

Summary of conversation with Amy Dietterich, GAVI Civil Society Organization Constituency Officer, June 29, 2012

GiveWell contacted Amy Dietterich as part of our research on giving opportunities to expand access to vaccination in the developing world. A representative of the Decade of Vaccines Collaboration suggested speaking to Ms. Dietterich about this topic. Ms. Dietterich works for International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the role of GAVI CSO Constituency CFP Officer and Advisor to the Civil Society Board Representative. She coordinates the work of the constituency, which is described below.

How GAVI's Civil Society Organization Constituency works

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) hosts the position of the GAVI CSO Constituency Officer. The CSO Constituency is represented on the GAVI Alliance board and plays many roles within the Alliance, including but not limited to advocacy functions, vaccine delivery, and a watch dog role at the community, country and global level. The GAVI CSO Constituency includes a wide variety of organizations from grassroots organizations working on the ground in GAVI-eligible countries to large international charities, to academic institutions. There are over 200 organizations in the constituency.

Vaccination services provided by civil society organizations

Types of services that in-country civil society organizations may provide include:

- Going door-to-door to encourage mothers to bring their children to the clinic to be vaccinated
- Working in communities to decrease opposition to vaccination
- Administering vaccinations
- Advocating to governments to expand vaccination services
- Alerting governments to problems in the vaccination delivery system
- Providing testimonials to GAVI's donors to encourage them to support GAVI's work

Funding gaps in global vaccine delivery

Ms. Dietterich believes that the greatest funding needs are at the community level, and that the way to expand vaccination beyond the ~80% of children who currently receive it is to fund civil society organizations that have long-standing relationships with communities and who work with country-level partners.

Civil society organizations have not previously received funding directly from GAVI. Although GAVI has recently agreed to provide some funding to these organizations, country governments will have to give approval for the funding to be allocated and governments may be resistant to doing so.

Other organizations

Ms. Dieterich believes that the MSF's work on vaccination in challenging situations is particularly strong.

As a result of weak routine immunization systems in some countries, there have been measles outbreaks in a number of countries. The Measles and Rubella Initiative seeks to address this and recently received a large amount of funding from GAVI.

Supporting routine vaccination versus vaccination campaigns

Ms. Dieterich believes that these are equally important.

Building capacity

Vaccination systems have been largely vertical systems that have performed well in parallel with weak health systems. Ms. Dieterich believes there is a need to integrate vaccination systems with general health systems in order to strengthen the health systems and allow new vaccinations, such as HPV, to reach populations not traditionally reached by vaccination systems. GAVI, the Global Fund, and the World Bank have programs to strengthen health systems. The International Health Partnership (IHP+) assists countries with their health system planning.