



EAST AFRICA CENTRE FOR VACCINES AND IMMUNIZATION (ECAVI)

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THE EAST AFRICA CENTRE FOR VACCINES AND IMMUNIZATION (ECAVI)

What is the East Africa Centre for Vaccines and Immunization (ECAVI)?

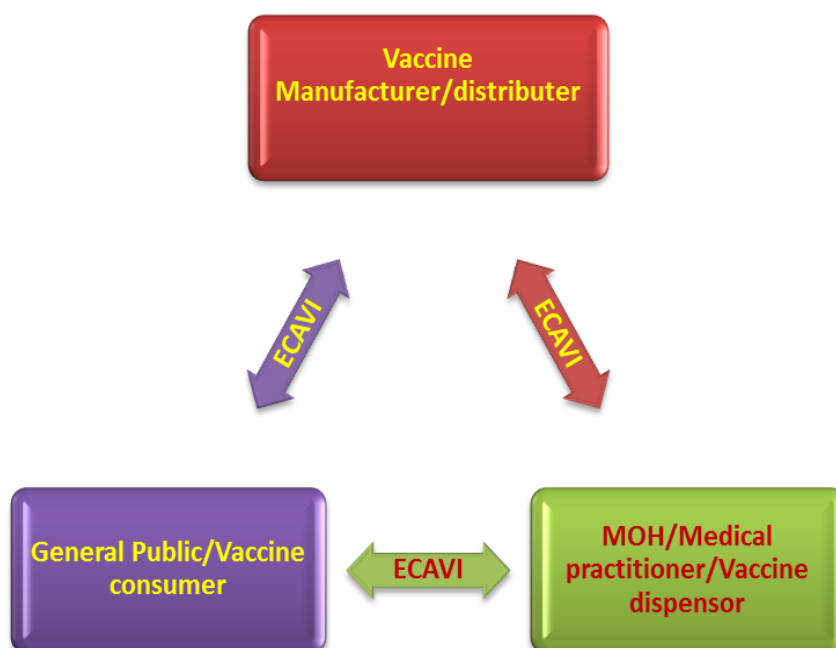
The East Africa Centre for Vaccines and Immunization (ECAVI) is an initiative of health professionals, working with and through the Paediatric Associations in Eastern Africa, to promote advocacy, training, research and improving and strengthening immunization health systems; and promoting improved uptake and training on new and available vaccines; towards the control of morbidity and mortality associated with vaccine preventable diseases and cancers in Eastern Africa (including the five EAC member states Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda, plus Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti and Somalia). Founded on 1st August 2014, ECAVI provides a platform and forum for exchange and sharing of up to date and accurate information about vaccines in Eastern Africa. It also provides links to up to date statistics regarding vaccine and immunization coverage and indices within Eastern Africa. ECAVI runs up to date programs for training and continuous education about vaccines to health professionals, policymakers, programme managers and vaccine handlers within Eastern Africa. It provides up to date information and responds to questions about vaccines, to health care providers, medical/nursing students, parents, and the general public. ECAVI advocates for and participates in continued research in the area of vaccines, through designing low cost easy to implement systems and models to improve vaccine uptake, coverage and how vaccines can be made safer, while encouraging the utilization of new research findings on current and newer vaccines into existing programs for vaccination and immunization within Eastern Africa.

Why do we need ECAVI?

The East African Community (EAC) is an intergovernmental organisation comprising five countries in the African Great Lakes region in Eastern Africa: Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. It covers an area of 1,820,664 square kilometres (702,962 sq mi), with a combined population of about 149,959,317 (2013 est.) In 2010, the EAC launched its own common market for goods, labour and capital within the region, with the goal of creating a common currency and eventually a full political federation. In 2013 a protocol was signed outlining their plans for launching a monetary union within

10 years. These political and economic developments provide a timely opportunity for joint initiatives that can promote health in the East African region. Vaccine preventable illnesses contribute the largest cause of under 5 morbidity and mortality in Eastern Africa. The six conditions that account for about 70% of all child deaths in the Eastern Africa region include: acute lower respiratory infections, mostly pneumonia (19%), diarrhoea (18%), malaria (8%), measles, (4%), HIV/AIDS (3%), and neonatal conditions. ECAVI provides a much needed and timely initiative and platform for the promotion, research, education and advocacy for vaccines in Eastern Africa, in order to help reduce morbidity and mortality due to vaccine preventable diseases.

Figure Showing the ECAVI Operational Model



What is the vision of ECAVI?

An Eastern Africa free of vaccine-preventable diseases

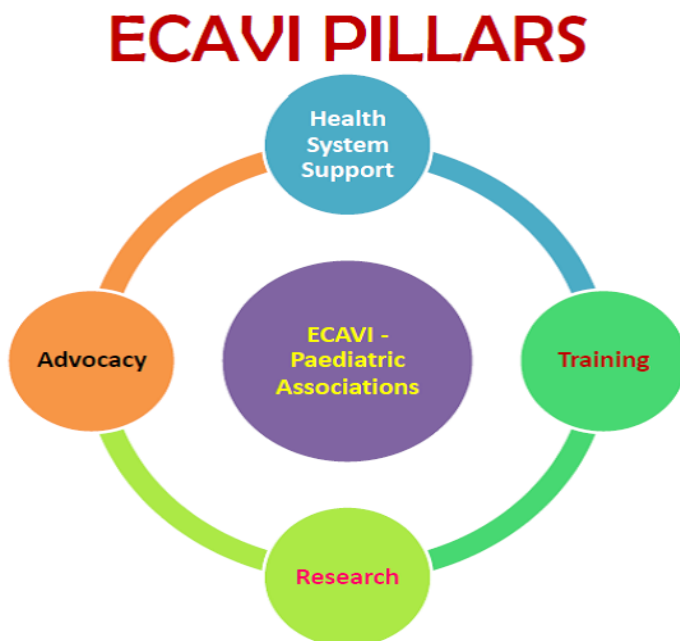
What is the mission of ECAVI?

To promote and encourage the use of current vaccines and uptake of new vaccines and improved vaccine uptake/coverage in Eastern Africa through supporting training, capacity building, vaccine data management systems, product development, continued research and utilisation of new vaccine research findings on vaccines in Eastern Africa.

What are the objectives of ECAVI?

1. To collaborate with the various government ministries of Health, EPIs, professional medical associations, medical training institutions, vaccine manufacturers/promoters/dispensers and the general public with the aim of promoting the use of vaccines and immunisation services within Eastern Africa member states.
2. To share and provide up to date information on policy and guidelines for use of vaccines in Eastern Africa.
3. To promote, advocate and lobby for strategies to increase immunisation coverage, vaccine uptake, inclusion of new vaccines into national EPIs and reporting of vaccine related statistics in Eastern Africa.
4. Participate in dissemination of reliable up-to date and accurate evidence-based information and educational resources about vaccines and vaccine-preventable diseases to health professionals, the general public and scientific community in Eastern Africa.
5. To pilot and design affordable easy to implement vaccine delivery and reporting models for adoption by EPI programmes within the Eastern Africa region.
6. To encourage and participate in research and teaching on vaccines and vaccine-preventable diseases in medical training institutions within Eastern Africa
7. To collaborate and leverage support from existing civil society platforms engaged in vaccination and immunization activities.

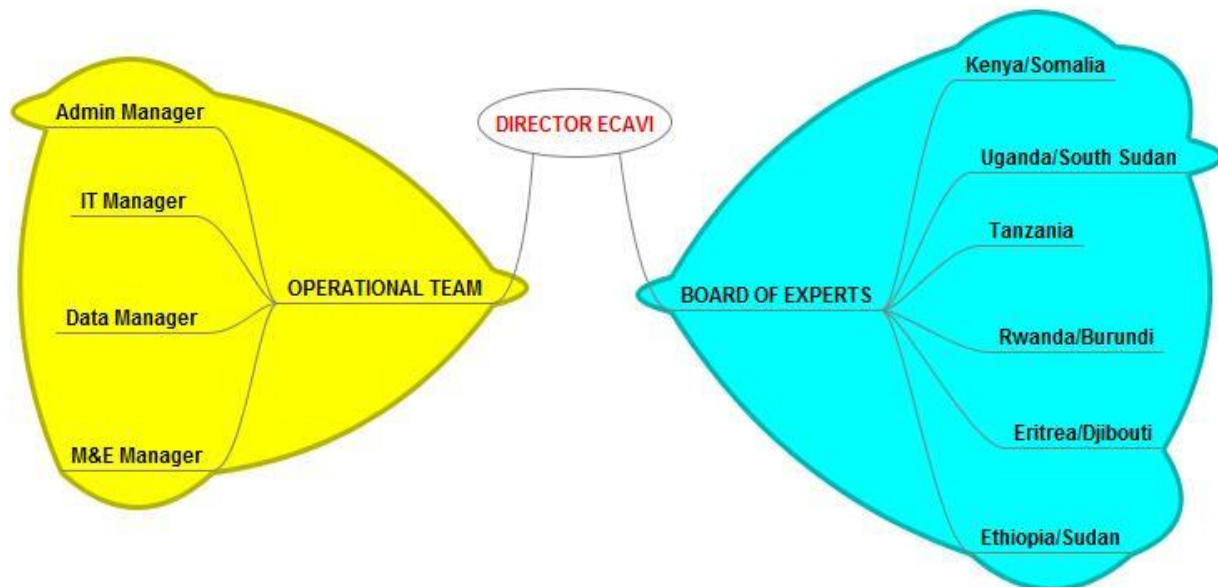
ECAVI Pillars – Working through/with Paediatric Associations in member countries



Website for ECAVI

ECAVI operates a very proactive, educative and interactive Facebook page called **East Africa Centre for Vaccines and Immunization-ECAVI**. This is an interactive goal oriented page that responds to questions asked by followers professionally and as accurate as possible. The ECAVI website (www.e-cavi.com) and twitter handle (@_ecavi) complement in these roles, and together, these three platforms provide up to date and detailed vaccine related information in the Eastern Africa Region, with details on vaccine programmes, opportunities for Vaccine research and collaboration within Eastern Africa regions, gaps and avenues for additional vaccine advocacy, research, training and promotion within Eastern Africa. It also provides useful links for vaccine related information and programs within Eastern Africa.

ECAVI Organizational Structure



ECAVI Board of Experts

The board of experts for ECAVI serves to generate, direct and drive the mission, vision and objectives of ECAVI. The board members are respected experts in their field and have been selected based on their expertise and knowledge and represent the various member states in Eastern Africa. The board members contribute to and provide strategic and professional guidance, advice and support to the ECAVI web-site (<http://e-cavi.com>), Twitter handle (@_ecavi) and Facebook page ([East Africa Centre for Vaccines and Immunization-ECAVI](https://www.facebook.com/ECAVI)) platforms and related activities. Board

members provide linkages and networks in their member countries and advocate/promote the activities of ECAVI within their home countries.

ECAVI Board of Experts includes:

1. Uganda - Dr. Sabrina Bakeera-Kitaka – Senior Lecturer, Makerere University
2. Uganda – Dr. Bongomin Bodo – Lecturer, Gulu University
3. Uganda – Dr. Florence Nantulya – Consultant Paediatrician, Nakasero Hospital, Kampala
4. Uganda – Dr. Elizabeth Kutamba - Consultant Paediatrician, Norvik Hospital, Kampala
5. Uganda – Dr. Edison Mworosi – Senior Consultant Paediatrician Mulago Hospital & Honorary Lecturer, Makerere University.
6. Kenya - Dr. Ombeva Malande – Lecturer, Egerton University/Honorary Lecturer Makerere University
7. Kenya – Dr. Kigen Barnabas - Consultant Paediatrician, MOH Kenya
8. Kenya – Dr. Eric Sagwa – Strategic Relations & Health Systems expert
9. Kenya – Dr. Lawrence Owino Okong’o – Consultant Paediatrician, MOH Kenya
10. Tanzania – Dr. Nahya Salim Masoud - Lecturer, Muhimbili University (MUHAS)
11. Tanzania – Dr. Adolphine Alban Hokororo – Consultant Paediatrician & Lecturer, Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences, Mwanza Tanzania.
12. Rwanda – Dr. Orikiiriza Judith – Consultant Paediatrician, Rwanda Military Hospital and Honorary Lecturer, University of Rwanda.
13. London, UK – Dr. Patience Nalubega Kimera – Consultant Paediatrician

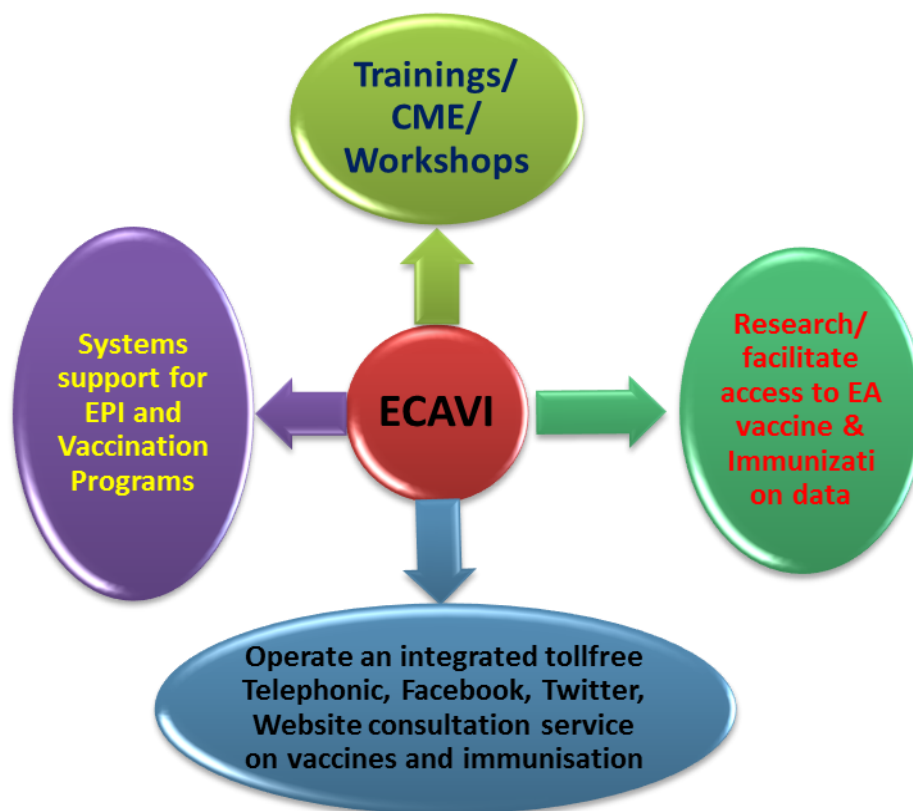
NB – This list may grow as more board members from Eastern Africa member states join.

Current ECAVI operational team

ECAVI is currently completing setting up two administrative locations at Egerton University, Kenya and Makerere University College of Health Sciences, Kampala Uganda. The current operational team comprises of the following:

1. Dr. Ombeva Malande – Director, ECAVI
2. Dr. Kutamba Elizabeth- Deputy Director, ECAVI
3. Rachel Afaayo Nakatugga – Administration Manager, ECAVI
4. Daniel Rukundo – IT Manager, ECAVI
5. Carolyne Chemweno – M & E Manager, ECAVI
6. Mutunga Nzoka – Data Manager, ECAVI
7. James Kipsang – Grants and Fundraising Manager

Figure showing ECAVI Activities:



Activities of ECAVI

1. Advocating for vaccines and immunisation with Ministries of Health and EPIs of the Eastern Africa Member States.
2. Organise training, workshops, seminars and CME sessions on Vaccine use/safety and share recent updates on vaccines among health professionals in both private and public sector in Eastern Africa
3. Promote and participate in vaccine related research initiatives within Eastern Africa
4. Advocate and promote effective vaccine related focus in the teaching of health professionals at certificate, diploma, undergraduate and postgraduate level within medical training institutions in Eastern Africa.
5. Operate an integrated toll-free telephonic, Facebook, Twitter, and Website linked consultation service in member states where health professionals and general public can get help regarding vaccine related questions or needs they wish to consult on.
6. Pilot and design affordable easy to implement vaccine delivery and reporting models for adoption by EPI programmes within the Eastern Africa region.
7. To organise two annual Vaccinology courses, targeting Eastern Africa audience. The first is a one week long course for medical and nursing students at undergraduate degree and diploma

level. The second course would be a high quality intense one week course that targets health top level health professionals handling vaccines, and postgraduate Msc/Mmed/MpH/MSN students in Eastern Africa Universities. The course content would cover the history of vaccination and immunisation in East Africa, the various EPIs, Vaccine science, safety and schedules, Vaccine programs data management, M&E, updates and ongoing/upcoming research in the area of Vaccinology. The participants would have group and plenary sessions to share experiences, successes, challenges and brainstorm on ways in which they can improve their programs.

Figure showing the activities of ECAVI on support of health systems and Research

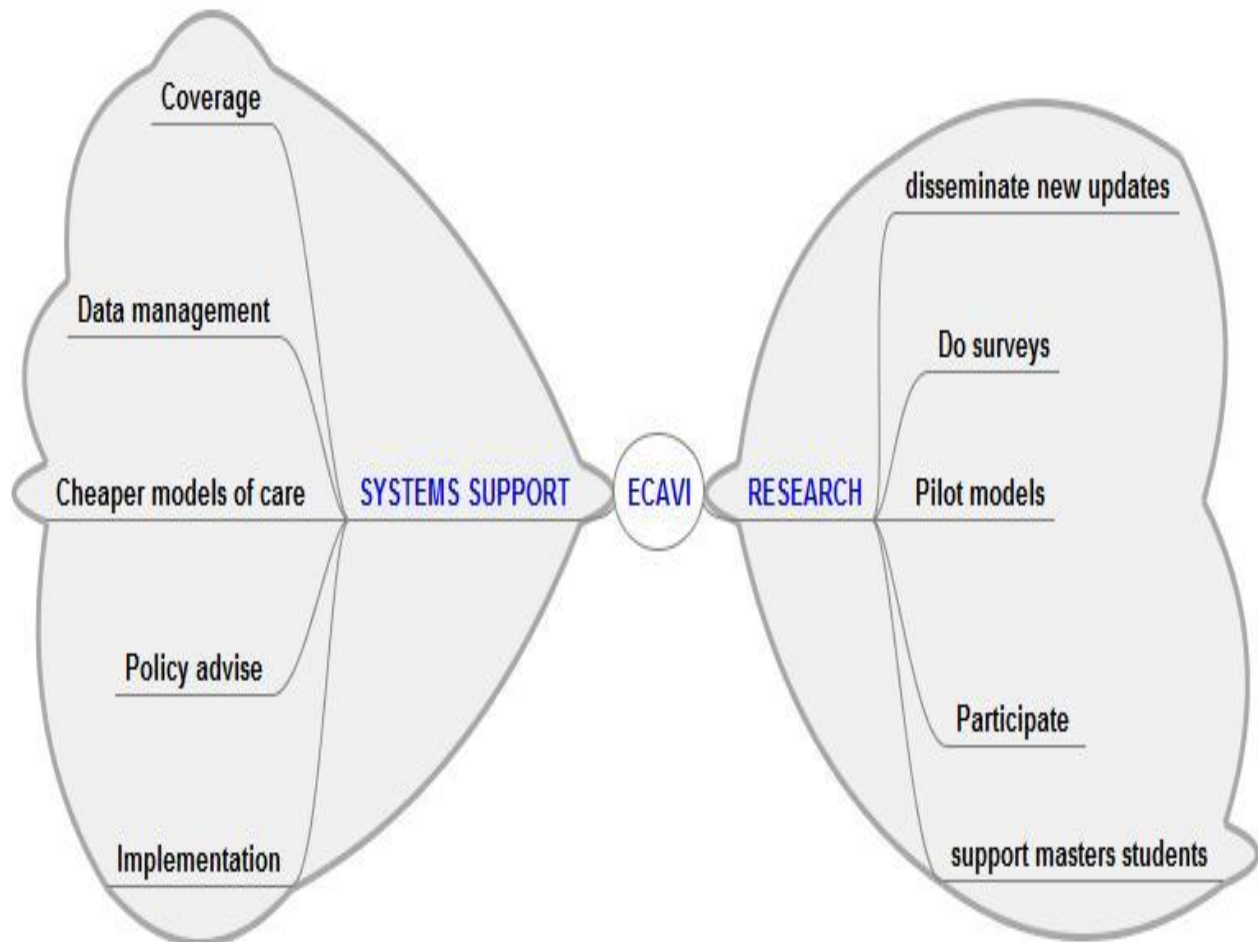
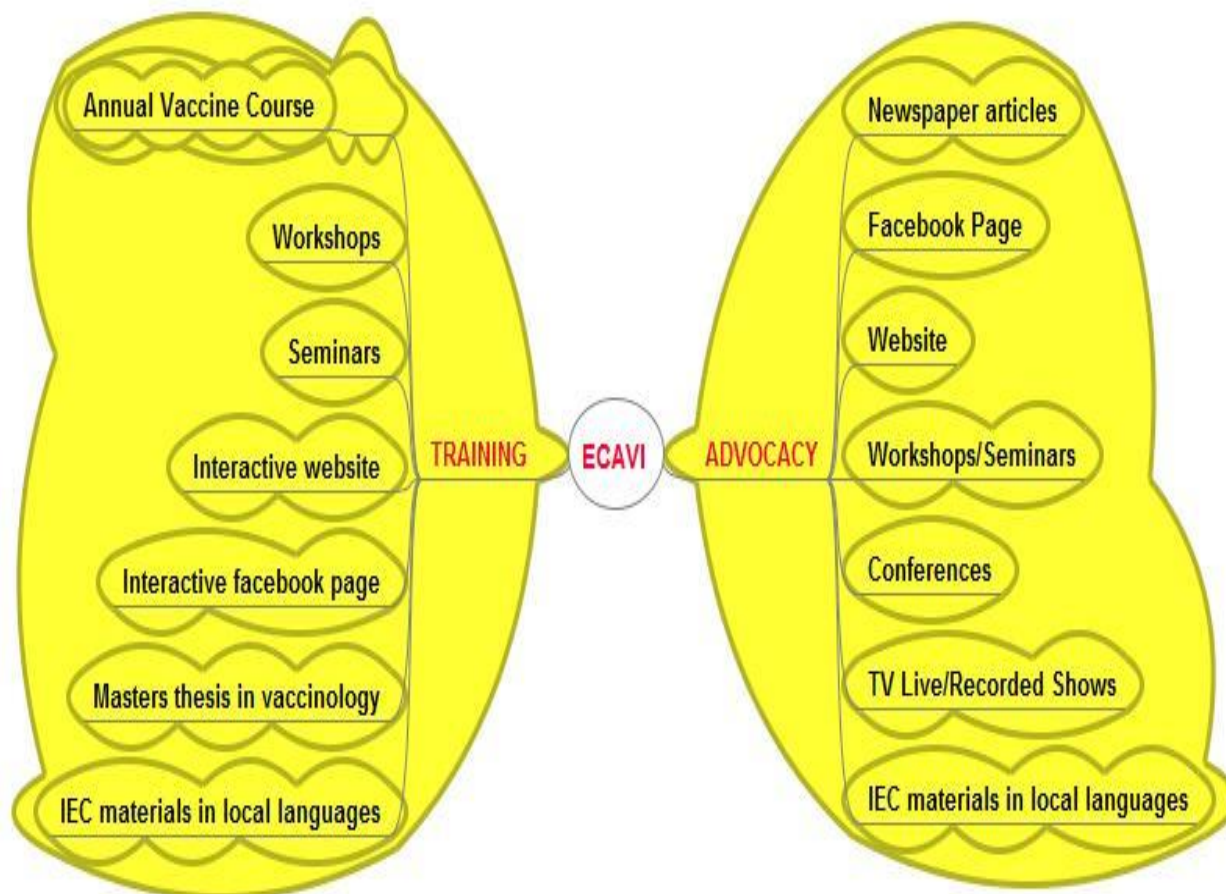


Figure showing the activities of ECAVI on Training and Advocacy



ECAVI Collaborations/Partnerships/Affiliations

ECAVI is in the process of establishing/has already established working relationships, affiliations or collaborations with including but not limited to the following organizations/institutions:

1. The African Paediatric Fellowship Program (APFP)
2. Medical Schools at each of the following Universities: Egerton University, Makerere university, Muhimbili University, University of Nairobi, Moi University, Kenyatta University, Maseno University, Gulu University, Mbarara University.
3. Ministries of Health form Eastern Africa member states
4. EPI programs in Eastern Africa member states
5. Paediatric and Medical Associations of Eastern Africa member states
6. The Kenya Vision 2030 Secreteriat
7. GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Vaccines
8. MSD International GmbH
9. Pfizer

10. Merck
11. Sanofi Pasteur
12. The Edward Jenner Society/The Jenner Institute
13. Uganda Healthcare Federation
14. East African health platform (EAHP)
15. Center for Tropical Medicine and Global Health, Nuffield Department of Medicine
16. Childhood Immunization Support Program, American Academy of Pediatrics
17. Institute for Vaccine Safety, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
18. PATH Vaccine Resource library
19. Kenya Medical research Institute (Kemri)
20. US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
21. Fondation Mérieux
22. Fondation Christophe et Rodolphe Mérieux
23. Uganda Virus Research Institute
24. The Vaccines for Africa Initiative (VACFA)
25. The GAVI Alliance
26. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
27. South African Tuberculosis Vaccine Initiative (SATVI)
28. The Network for Education and Support in Immunisation (NESI)
29. The WHO's Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals