



unicef   
for every child

Gavi   
Global Vaccines Alliance

 World Health  
Organization

# WELCOME

Day 2 presentations

MENA Regional VPPEF  
19 & 20 October 2022  
Amman, Jordan

# OVER THE NEXT TWO DAYS

## KEY OBJECTIVES

TO SHARE EXPERIENCES & LESSONS  
LEARNED AROUND NVI

TO PROVIDE PRACTICAL INFORMATION  
& OPPORTUNITIES TO ENSURE  
SUSTAINABLE ACCESS TO VACCINES

TO REVIEW THE CURRENT SITUATION &  
CHALLENGES FACED IN THE REGION  
DURING INTRODUCTIONS & DEVELOP  
ROADMAPS TO ADDRESS THESE  
CHALLENGES

TO FOSTER OPPORTUNITIES TO  
CONTINUE THE CONVERSATIONS ON  
THE VPPN AND IN THE REGION

TO SHARE RELEVANT RESOURCES AND  
TOOLS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT  
COUNTRIES & IDENTIFY ANY  
ADDITIONAL NEEDS

## DAY 1 | WEDNESDAY

OPENING & WELCOME

INTRODUCTIONS, OBJECTIVES &  
SECURITY BRIEFING

OVERVIEW OF THE REGION'S  
IMMUNIZATION PROGRAMMATIC STATUS

GOVERNMENT PARTNER UPDATES

UPDATE ON THE CURRENT STATE OF  
GLOBAL VACCINE SUPPLY

LEVERAGING MARKET INTELLIGENCE

VACCINE SECURITY

UPDATE ON UNICEF PROCUREMENT  
STRENGTHENING INITIATIVES

## DAY 2 | THURSDAY

OPENING & RECAP

GOVERNMENT PARTNER UPDATES

NVI: PROGRAM IMPLICATIONS &  
IMPLEMENTATION

SUSTAINABLE FINANCING FOR NVI IN  
MENA

ROADMAPS: DEVELOPMENT OF  
COUNTRY ACTION PLANS

NEXT STEPS & CLOSING

RECAP...



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# Government partner updates

*\* Please note that country posters are saved in separate file*

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## **New vaccine introduction: Programme implications & implementation**

Motuma Abeshu  
Immunization Specialist  
UNICEF MENA Regional Office





## What factors prompt countries to introduce new vaccines?

- Systematic surveillance or laboratory-confirmed disease burden studies may reveal a high incidence or mortality from a vaccine-preventable disease (for example, pneumococcal disease or rotavirus diarrhoea).
- The disease may be spreading within a country, increasing in incidence or re-emerging (e.g., Japanese encephalitis, cholera).
- A new or improved vaccine coming onto the market, or a new WHO recommendation may also spur countries to consider introducing a vaccine into their programme.
- Availability of donor support (including funding through the GAVI Alliance),
- Offers of vaccine donations from pharmaceutical companies and political pressures, etc.



## What factors prompt countries to introduce new vaccines?

- Regardless of the circumstances and sources of funding, it is important that countries undertake a systematic decision-making process based on a review of the evidence and consideration of the appropriateness and long-term financial and other consequences of introducing the vaccine.



- What are the key issues to consider when deciding on the introduction of a vaccine:

### THE DISEASE

- Public health and political priorities, alignment with global and regional recommendations
- Disease burden
- Status of other disease prevention and control measures

### THE VACCINES

- Performance and characteristics of available vaccines
- Economic and financial issues
- Availability of vaccine supply



**STRENGTH OF THE IMMUNIZATION PROGRAMME AND HEALTH SYSTEM**





# What factors prompt countries to introduce new vaccines?



Decision making

- The importance of the health problem (disease burden, political priority, perceptions of importance (e.g. in terms of perceived severity or vulnerability),
- Performance and characteristics of available vaccine (safety, efficacy/effectiveness, vaccination/delivery schedule, storage requirements,
- Supply availability
- Financial/ economic issues (Vaccine price, affordability, financial sustainability, Incremental costs, ...
- Capacity of immunization the immunization programme



Planning

- Target population
- Vaccination schedule
- Introduction strategy (phased/nationwide, routine/campaign)
- Cold chain & storage capacity
- Forecasting (vaccines & immunization supplies)
- Resource mobilization
- Procurement



Implementation

- Vaccine arrival
- National/subnational stock levels and stock-outs
- VVM status
- New products, potential product switch decision



## Group activities

In your respective groups, please dive deeper into these issues and highlight your experiences:

- Drivers of new vaccine introduction,
- Relevance of some of the parameters highlighted in the decision making, planning or implementation phases to the context of your country;
- Key challenges faced and/or opportunities during the appraisal and implementation of these activities, and
- The solutions you will propose or lessons you would like to share with other country colleagues to address these challenges.
- What's the future plan of action to improve this situation should your country intends to have new vaccine introduced



## Presentations from group work:

- High level summary of most critical issues to be considered during decision making, planning and/or implementation of new vaccine introduction
- What are the challenges and/or opportunities during these exercises?
- What are the lessons learned for future similar exercises?



## Group activities

### Group 1:

- Djibouti
- Iraq
- Palestine
- Sudan

### Group 2:

- Algeria
- Lebanon
- Tunisia

### Group 3:

- Egypt
- Iran
- Jordan
- Morocco

# QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

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# Gavi MICs Approach

# The MICs Approach addresses key threats to equity and sustainability

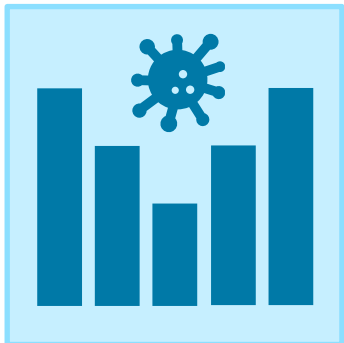
## Problem statement

## Objectives



MICs are lagging behind in introducing critical vaccines, presenting a threat to inter-country equity

Drive the sustainable introduction of PCV, rotavirus, and HPV vaccines in former- and select never-Gavi eligible countries



Risk of backsliding, heightened by the pandemic, exacerbates intra-country inequities and jeopardises the legacy of Gavi investments

Prevent and mitigate backsliding in vaccine coverage in former-Gavi eligible countries

# Countries and economies eligible under the MICs Approach as of July 2022

Former-Gavi eligible countries			Never-Gavi eligible countries*		
Angola	Guyana	Sri Lanka	<b>Algeria</b>	Kosovo	Saint Lucia
Armenia	Honduras	Timor-Leste	Belize	<b>Lebanon</b>	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Azerbaijan	Indonesia	Ukraine	Cabo Verde	Maldives	Samoa
Bhutan	Kiribati	Uzbekistan	Dominica	Marshall Islands	Tonga
Bolivia	Moldova	Viet Nam	<b>Egypt</b>	Micronesia	<b>Tunisia</b>
Cuba	Mongolia		El Salvador	<b>Morocco</b>	Tuvalu
Georgia	Nicaragua		Eswatini	<b>Occupied Palestinian territory</b>	Vanuatu
			Fiji	Philippines	Venezuela
			Grenada		
			<b>Iran</b>		

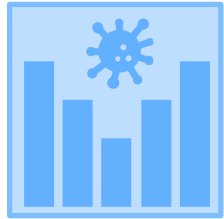
Note that countries retain their eligibility through the duration of the Gavi 5.0 strategic period

\*Includes World Bank classified lower middle-income countries, IDA-eligible economies and Venezuela following Gavi Board approval as eligible under the MICs Approach in the absence of a World Bank classification

,The term countries is used to denote both countries and economies. Gavi's engagement does not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of Gavi concerning the legal status of any country, territory or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of frontiers or boundaries.



# The MICs Approach is guided by explicit outcomes, reflecting its clear focus on results



## Mitigating backsliding

**90%** of former-Gavi countries with **>90%** pre-COVID DTP3 coverage restore coverage back above this threshold & remaining countries **arrest the decline** and begin an **upward trajectory**



## Reducing zero-dose

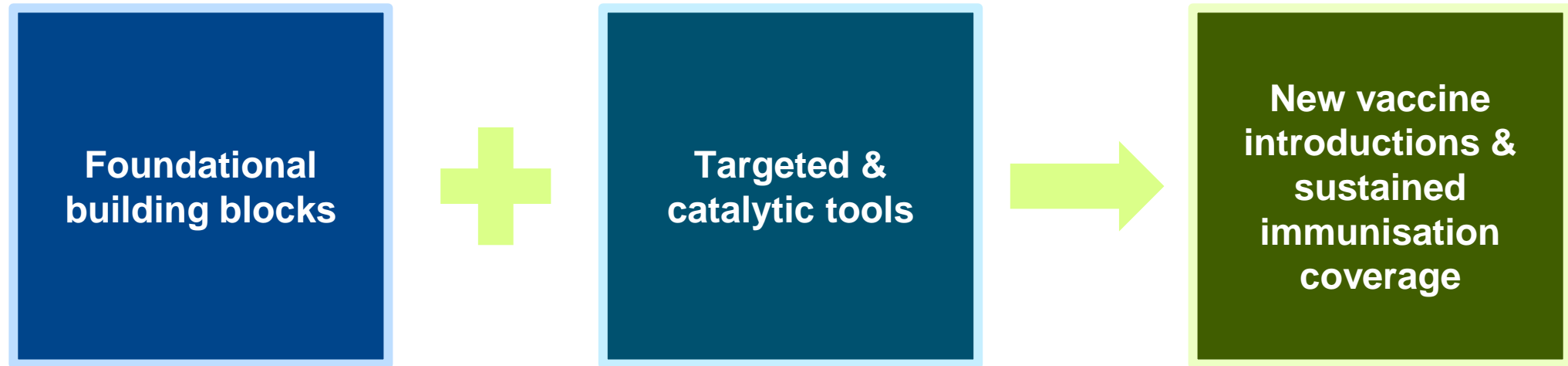
Reduce the number of zero-dose children by **230,000** in former-Gavi countries



## New vaccine introductions

Introduce **8-10** new vaccines and reach **4M-6M** children/adolescents

# Gavi aims to achieve the MICs Approach objectives by working at two levels



# Foundational building blocks: Addressing systemic issues across middle-income countries

Gavi works hand-in-hand with **core and expanded partners** to **strengthen the enabling environment** for new vaccine introductions and sustainable immunisation programmes, with efforts including:



Providing regional and multi-country **technical assistance**



Supporting **peer-to-peer learning** platforms



Galvanising **political commitment**

# Targeted & catalytic tools: Addressing country-specific needs to introduce new vaccines

A suite of targeted and catalytic tools helps drive the sustainable and equitable introduction of PCV, rotavirus, and HPV vaccines in former- and select never-Gavi eligible countries:

- **Dedicated in-country technical assistance** via relevant core and expanded partners
- **Flexible funding to cover time-limited, one-off costs** related to new vaccine introductions
- **Vaccine catalytic financing** for half the first birth (or target) cohort
- Assistance accessing **pooled procurement** as a mechanism to support sustainable access to new vaccines, including sustainable prices

# Summary of MICs Approach support modalities

Intervention area	MICs Approach objective		Support
	Backsliding	NVI	
1 Foundational building blocks	✓	✓	Advocacy to galvanise political commitment for new vaccine introductions and sustainable immunisation programmes
	✓	✓	Multi-country technical assistance to address shared barriers to new vaccine introductions and risk factors for backsliding
	✓	✓	Peer-to-peer learning platforms to help countries and partners share best practices and lessons learnt
2 Responsive & catalytic tools		✓	Technical assistance to drive sustainable and equitable new vaccine introductions
		✓	Flexible, one-off funding to cover costs related to new vaccine introduction
		✓	Assistance accessing pooled procurement mechanisms in collaboration with UNICEF SD
		✓	Vaccine catalytic financing for half the first birth (or target) cohort
	✓		Targeted interventions to restore routine immunisation coverage

# Thank you

- More information:
- <https://www.gavi.org/types-support/sustainability/gavi-mics-approach>



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## Sustainable Financing

Dorcas Noertoft  
Chief, Procurement Services  
UNICEF Supply Division



# Agenda

1

Understand the current vaccine procurement financing landscape in the region

2

Discuss the availability of data on vaccination procurement budgets in MENA

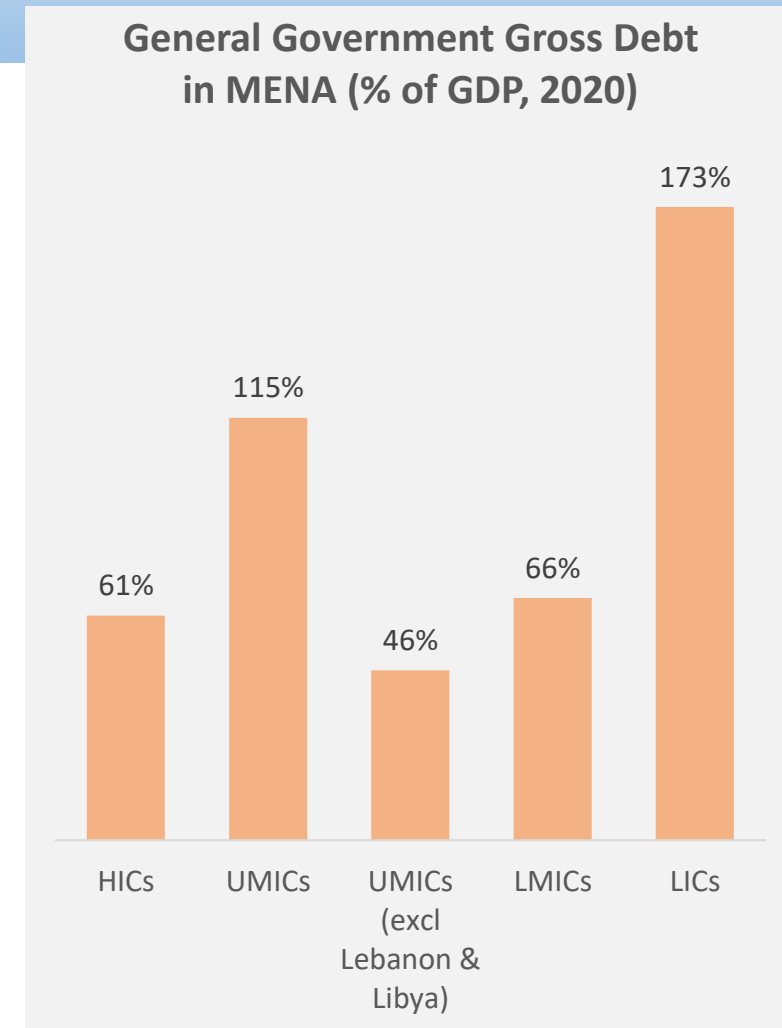
3

Discuss the possible financing and budgeting gaps and arrangements in the region



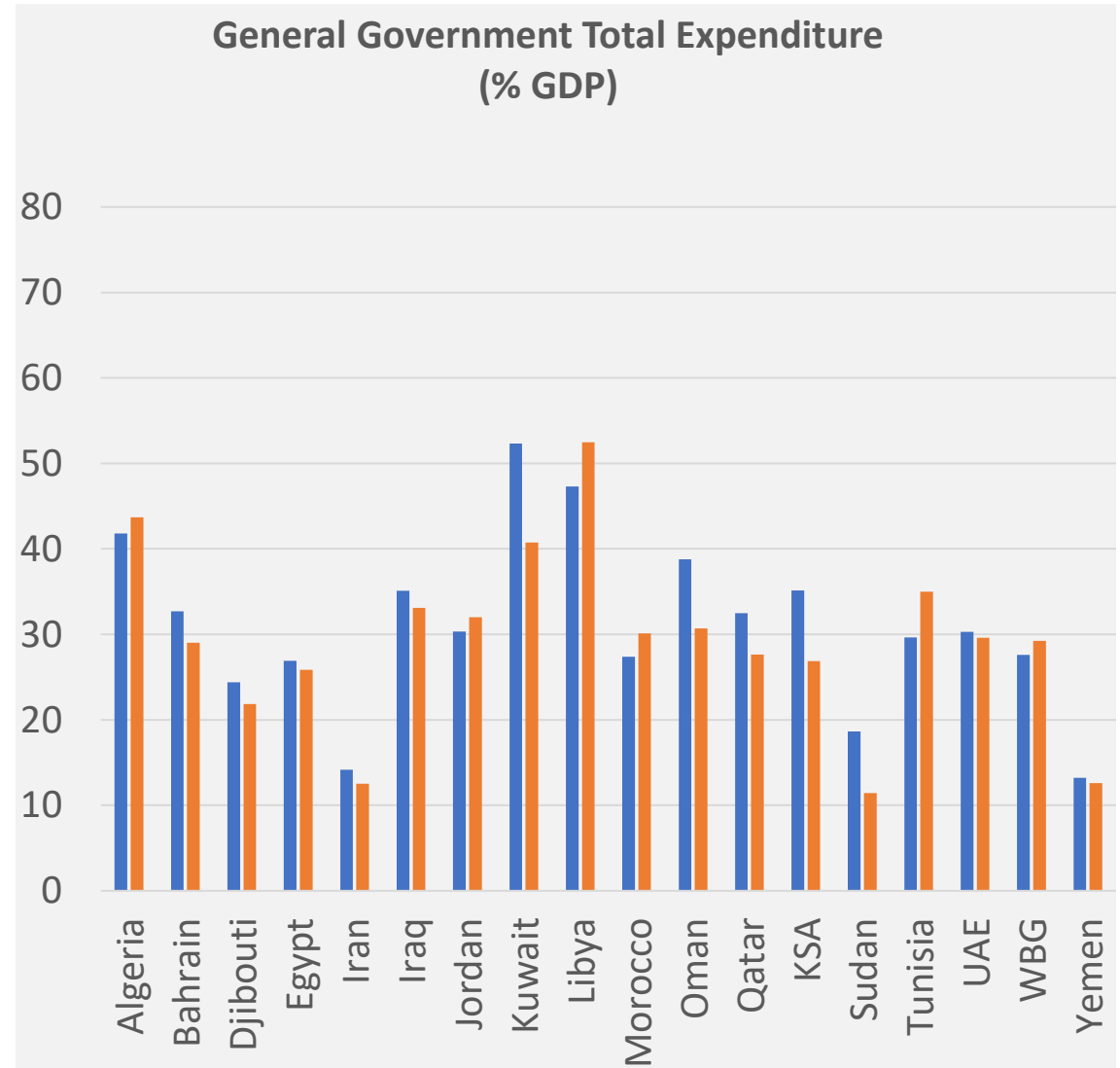
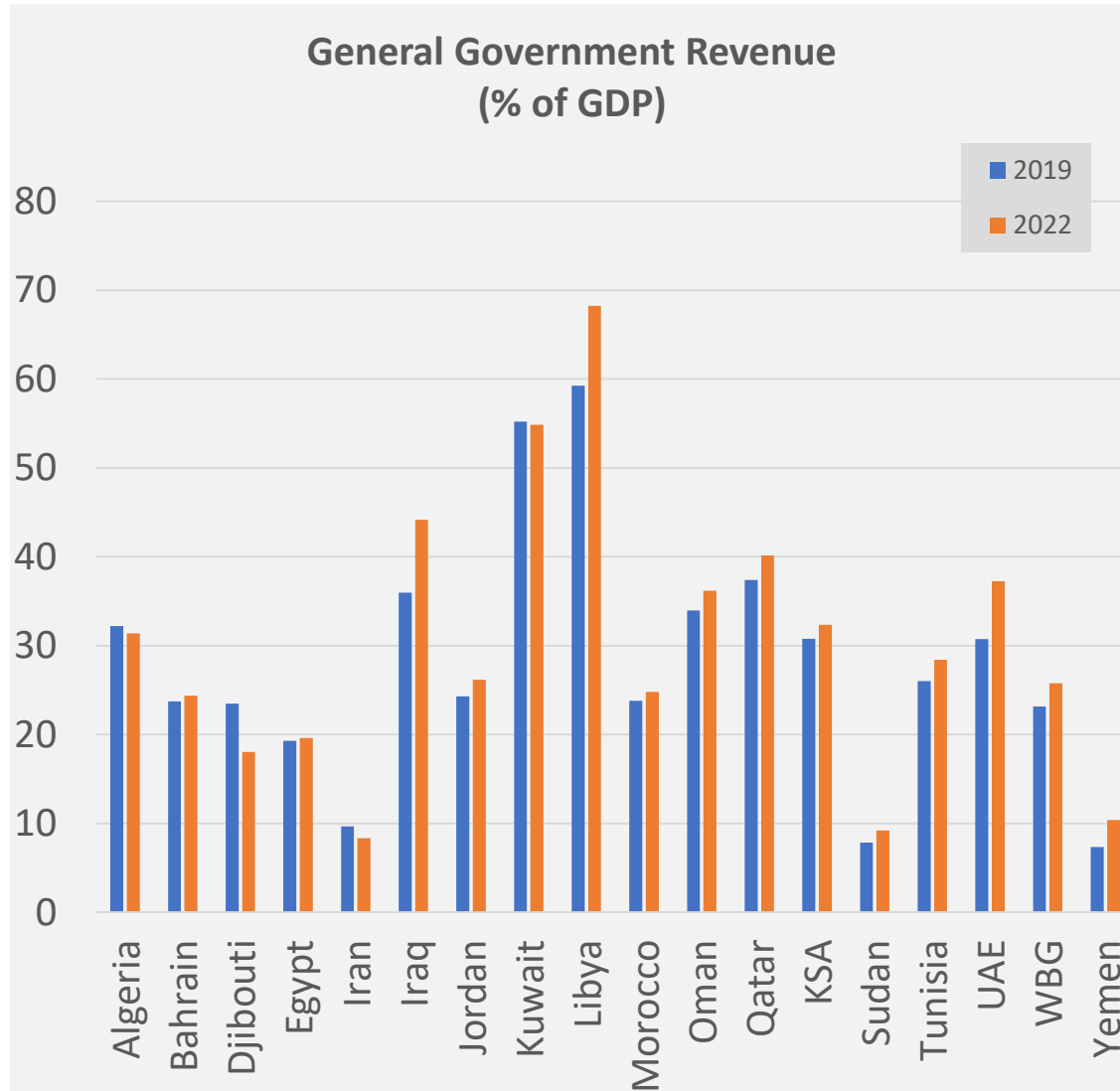
# Context: Impact of COVID-19 in MENA

- MENA's economy has been significantly affected by the global demand shock that led to a collapse in oil prices in 2020
- Devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic (the accumulated cost in 2019-2020 was estimated at US\$ 319 billion, ~12% of GDP)
- Revenues fell by 2.8% of GDP, while expenditures increased in most MENA countries, on average, by 6% of GDP
- The fiscal packages introduced by MENA countries to cushion the pandemic's impact averaged about 2% of GDP (IMF)
- The absolute and relative size of government debt (mostly external) across MENA was increasing prior to COVID-19
- ODA flows have been a relatively lower source of financing for the MENA countries compared to other developing regions (~0.8% of GNI)
- The war in Ukraine and the impending increase in global interest rates will further reduce fiscal space in many countries, especially oil- and food-importing developing economies



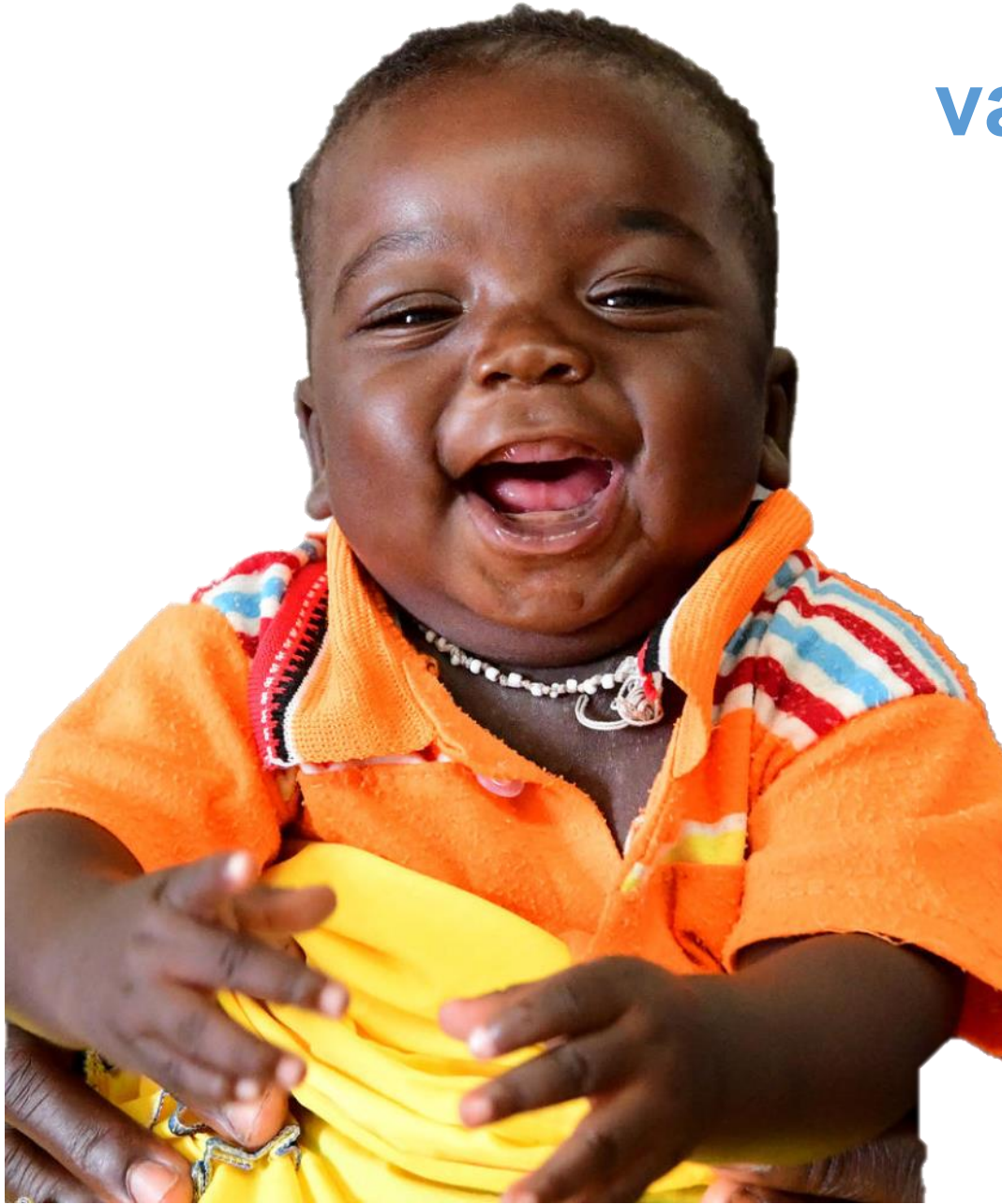
Sources: Data for all MENA countries included (18) except for Libya is sourced from the IMF's World Economic Outlook April 2021 database. Data on Libya comes from the World Bank's Macro Poverty Outlook database. Neither database has recent data on Syria.

# Government expenditure, expressed as a percentage of GDP, will not reach the 2019 level



Sources: IMF, [World Economic Outlook Report \(October Update\)](#), 2022

# Financing landscape of vaccine procurement in MENA



- Most countries were slow to adopt the newer, more expensive life-saving vaccines due to financial constraints and the socioeconomic context
- Some countries – directly impacted by conflict and political unrest – were unable to finance their ‘traditional’ vaccination programmes
- The ministerial health budget is a mainstay of vaccine and immunization financing in most MENA countries
- Private-sector provision of routine immunization is modest (under 10% of all immunization) and typically financed by out-of-pocket spending



# Vaccine security: Sustained, uninterrupted supply of affordable vaccines of assured quality

## Vaccine Security

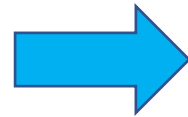
Available  
Funding



Accurate  
Forecasting



Appropriate  
Contracting



## Sustainable financing:

Mobilisation, equitable allocation, and efficient utilisation of available resources to ensure uninterrupted supply of vaccines



# Sustainable financing for immunization

## Sustained availability and optimization of resources to ensure every child fully benefits from vaccines

### Predictable and adequate resources



Mobilization and adequate allocation of sufficient resources to meet the true costs of supplies.

### Maximizing the Impact of Investment



Optimal coordination across sectors; engendering cost efficiency; ensuring equitable and optimal allocation mix targeting high-impact interventions

### Measuring and monitoring investment



Monitoring size, composition and equity of spending; Ensuring budget transparency and accountability



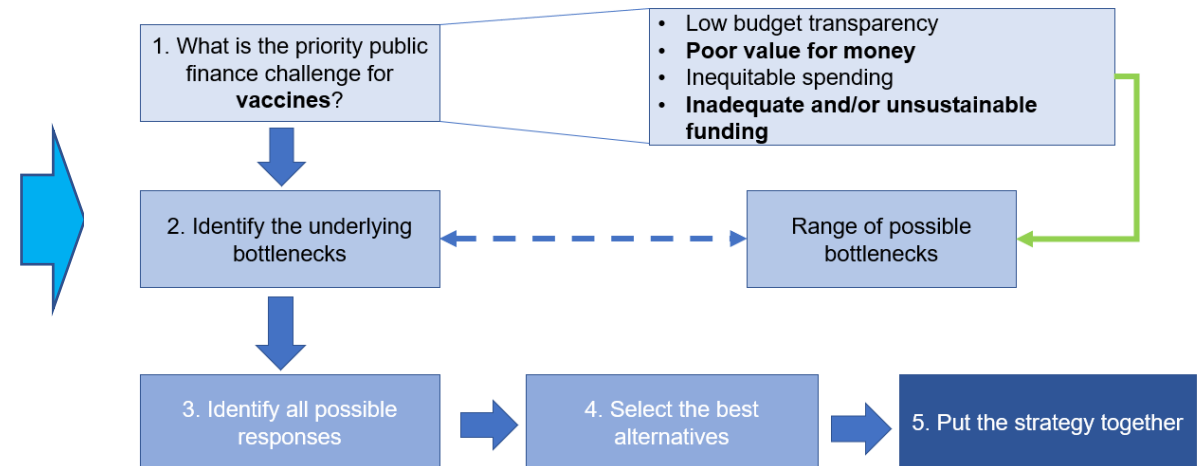
# Overcoming Supply financing challenges

## Common Public Finance Management (PFM) Obstacles to Results for Children

### Low budget priority among some stakeholders

- **Insufficient allocations** to child-related sectors/programmes – cannot meet the true costs of implementation.
- **Inefficient expenditure** – allocated funds are not available when needed.
- **Ineffective expenditure** – resources go to high-cost, low-impact interventions, or are not coordinated across sectors.
- **Inequitable allocations** – allocations do not consider the needs of disadvantaged areas or populations.
- **Weak financial accountability**, budget transparency, citizen participation.

### Country Strategy



# Design of a vaccine prioritization strategy

## Evidence generation and policy advocacy

Governments can make the case for financing for new vaccine introductions, and for adequate support of operational costs

## Integration into the reform agenda

Government must ensure immunization needs are considered in financing and institutional reforms

## Awareness raising and communication

Governments should better understand the private sector's role in order to strengthen its contributions

## Prioritization and implementation

Governments should increase their budget allocations to immunization activities, in addition to protecting existing budgetary allocations

- UNICEF and partners could work with governments to prepare the evidence for making the case
- UNICEF and partners can facilitate exchange of information between countries to learn from each other's experiences that have undertaken such reforms
- UNICEF and partners can assist government in better understanding the role of private health insurance, especially in financing new vaccines or vaccines not yet included in the national calendar

# Supply financing solutions and systems strengthening



Sustainable financing is “bigger” than just financing sustainability

- UNICEF **Procurement Services** to countries for procurement of (WHO pre-qualified vaccines and injection devices) benefitting UNICEF’s procurement scale, access, market expertise and affordable pricing
- **Vaccine Independence Initiative (VII)** Pre-Financing deployed to address cash-flow time delays that could lead to supply shortage or stock-outs.
- **Technical assistance** supporting country-owned budgeting, domestic resource mobilization and financing initiatives, including **capacity building** in forecasting and budgeting of vaccines.
- **Middle Income Countries (“MICs”) facility** Multi-year forecasting and commitments to scale-up access of affordable essential supplies targeting MICs that have lagged in the introduction and scale-up of vaccines and other essential health supplies, leading to avoidable mortality and morbidity.

**Sustained, uninterrupted supply of affordable vaccines of assured quality**



Available  
Funding



Accurate  
Forecasting



Appropriate  
Contracting







## Panel discussion: Overcoming challenges to sustainable financing for vaccines

- Countries experiences/solutions to tackle insufficient budget allocations and/or low budget execution to vaccine procurement.
- How can governments create budgetary room for new vaccine introductions and “traditional vaccines? Allocative efficiency (shifting resources from low priorities to high ones) vs. technical efficiency (producing specific outcomes at lowest cost)?
- What else needs to be put in place by a country or *jointly* with UNICEF and Partners?
- Does private sector also have a role to play?



## Resources:

- Immunization Financing Resource Guide: <https://r4d.org/resources/immunization-financing-resource-guide-advocates-policymakers-program-managers/>

# QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

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## Roadmaps Development of country action plans





## Developing a roadmap

### **Objective:**

Devise a “road map” with **3 to 5 important priorities** for your country’s respective immunization programme, as well as a path forward for next steps to implement the learning from this in-person Forum.

- Identify minimum of 3 action points for your country for the coming 12 months.
- What are the key planning assumptions for the success of these action points?
- What types of support are required from partners, including UNICEF?



# Guiding Questions

A few **guiding questions**:

1. What is driving the NVI programmes in country (e.g. Gavi pushing, disease prevalence, etc.)? How will financial implications – human resources, programmatic considerations, health system costs – play into the country’s planning processes when considering an NVI, to ensure adequate and timely funding availability?
2. What are the key planning and forecasting considerations to take into account for an NVI?
3. When planning for an introduction, what are the procurement aspects that should be considered (e.g. procurement modality, supply constraints, etc)?
4. What are the programmatic implications that should be considered when planning an introduction?
5. What lessons learned from other participants can be leveraged looking forward, as the country plans for an NVI?

## Closing & Next steps

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# Key Messages & Next steps

## Key messages raised during the MENA VPPEF

1. Ensuring sustainable financing, including the need for advocacy and building an investment case
  - a. Multi-country regional advocacy (ministerial level) to strengthen commitments for new vaccine introduction
2. Building procurement capacity, specifically for planning, forecasting, budgeting, procurement practices that leverage economies of scale and best value for money and regulatory considerations.
3. Supply chain strengthening considerations related to NVI
4. Coordination, monitoring & periodic follow up
5. NITAG capacity and evidence for decision-making processes

## Proposed **Support** from Partners

1. **Technical assistance** & follow up
  1. EPI reviews
  2. Joint support missions
2. **Strengthening capacity**
  1. Training **needs assessment**
  2. Sharing sessions (e.g. VPPN webinars, regional discussions, etc) focused on **specific procurement topics**
  3. **Forecasting toolbox** (*coming soon*)
3. **SC strengthening** support, building on existing country initiatives
4. **Coordination, review & monitoring** at regional level





THANK YOU!

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