



Around the Globe...

- ◆ The **World Health Organization (WHO)** announced that, for the first time in history, annual deaths from the measles virus has fallen below 100,000. The decline is directly attributed to widespread donor-supported vaccinations that were instituted in the early 2000s. As recently as the 1980s, the measles attributed to approximately 2.6 million deaths a year.

- ◆ A new report by **Health Affairs** revealed that among the 20 most affluent countries around the globe, the U.S. has the worst child mortality rate. From 2001 to 2010, the risk of death was 76% greater for infants and 57% greater for children between the ages of 1 and 19. The high rates are despite the fact that the U.S. spends more money on healthcare for children than any of the other countries examined. Factors include persistently high poverty rates, poor educational outcomes and a relatively weak social safety net.

- ◆ Millions of children in developing countries such as Kenya will soon be protected against typhoid fever after receiving approval and support by **GAVI the Vaccine Alliance**. Up to US\$85 million have been earmarked for the effort and will go directly toward bulk-buying of typhoid conjugate vaccines (TCVs). The threat of typhoid has been eliminated from most industrialized nations but remains a persistent threat in developing countries. Applications from the first countries are expected in 2018 and the vaccinations will be rolled out in 2019 to children over the age of six months. GAVI is backed by the **World Health Organization**, the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**, the **World Bank**, **UNICEF** and donor governments among others.

- ◆ Malawi played host to the 21st board meeting of the **Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health** in Lilongwe December 13-14 of last year. The alliance is comprised of more than 700 organizations in 77 countries and works coherently to support maternal, newborn and child health issues. Key agenda items included progress made by PMNCH in 2017, working plans for the 2018 and improvements to the global architecture supporting the **Every Woman Every Child** movement led by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres. The partnership was initially formed to bring together interested organizations to support *Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) 4 and 5*, as set forth by the U.N. (and continues beyond the MDGs towards the U.N.'s *Sustainable Development Goals*.)

- ◆ An agreement between **U.N. Environment** and **WHO** has set forth a new wide-ranging collaboration to accelerate progress in curbing environmental health risks attributable to an estimated 12.6 million deaths a year. The agreement steps up joint actions to combat air pollution (including the BreatheLife advocacy campaign), climate change and antimicrobial resistance, as well as improve coordination on waste and chemicals management, water quality, and food and nutritional challenges. UN Environment Head, Erik Solheim, stated "There is an urgent need for our two agencies to work more closely together to address the critical threats to environmental sustainability and climate -- which are foundations for life on this planet. This new agreement recognizes this sober reality."

(Sources: CNBC, DailyNation, New York Times, Press Releases)

Walgreens Boots Alliance Continues Its Mission of Corporate Social Responsibility with Latest Achievements

(Source: Drug Store News, WBA Press Release)

Walgreens Boots Alliance (WBA) started 2018 with the publication of its 2017 Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Report, detailing the company's progress in its goals and mission during the fiscal year ended 31 August 2017. WBA continued to set the pace in the corporate world with its sustainability issues from healthcare to combatting climate change, as well as promoting an environment rich in diversity and inclusion.

The business values and strong CSR heritage of WBA's legacy companies was integral in allowing the company to make significant progress during fiscal 2017, with success in meeting and exceeding milestones and setting new commitments with its 12 CSR goals. The company also improved transparency regarding impact on communities and the environment. Operational data was compared to data reported in the company's fiscal 2016 report (used as a baseline) and showed the results of efforts to reduce emissions and waste, further diversity and inclusion, and contribute to groups that work toward addressing global issues, including healthcare.

"Corporate Social Responsibility sits at the heart of Walgreens Boots Alliance. Throughout 2017, we continued to demonstrate how we as a company embed our CSR values in everything we do," said Ornella Barra, Walgreens Boots Alliance co-chief operating officer and chairman

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IFPW GAVI Second Quarterly Update

(Source: Derek Short)



Derek Short

It is a new year, and now three months into my time at GAVI. I am beginning to feel as if I have a better understanding of some of the issues and challenges that GAVI is trying to manage. Normal daily routine is like any office environment, meetings interspaced with a lesser amount of time to do my actions and prepare for the next meeting. Meetings are aimed at building capacity/strengthening immunisation systems in poor countries. But also I have a large responsibility in explaining who/what the IFPW/IFPW Foundation are, and exploring how the members' resources could help in some of the GAVI-supported countries. It will be great to meet new IFPW members as my work develops as there is multiple opportunities for engagement.

GAVI has asked me to focus on two main areas:

1. *Capacity Building* – mainly within human resources and specifically with STEP (Strategic Training Executive Program) which is a leadership training program utilizing online training with a 5 day face to face classroom module followed by the participants undertaking a capstone project usually overseen by a mentor from the private sector.

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GAVI Second Update(cont)...

The program has been run in a small number of countries in SE Asia and Africa, and has received rave reviews. 2018 will see a significant ramp up in the number of participants and countries in the coming months.

2. *System Redesign* – many of the immunisation supply chains were first set up 40/50 years ago. Since that time, new requirements have been added without any thought as to whether the supply chain is still fit for purpose or could be enhanced. GAVI is supporting the rollout of new Cold Chain equipment and using this opportunity to get countries to look at their Supply Chain to see how it could be improved.

The focus on these two areas has seen me travel to Copenhagen to work with the UNICEF Supply Division. UNICEF leads the human resource and system redesign work within the GAVI Alliance, though STEP is currently a GAVI-led initiative supported by UNICEF.

I will continue to provide updates on my work in the coming months. The Global Health space is complex with many opportunities to make a difference in the developing world. At IFPW, we simply need to insure that the work resonates with our members, as that is where the supply chain capabilities lie.

Zuellig Pharma Partners with the Vietnamese Government for Cold Chain Storage Management

(Source: Company Press Release)

A Memorandum of Understanding was entered into between Zuellig Pharma Vietnam Ltd, the National Centre for Control of Vaccines and Biologicals, and the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology. Witnessed by the Deputy Minister of Health, Dr. Nguyen Thanh Long, this Memorandum of Understanding, titled “*PROJECT SUPPORT: ENHANCEMENT OF COLD CHAIN STORAGE DURING VACCINE TRANSPORTATION UNDER THE EXPANDED IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM IN VIETNAM*,” was an agreement to collaborate on a two-year project (from 2018 – 2020) to enhance cold chain storage during the transportation of vaccines under the *Expanded Immunization Program* in Vietnam. Also present were the Consul-Generals of Switzerland and the Netherlands, as well as the Centre Director for International Enterprise Singapore.

The Expanded Immunization Program, administered by the Ministry of Health since 1981, has been widely regarded as one of the most important national public health programmes in Vietnam, benefiting millions of women and children. One of the key elements ensuring the success of the program, as well as the vaccine efficacy and safety for users, is that it must meet requirements in cold chain storage for vaccines.

To maintain the efficacy and safety of vaccines, it is necessary to keep them at a constant temperature between 2°C - 8°C. Any break in this cold chain, from production, to storage, transportation, or usage could damage the integrity of the vaccine, resulting in reduced efficacy and safety in treatment.

The objective of the project is to ensure the efficacy and safety of vaccines and biologicals which must be stored in a cold chain during transportation to immunization locations in Vietnam. In furtherance of this objective, Zuellig Pharma Vietnam will closely collaborate with the National Centre for Control of Vaccines and Biologicals and the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology on the following activities: (1) Assessment of existing cold chain transportation to provincial preventative medical centres; (2) Donation of packaging technology to extend the cold chain in the form of eZCooler units, that will improve Vietnam’s cold chain capabilities, and to ensure safe delivery to remote areas; and, (3) Training

for the National Institute for Control of Vaccines and Biologicals and the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology on good international practices regarding cold chain management, and the use of eZCooler units.

Mr. Doan Huu Thien, Director of the National Institute for Control of Vaccines and Biologicals, said: “I believe this project will bring significant benefits to the Vietnamese community as it enables safe transportation of vaccines to the provincial medical centres, which can be challenging given Vietnam’s climate and geographic conditions.”

Mr. Robert Kruit, Chief Executive of Zuellig Pharma Vietnam, expressed his delight, as this project allows Zuellig Pharma to share expertise and technology with the Vietnamese healthcare sector. He said: “The way vaccines are handled and managed is critical to the efficacy and safety of vaccines for Vietnamese people. We have been entrusted with handling drugs and vaccines from international and local pharmaceutical companies around the world for almost one-hundred years in Asia, and 18 years in Vietnam. We are very proud to be a part of this project with the NICVB and NIHE, and look forward to closely collaborating with the two institutes for years to come.”

Walgreens (cont)...

of the Corporate Social Responsibility Committee, “I am immensely proud of the positive impact our initiatives have on millions of lives around the world. By building on our successes and creating long-term collaborations with partner organizations, we aim for the biggest possible positive impact in our areas of focus. For us, this is quite simply the right thing to do.”

Some of the report’s highlights and successes include:

- Walgreens expanded programs to combat opioid abuse through medication disposal kiosks (more than 150 tons of unused medications have been collected and disposed of since 2016) and through work to make naloxone, a lifesaving opioid antidote, available without requiring a prescription at its pharmacies in 45 U.S. States.

- More than £15 million (US\$24 million) has been raised by Boots UK employees and customers for Macmillan Cancer Support over eight years, and more than 2,200 Boots Macmillan Information Pharmacists have been trained to offer support for cancer patients and their loved ones.

- Walgreens expanded its partnership with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, including training for pharmacists to give help to blood cancer patients who are taking blood cancer medications.

- Walgreens highly-successful Red Nose Day annual campaign raised more than US\$20 million with more than 10.6 million noses sold. The campaign offers assistance in providing nutritious meals, essential medication, clean water and other vital aid and services to children in need in the U.S. and other countries.

- During fiscal 2017, Walgreens Boots Alliance was successful in decreasing its total carbon footprint by 6.5% from the previous year through energy efficiency programs and projects.

- Boots UK also achieved its CO2 reduction target three years ahead of schedule by cutting its emissions by 33% in Boots stores that were open in 2015.

Walgreens Boots Alliance continues to be a champion of health and wellbeing in the communities in which it serves with the programs mentioned above as well as its “Get a Shot Give a Shot®” program, free HIV testing days, and global immunization programs through its partnership with the United Nations Foundation.

For more information on WBA’s CSR programs, or to obtain a copy of the full report, please visit https://www.walgreensbootsalliance.com/content/1110/files/Walgreens-Boots-Alliance_Corporate-Social-Responsibility-Report-2017.pdf.