

# #VaccinesWork

*If we truly want vaccines to play a role in preventing major global pandemics, then we need to invest more in their development before outbreaks occur.*

*- Dr. Seth Berkley, CEO Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance*

To many, it feels like we are characters in a movie as our lives and those of people around the world face total upheaval by the [COVID-19](#) pandemic, and the lack of an available vaccine. Now more than ever, we are reminded that [#VaccinesWork](#) to protect and improve the health of everyone on the planet.

Immunization programmes, such as those supported by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative ([GPEI](#)) and [Gavi](#), the Vaccine Alliance play a critical role in strengthening health systems to ensure they can withstand shocks. They are vital to ensuring that even as systems are stretched by the fight to curb the pandemic, we don't lose ground in important long-term battles against diseases like measles or polio.

As the world races to develop a vaccine for COVID-19, Gavi will be especially critical to rolling it out and, in the interim, has already committed to supporting low and

middle income countries that will require additional support in containing COVID-19.

The poorest and most vulnerable are often the hardest hit in times of [crisis](#). We need to send a message now to Canadian decision makers about their pledge to GPEI and Gavi: investing in vaccines cannot wait.

**Ask #1:** Canada to pledge \$215 million over 4 years to GPEI.

**Ask #2:** Canada to pledge \$600 million over 5 years to Gavi.

## about GPEI

Polio mainly affects children under 5 years of age. As long as a single child remains infected, children in all countries are at risk. It is a disease that can frequently lead to permanent paralysis and sometimes death. Thanks to GPEI, the number of polio cases around the world has dropped from approximately 350,000 a year in 1988 to 33 in Afghanistan and Pakistan in 2018. If we act boldly now, we can eradicate polio from the globe in the next few years.

## about Gavi

As a critically important vaccine provider to the world's poorest countries, Gavi has vaccinated 690 million children since 2000. It is estimated that up to 3 million lives are saved every year because of these increases in childhood immunizations. Over the next 5 years, let's ensure that Gavi can continue to provide 18 different kinds of vaccines (such as the HPV Vaccine, the world's first cancer preventing vaccine) to over 300 million children.

## latest campaign wins

- Volunteers got **LTEs** (letters to the editor) published
- Pacific Regional Conference goes virtual! For the first time ever, Results volunteers in the U.S. and in Canada joined together online for a day of learning, inspiration and advocacy - a terrific example of resilience and a testament to community! Congratulations to volunteers of Washington State and Victoria (BC) for putting this day together.

Learn more about **immunizations** and see our up-to-date campaign milestones. Find more resources **here** to help you take action.



### Dr. Chizoba Wonodi

Public health physician, researcher and advocate, Nigeria

Dr. Wonodi is an advocate for vaccines and has worked with grassroots women's organizations with a focus on strengthening immunization programs and health systems in Nigeria. She is a strong supporter of Gavi and is actively engaging with Canadian decision makers to encourage their continued investment in immunization programs around the world.

*"Immunization is key to prevention of measles and other childhood diseases."*

Meet more of our immunization **champions**

MEET MORE OF OUR IMMUNIZATION **champions.**



## resources



### immunizations brief for MPs

See all our resources under **your tools**. #VaccinesWork action sheets can be found under *education tools, about campaigns*. For other past action sheets, **email us**.

## key dates

Apr 7: World Health Day

Apr 19-25: National Volunteer Week

Apr 24-30: World Immunization Week

Apr 25: World Malaria Day

## hashtags

#Canadianaid  
#Cdnpoli  
#EndPolio  
#VaccinesWork  
#ProtectTheNextGeneration  
#PolioFreeWorld  
#WIW2020

## tags

@ResultsCda  
@JustinTrudeau  
@KarinaGould  
@CanadaDev

## keywords

Canadian aid  
Global Polio Eradication Initiative  
GPEI  
Vaccines  
Gavi  
National Volunteer Week  
World Immunization Week