

## Health – East African Community

Immunisation programmes reduce child mortality

One of the main causes of child mortality in East Africa is respiratory infections and diarrhoea. In cooperation with the international Gavi Vaccine Alliance, KfW Development Bank provides funding for vaccines against the viruses that cause these kinds of diseases. The immunisation programmes aim to improve health care in the East African Community (EAC).

### Context

Over the last ten years, people's health in the East African Community has already improved. But child mortality in particular is still very high. The number of children who die by the age of five per thousand live births is 85 (the global average is only 48 per 1,000). Common causes of death are respiratory diseases and diarrhoea.

Children who survive these diseases are often left with a permanent disability, such as hearing loss. The disabilities are difficult for the children themselves as well as for their families because their social situation deteriorates. Vaccinations could prevent some of the most common diseases during childhood.

Newly developed vaccines against pneumococcus and the rota virus prevent respiratory diseases and diarrhoea caused by these viruses, for an entire lifetime. They are up to 90 % effective in preventing serious illnesses. These relatively new vaccines are already available in Germany, but have not yet become available in developing countries. Introducing these vaccines can considerably improve children's health in the EAC.

But the newly developed vaccines are still very expensive.

Many EAC countries lack the resources to integrate these vaccines into their existing immunisation programmes.

### Project approach

On behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), KfW Development Bank helps the international Gavi Vaccine Alliance finance vaccines for the EAC member states. Germany contributes this bilateral funding in addition to the multilateral funds of the Gavi Vaccine Alliance.

The vaccines are given to newborns under the national immunisation programmes of the EAC member states.

<b>Project name</b>	Support for immunisation programmes in the EAC in cooperation with Gavi Alliance
<b>Commissioned by</b>	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
<b>Country/Region</b>	East African Community
<b>Lead executing agency</b>	Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance





The vaccination against the rota virus protects the recipient against the dangers of diarrhoea for a lifetime. Source: Gavi Alliance

KfW Development Bank also supports the region in improving the logistics for distributing vaccines in the country. This is no easy task as the vaccines have to be refrigerated during transport and storage so that they are not rendered ineffective. This improvement in the distribution systems also benefits the supply of other sensitive medicines and family planning products. KfW Development Bank thus promotes health care in the EAC countries and the effectiveness of the multilateral programmes.

The immunisation programmes give the Gavi Vaccine Alliance insight into the health care systems of the partner countries, which helps it to adapt global strategies to local requirements and pursue them further.

### Impact

Child mortality in the EAC can be significantly reduced by integrating innovative vaccines into existing immunisation programmes. With Gavi's support, more than 390 million children were vaccinated additionally in routine immunisation programmes in developing countries between 2000 and 2012 and thus 5 million deaths prevented.

Support for the Gavi Vaccine Alliance aims to generate further global savings of up to USD 100 billion.

The burden on national health care systems and on individual families is eased when diseases are prevented. The next generations are healthier and more productive.

The immunisation programmes in the East African Community are already now among the most effective

in Africa. The EAC is very ambitious when it comes to using new vaccines.

Around half of the population of the EAC countries lives in poverty. The poor families in particular benefit from the introduction of the new vaccines because they often have limited access to health care, making preventative measures all the more important. Demand, particularly for the new vaccines against respiratory diseases and diarrhoea, is extremely high. Parents want to protect their children against these diseases which in the past were often fatal.



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