

Statement by GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance

Agenda item 3: Programme of Action: Areas in need of support (Part III B)

13/06/2018 – Geneva, Palaix des Nations, Room XVII

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance welcomes the Third Draft Global Compact on Refugees, including the strengthening of the section dedicated to children-specific vulnerabilities and response and the addition of the youth dimension. We also welcome

- **The inclusion of vaccines** as a component of service delivery.
- **The Support to capacity development and training opportunities for refugees and members of host communities** as a means to strengthen internal and external support to health systems.
- The inclusion of **girls** alongside women, children and youth and the inclusion of **relevant civil society organisations** as one of the main stakeholders of health. Under Gender section, **the support to facilitate access to age- and gender-responsive social and health care services**

However, unequal access to health services and outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases continue to be major contributors to poor health outcomes and impose high social and economic costs. Immunisation is instrumental to build affordable health systems, and a strong contributor to outbreak preparedness and response strategies.

Strengthening the compact with just **three changes** will save considerable costs and resources, help build resilient health systems and serve as a key investment in human capital:

- Under section **§54 on Immediate reception arrangements**, contribution of resources and expertise by stakeholders should also include **“Assessing health needs, including immunisation status and capacity to provide services, essential diagnostics, medicines and vaccines.”**
- Under section on Health: in **§72** include **“those who are vulnerable to outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases”**; and in **§73** include **“immunisation services”** when talking about **disease prevention**
- Under the section on Children and Youth, **§76** Capacity development for relevant authorities to include **assessments to identify gender-related barriers that are relevant to the specific context** to inform decisions that concern refugee children.

For your reference, a document has been made public and shared with the secretariat with greater details for your kind perusal.

We thank UNCHR for their leadership in ensuring an inclusive and consultative process and look forward to the finalisation of this important Compact.