PAVE 2021-2022 Internship Descriptions

**Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance – Geneva, Switzerland**

**Gavi 1**: Supporting evidence-based decision-making at Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance

**UNICEF – New York City**

**UNICEF 1**: Analysis of information and secondary data from multiple data sources to inform strategic guidance and position papers to support UNICEF’s contribution towards the implementation of the Global Vaccine Action Plan.

**PAHO – Washington, D.C.**

**PAHO 1**: Strengthening maternal immunization programs in the Americas
Supporting evidence-based decision-making at Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance

Supervisors: Hope Johnson, PhD, Director Monitoring and Evaluation and team

Background:

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, has a strategic framework for the 2016-2020 period which includes a strong focus on data in order to drive decisions both at Gavi and the countries where we work. In 2020, Gavi is working to generate lessons learned during the strategic planning cycle that ends in 2020 and using that information to position the organization for a strong start to Gavi 5.0, the next strategic planning cycle for 2021-2025. With this transition bring many opportunities to help synthesize lessons learned in 4.0 and to contribute to positioning Gavi for a strong 5.0 initiation.

The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) team at Gavi ensures that the organization has the data and evidence needed to inform policies, programming guidance, and accountability for investments. This includes ensuring adequate M&E capacity, appropriate indicators aligned with data sources, analyses demonstrating the value of investments and supporting evidence-based decisions, and evaluations.

Under the supervision of M&E leadership, the intern will contribute to the work of the team, which may include monitoring progress of Gavi support through improved measures, metrics, systems, and tools; quality data analysis or strengthened analysis approaches such as through the use of subnational data; development of frameworks, theories of change, and metrics; or learning and packaging of evaluation findings and other evidence.

For more information about the M&E team’s areas of support, read about Gavi’s grant performance framework, focus on data, strategic performance, and evaluations.

Scope of Work:

Note: Discussions will be held with the selected candidate to determine a mutually agreeable and specific scope of work that draws from the points below:

- Data analysis – includes working with stakeholders to define analysis, performing analysis, generating presentation materials and presenting. More specifically analyses could contribute towards:
  - Monitoring grant implementation and country performance
  - Development of the Gavi 5.0 strategy, including the Gavi 5.0 M&E system
  - Other strategic analyses

- Synthesizing information relevant to key workstreams and activities, e.g., in support of the development of capacity strengthening approaches, new guidance documents and tools, evaluation and learning, and materials for technical consultations. Conducting literature reviews is often an instrumental area in lending this support.
- Occasionally provide support to other activities/projects or to help out on day-to-day operational work.

**Necessary skills:**

Languages: Fluency in English. Working knowledge of French or other UN language is desirable.

Computer skills: Proficiency with Microsoft Excel (advanced preferable), Word, PowerPoint and Outlook.

Candidates with strong working knowledge and interest in using R software should flag this in their application, although it is not a prerequisite for applying as it is only relevant for a subset of potential projects. Familiarity with databases utilized for performing a literature search is also an asset.

Other skills and experience:
- Strong analytical skills
- Excellent written communication and presentation skills
- Ability to work independently and demonstrate initiative and flexibility
Analysis and documentation of information and secondary data from multiple data sources to inform strategic guidance and position papers to support UNICEF’s contribution towards the implementation of the Immunization Agenda 2030.

Supervisor: Robin Nandy, MD. Chief of Immunization.

Background:

Immunizations are among the most effective public health interventions. In addition to saving lives, protecting children from preventable illnesses and preventing outbreaks among communities it also gives a high return on investment, relative to other public health interventions. Despite substantial progress in the last few decades, immunization programmes have largely stagnated and approximately one in five children do not receive the full complement of vaccinations to prevent them from contracting a vaccine preventable disease. In most cases, the children who do not receive vaccinations are among the most marginalized and vulnerable and are those who need vaccinations most. While coverage and equity gaps existed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, these have been compounded due to the global disruptions faced by the immunization programme and many essential services. Countries heavily impacted by COVID-19 have experienced service disruptions as they have needed to divert resources to the pandemic response, including health workforce staff who would otherwise be providing routine immunizations. COVID-19 vaccine readiness and introduction present new challenges and opportunities as the world seeks to introduce several COVID-19 vaccines with very different characteristics at an unprecedented pace, and to an initial target population that the immunization programme is unaccustomed to serving in most countries.

UNICEF’s priorities in immunization are outlined in the UNICEF Immunization Roadmap (2018-2030) which outlines the organization’s long-term vision and strategic thinking for immunization, with the goal of realizing the rights of every woman and child, especially the most disadvantaged, to vaccination. UNICEF pursues three objectives in immunization:

- Global and national policies based on evidence and adequately resourced to address the immunization needs of the most disadvantaged and underserved populations.
- National systems, domestic resource allocation, and innovative products and approaches guarantee equitable access to immunization services and quality vaccines, contributing to the realization of global immunization goals, including eradication and elimination goals.
- Communities that value and demand their right to immunization services.

To achieve the three high-level objectives above, UNICEF will contribute to the achievement of eight intermediate-level objectives:

1. Evidence-based policies to promote immunization outcomes in an effective and efficient manner.
2. Global and national immunization programmes to accelerate equity improvements.
3. Immunization programmes that are sustainably financed.
4. Countries to have access to a sustainable, uninterrupted supply of quality vaccines and immunization-related supplies, provided through healthy markets.

5. Effective and efficient supply chain systems that are in place for all children and women to receive potent vaccines.

6. Children, adolescents and women to have access to and use of immunization services.

7. Front-line health workers that are empowered to link immunization services with community demand.

8. Interventions designed and implemented to promote and sustain public demand for quality immunization services.

UNICEF sees immunization as a platform to deliver other proven child survival interventions in addition to vaccines. Therefore, UNICEF’s efforts to strengthen immunization systems provides an entry point for its overall health system strengthening approach – the primary focus of UNICEF’s new Health Strategy.

Scope of work:

The UNICEF immunization team seeks interns to work under the supervision of UNICEF technical staff to undertake a number of analytic and strategic projects which are aimed at improving global evidence as well as inform UNICEF’s future directions in immunization.

A list of potential projects may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Conduct primary or secondary data analysis to support targeting and monitoring progress on the enhanced focus on immunization equity during the next decade and particularly the identification and targeting of communities with substantial numbers of ‘zero-dose’ children towards their full immunization.
- Secondary analysis of DHS/MICS data on the equity dimensions among the unvaccinated in different contexts.
- Analysis and reviews of the process of polio transition, synergy and integration with immunization and broader primary health care as a part of the polio end game strategy.
- Review of current GAVI Strategy and approaches to ensure sustainability in immunization financing.
- Documentation of UNICEF/WHO supported equity assessments in selected countries and recommendations to improve the impact on coverage.
- Primary qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis to assess the effectiveness of UNICEF’s support to both vaccine supply and demand promotion.
- Conduct primary data analysis to determine UNICEF’s contribution to increasing coverage on the first does of measles containing vaccine (MCV1).
- Develop case studies on UNICEF’s efforts to enhance 2nd dose MCV coverage in selected countries in order to inform future efforts.
- Support comparative economic benefit analysis in selected GAVI supported versus countries using UNICEF procurement services / pooled procurement vs countries procuring directly.
- Comparison of impact and cost-effectiveness of supplementary and routine immunization in a complex humanitarian emergencies – development of case studies.
- Data analysis and documentation of UNICEF’s approaches to use immunization as an entry point for Primary Health Care and Health Systems Strengthening and how these approaches may be applicable to different contexts and the implications for replication at scale.
• Review UNICEF approaches towards integrated service delivery and the potential for the immunization platform to contribute to raising the coverage of other child survival interventions.
• Support the review of evidence to guide UNICEF’s approaches to support immunizations beyond the traditional infant immunization platform, notably maternal and adolescent immunization.
• Data analysis on COVID-19 vaccine roll-out effects on essential immunization services.
• Analytics and operational support on COVID-19 vaccine roll out.

Skills & Qualifications

• Commitment to the field of international public health.
• Some experience in international public health & basil epidemiology.
• Ability to work independently and demonstrate initiative and flexibility.
• Strong verbal and written communication skills.
Strengthening maternal immunization programs in the Americas

Supervisors: Alba Maria Ropero and Alba Vilajeliu, Comprehensive Family Immunizations Unit (IM); Family, Health Promotion and Life Course (FPL) Department; Pan American Health Organization - WHO Regional Office for the Americas (PAHO/WHO), Washington DC, US

Background

Maternal immunization as an effective strategy to address maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality and has gained visibility on the global health agenda. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim by 2030, to reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births and end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age. Approximately 40% of childhood deaths worldwide occur in the neonatal period and during the last decade, neonatal mortality has not seen nearly as much reduction as mortality in other age periods. Many of these neonatal deaths are due to infections that can be prevented through existing vaccines, of which some are recommended for use during pregnancy and others specifically during the postpartum period for the mother or the neonate. In addition, pregnant women are at higher risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes from infections, such as influenza.

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) serves as the WHO Regional Office for the Americas and provides technical cooperation to countries and territories in the Region, particularly for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). The Region of the Americas has a long history of implementing maternal and neonatal immunization (MNI) programs and one of the goals of the current PAHO’s Regional Immunization Action Plan (RIAP) 2016-2020 is establishing and strengthening of MNI platforms in the context of enhancing health services for effective vaccine administration.

In alignment with the WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on immunization, PAHO’s Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on vaccine-preventable diseases recommended the routine use of the tetanus-containing vaccine, influenza vaccine and acellular pertussis-containing vaccine in pregnant women. Currently, 32 of the 52 countries and territories of the Americas recommend the tetanus-containing vaccine for women at childbearing age, 34 countries the vaccination of pregnant women against influenza and 17 countries the use of acellular pertussis-containing vaccine for pregnant women.

Vaccine coverage among pregnant women with currently available vaccines is lower than those in childhood. Different factors can play a role in successful implementation of MNI programs. With the potential of even more vaccines to be added to the maternal immunization schedule, such respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and group B streptococcus (GBS), there is a need to strengthen and better prepare the programs for their introduction.

PAHO’s Immunization Unit is aiming to increase the demand of maternal immunization programs in Latin America and the Caribbean. One of the planned activities is the development of materials about the topic targeting different audiences.

This work will be prepared for regional dissemination, including PAHO’s website and eventual peer-review publication(s).
For more information, please see:

- Regional Immunization Action Plan (RIAP), 2016-20:

- Maternal Immunization. Twenty-fifth meeting of the PAHO’s Technical Advisory Group on Vaccine-preventable diseases, 2019:

Scope of work

The PAHO Immunization team is seeking an intern to work under the supervision of PAHO technical staff to undertake a project with the following aims:

- Conduct a literature review of demand generation strategies to increase vaccination coverage of pregnant women
- Support review of existing maternal immunization policies and analysis of vaccination coverage data for pregnant women in the Americas
- Participate in the development of materials about maternal immunization targeting different audiences (e.g. pregnant women and their families, health care providers, decision-makers, …)
- Develop technical content for PAHO’s website about maternal immunization
- Assist in preparing progress reports related to maternal immunization programs in the Region of the Americas, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean

Desired skills and experience

- Background in medicine, epidemiology, vaccinology, public health or data analysis
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English; preferably working knowledge of Spanish (advanced reading level and writing); fluency in other languages would be an asset
- Proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel, Power Point, and email
- Experience with literature searches on PubMed and preferably other databases
- Basic data analysis skills, such as with Stata
- Analytical thinking
- Experience about immunization programs in low- and middle-income countries would be an asset
- Excellent team player

Period of the internship

Preferably August – December 2020, though other time periods can be discussed