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Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance launches Zero-Dose Immunisation Programme

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For the first time in Gaviâ??s history bringing on board non-governmental organisations as core implementing partners

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance has launched the Zero-Dose Immunization Programme (ZIP), a new innovative initiative that will provide two consortia of partners with up to $100 million to identify and reach zero-dose children living in displaced communities and fragile and conflict settings. Zero-dose children are those that have not received a single shot of a routine vaccine.

International Rescue Committee (IRC) and World Vision (VW) have been chosen to lead the initiative in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel regions respectively, across 11 countries. As of 2020, there were over 4 million zero-dose children living across the targeted countries.

ZIP, which falls under Gavi's new $500 million Equity Accelerator Fund will commence with a 3-month inception phase during which zero-dose children will be identified alongside the unique barriers, including gender-related barriers, preventing access to immunisation. Children living in areas outside government reach, as well as mobile populations and refugees who move across borders will be prioritised in the outreach.

"Lower-income countries have made remarkable progress in immunisation over the last two decades but too many children, particularly those in hard-to-reach areas and fragile and conflict settings, are still missing out on life-saving vaccines. We have an opportunity now to build on the progress so far, and reach "zero-dose" children with vaccines as well as other essential health services," said Anuradha Gupta, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.