



Full immunization is possible—even in conflict and crisis



In states affected by conflict, crisis and climate change, tens of millions of children are missing out on vaccines. Gavi and the IRC have pioneered a new and proven approach that brings the goal of universal vaccination within reach.

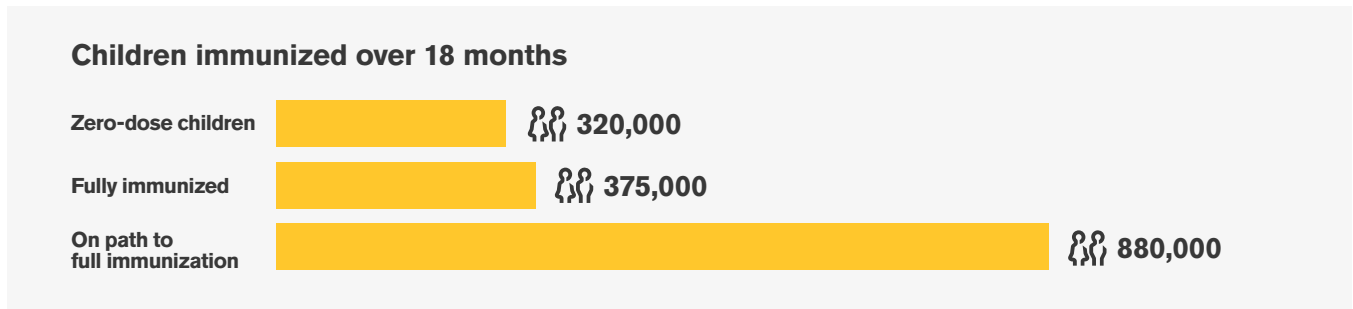
In communities affected by conflict and climate change, access to government health systems can be patchy or non-existent.

96% now accessible communities

16% initially accessible communities

In 2022, REACH set out to support 156 communities affected by conflict and crisis in four countries in the Horn of Africa (Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan and South Sudan). At that time, only 16% were accessible even to humanitarian actors. Today 96% of the 156 target communities have access to vaccines through REACH.

Since then, with a visionary pilot investment of \$50 million from Gavi, the IRC-led REACH consortium has pioneered a model to get vaccines to children who were otherwise completely excluded from this simple but lifesaving intervention.



WHAT WE LEARNED

Strengthening government systems is necessary, but not sufficient. Humanitarians can reach millions more children.

REACH represents the first time that doses of vaccine and funding for immunization delivery have gone directly to humanitarian actors that can rapidly complement and extend the reach of governments. Our recipe for success is simple: access, adapt and innovate.

Access: We negotiate and build trust

The first job of REACH consortium members is to gain entry to the communities where governments cannot, negotiating with nonstate actors and networking with trusted local groups.

Adapt: We listen to clients and adjust our approach

Rapid humanitarian assessments and community feedback allow REACH to layer in additional services most meaningful to each community. Human-centered design helps REACH cut through social barriers and misinformation.

Innovate: We use new technologies and creative solutions to achieve new goals

In Ethiopia, geospatial data analysis optimized the placement of outreach sites and cold chain equipment. In South Sudan, mapping techniques guided mobile vaccination sessions delivered via canoes and motorbikes.

The Gavi-funded pilot program that funds REACH is set to end in 2025. Now is the time to turn this experiment into a widespread approach at the heart of both health equity and health security. There are three clear steps to take in the next six months:

- 1** Spread the word about this breakthrough partnership approach.
- 2** Pile in new technologies, innovations and partnerships to make it a success.
- 3** In rolling out Gavi 6.0, set a target of reaching at least 13 million children in the top 10 fragile and conflict affected settings by 2030 and measure and report annual progress.

The IRC estimates that just **10 countries**—Afghanistan, Yemen, Ethiopia, DRC, Syria, Sudan, Nigeria, Somalia, Burkina Faso and Myanmar—are home to **13 million children** who are missing out on lifesaving vaccines due to conflict and its effects. These include an estimated 7 million zero-dose children who have never received a single immunization.



WHERE REACH WORKS

