, and across the region as a whole

## Target 2.2

By 2030, all APEC economies achieve full vaccine coverage for all populations where appropriate – including foreign residents, migrant workers, refugees and stateless persons – through immunization programs that ensure equitable access across the life-course

### INDICATOR

Number of new vaccines, underutilized vaccines, and vaccines with expanded indications introduced into the public immunization programs of each APEC economy over the decade, including booster programs and travel-related vaccinations

## Target 2.3

APEC economies regularly and creatively engage in impactful partnerships with stakeholders to encourage vaccination

### INDICATOR

Percentage of APEC economies that have put in place a team and/or process dedicated to maintaining stakeholder partnerships to incentivize vaccines uptake

# Pillar 3

Build whole-of-government capacity in health security and pandemic preparedness

## Target 3.1

By 2030, all APEC economies have established mechanisms to effectively mobilize resources in order to deliver vaccines during health emergencies

### INDICATOR

- Establishment of cross-sector dialogue mechanisms or fora to develop strategy for emergency resource mobilization
- Regular participation by APEC economies in the mechanism

## Target 3.2

By 2030, all APEC economies have established recovery strategies for their immunization programs in the aftermath of acute health emergencies situations and/or humanitarian crises

### INDICATOR

Number of APEC economies that have established not only a pandemic preparedness strategy, but also pandemic recovery strategy with “catch-up” immunization embedded into this strategy

## Target 3.3

By 2030, all APEC economies have full surveillance and monitoring capacity to track any risk of health emergencies due to vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks, and to ensure progress towards vaccines uptake across the life-course

### INDICATOR

Percentage of economies that have designed a comprehensive process for collecting and evaluating data on the uptake of vaccines, the status of infectious diseases, changing environmental conditions, and any emerging resistance patterns

# Pillar 4

## Strengthen confidence in vaccination and build resilient immunization programs

### Target 4.1

By 2030, all APEC economies have established rapid, agile and responsive systems that can assess areas of systemic vulnerability, identify gaps, and mitigate the risk of threats to confidence

#### INDICATOR

Percentage of APEC economies that have put in place a team with the necessary skills and/or process designated to analyze system vulnerabilities and address emerging or potential threats to immunization

### Target 4.2

By 2030, all APEC economies have full monitoring and response capacity to understand crises in vaccines confidence as well as the necessary strategies to address issues

#### INDICATOR

Percentage of APEC economies which conduct in depth domestic specific studies to understand barriers to vaccination

### Target 4.3

By 2030, all APEC economies have active and productive channels of engagement with healthcare professionals (HCPs) that help to educate and empower them to advocate for vaccination and provide reassurance to patients with doubts about vaccination

#### INDICATOR

- Percentage of economies that have put in place a communications team and/or process to build skills to manage patients who may be hesitant
- Percentage of APEC economies with well-defined scheduled for HCP vaccination

### Target 4.4

By 2030, all APEC economies commit to incorporating the latest knowledge and data on the value of vaccination into the decision-making processes of leaders

#### INDICATOR

Percentage of APEC economies that have put in place a communications team with the skills to implement a communications program which promotes confidence in vaccination among the public and HCPs

# Pillar 5

Enable investment and innovation in vaccine R&D, manufacturing, and delivery

## Target 5.1

By 2030, all APEC economies establish policies and procedures that foster public-private dialogue between vaccine producers and governments in order to chart an optimal course for encouraging investment in innovation

### INDICATOR

Percentage of APEC economies that have consolidated a private sector strategy to guide engagements with vaccine or broader pharmaceutical producers

## Target 5.2

By 2030, all APEC economies maintain mechanisms to enhance producers' understanding of local demand and health needs, in order to inform R&D and reduce the commercial uncertainty of new investments

### INDICATOR

Percentage of APEC economies that have consolidated a private sector strategy to guide engagements with vaccine or broader pharmaceutical producers

# Pillar 6

## Accelerate regulatory harmonization for vaccines across APEC economies

### Target 6.1

APEC-wide endorsement of and adherence to a set of agreed regulatory practices including adherence to globally recognized regulatory harmonization recommendations and guidelines, in order to ensure effective supply chains and sufficient inventory

#### INDICATOR

- APEC-wide endorsement and recommendation for members to implement globally recognized regulatory harmonization guidelines for vaccines
- APEC workshops and capacity building to support implementation

### Target 6.2

By 2030, all APEC economies have undertaken capacity building initiatives to accelerate adoption of globally recognized recommendations and guidance on regulatory harmonization for vaccines

#### INDICATOR

Percentage of economies where capacity-building trainings have been designed and initiated, involving coordination between global vaccine producers, local producers, and regulators

### Target 6.3

Continuing multisectoral collaboration within and across APEC economies to ensure robust supply chain and access to vaccines across the globe

#### INDICATOR

APEC endorsement of recommendations on global vaccine supply chain security and incentives for investment and expanded access

# Pillar 7

Establish proven & innovative mechanisms for sustainable immunization financing

## Target 7.1

By 2030, all APEC economies make commitments on economy-wide immunization funding

### INDICATOR

Percentage of APEC economies that have written and introduced an Economy-wide Immunization Plan with provisions for the life-course and concrete proposals for financing strategies

## Target 7.2

Establishment of joint platforms within and across APEC economies in order to foster collaboration to identify and resolve financing challenges

### INDICATOR

Percentage of APEC economies with health or other officials participating in an APEC-wide dialogue on financing strategies for immunization programs

## Target 7.3

Each APEC economy utilizes decentralized strategies to the extent necessary in its given context, in order to facilitate local alignment of funding and needs

### INDICATOR

Percentage of APEC economies that have conducted an investigation of the feasibility, benefits, and risks of introducing decentralized strategies into their immunization plans

# References

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