

GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM
Energy & Infrastructure High Level Dialogue
GAVI, The Vaccine Alliance Statement
18th of December, Palais Des Nations, Room XVII

Thank you Chair

Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance welcomes this First Global Refugee Forum and the concrete pledges made by Member States today.

We believe that some of the fundamental needs of those left furthest behind and especially children – both in refugee and host communities, can be addressed by:

- prioritising uptake of life-saving vaccines, to prevent the social and economic costs of preventable diseases
- building resilient and people centred health systems with a particular focus on gender and
- strengthening outbreak preparedness and response

This will bring synergies and benefits across a number of thematic areas being discussed today - burden and responsibility sharing, education, livelihoods and others. It also positively impacts wellbeing and the sustainable development prospects of future generations.

Gavi's commitment to the refugee agenda is reflected in:

- Our new strategy for the period 2021-2025 which prioritises reaching communities and children missing out on vaccination. Almost half of these missed children are in a handful of countries that together host half of the world's displaced and other UNHCR populations of concern.
- Our Fragility, Emergencies, and Refugees policy, integrating refugee response into regular host government programmes to ensure access to essential health services, such as immunisation.

As an example, under this policy, Gavi has recently committed to a grant of USD 3.4 million for the next 3 years to strengthen health systems and to support immunisation service delivery for nearly 1 million refugees in Bangladesh.

We will continue to work with countries to support vulnerable refugee communities, and to understand and address barriers to accessing essential health services – be they gender-, ability-, or age- related – to ensure that no one is left behind and all have an equal chance for good health and well being.