



**PRESS RELEASE**

## **New Industry Partnership with Gavi to Strengthen Immunization Supply Chains in Developing Countries**

**Berlin - January 27, 2015.** The International Federation of Pharmaceutical Wholesalers (IFPW) today announced details regarding its new three-year multi-million dollar partnership with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, to help address immunization supply chain needs in developing countries.

This collaboration is the first of its kind for the global pharmaceutical wholesale industry as IFPW members make a commitment to strengthen supply chain management and ensure aspiring students in Gavi-supported countries receive the training needed to become the next generation of supply chain managers. Efforts will be primarily concentrated on supporting the training centers in Benin and Rwanda, which will serve multiple countries in Africa.

Specific support will flow through IFPW Foundation (IFPW's charitable and educational arm), in the form of both financial and in-kind donations from members and supporters, amounting to at least US\$1.5 million over three years. This contribution level qualifies the support for matching funds through the Gavi Matching Fund program, thereby doubling the impact of the investment.

Dr. Richard Sezibera, Secretary General for the East African Community, stated "This partnership brings forward the vision for the East African Community to become the regional center of excellence in health logistics. We recognize the value of the private sector in helping achieve this vision and congratulate the IFPW and its members to working with us and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance to achieve this."

Speaking on the eve of Gavi's Replenishment Summit in Berlin - which takes place days after the Vaccine Alliance celebrated its 15th anniversary – Ornella Barra, Chairman of IFPW commented: "I am thrilled to announce this fantastic partnership between the IFPW and Gavi, which, with the support and expertise of IFPW members, will help to address immunization supply chain needs in countries such as Benin and Rwanda. Millions of lives could be saved each year by improving access to existing medicines and vaccines. By investing in the long-term development of supply chains in Africa, I do believe the IFPW has a unique opportunity to make a difference."

"One of the largest obstacles to immunizing children in poor countries is getting the vaccines to them," said Gavi CEO Dr. Seth Berkley. "Vaccines are temperature sensitive, and the infrastructure in poor countries often is lacking. Partnerships, such as this one with IFPW which represents engagement of a whole new industry, are bringing new thinking and resources to help the Vaccine Alliance reach every child."

The activity of pharmaceutical full-line wholesaling consists of the purchase and sale, warehousing, storage, order preparation, and delivery of medicines but today's wholesalers do much more. IFPW's members, while maintaining their core competencies, now play an expanded role in healthcare value chains from manufacturing to retailing and patient & consumer services. The IFPW is dedicated to helping its members and stakeholders

advance the safe, efficient and continuous access to pharmaceuticals worldwide through the promotion of good distribution practices and services.

IFPW member companies have always been deeply committed to and supportive of the communities in which they've done business, offering robust CSR programs focused on improving health and well-being. This new global health partnership, into geographies beyond the current business ones, is indicative of the globalizing wholesale sector and the new global mindset of its participants – making IFPW more relevant than ever before.

The IFPW-Gavi partnership was catalyzed by Geneva-based consultancy Global Development (GD) under the leadership of its principal Barbara Bulc. GD played a critical role in identifying opportunities in global health for the pharmaceutical wholesale sector and in realizing this transformational partnership, including cultivating the relationship with Gavi leading up to this exciting announcement.

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#### **About IFPW and IFPW Foundation**

IFPW (International Federation of Pharmaceutical Wholesalers) is the global industry association bringing together the leading full service pharmaceutical distributors and wholesalers, national industry associations, service organizations and pharmaceutical manufacturers from 6 continents, in 26 countries. The association provides a global platform for dialogue and is dedicated to helping its members and stakeholders advance the safe, efficient and continuous access to pharmaceuticals worldwide through the promotion of good distribution practices and services. For more information: [www.ifpw.com](http://www.ifpw.com).

IFPW Foundation was established in 2012 by IFPW members with an objective to support initiatives and organizations in global health focused on improving access to pharmaceuticals and essential health commodities in developing markets and on maintaining security and product integrity within the world's supply chains. For more information: [www.ifpwfoundation.org](http://www.ifpwfoundation.org).

#### **About Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance**

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance is a public-private partnership committed to saving children's lives and protecting people's health by increasing access to immunization in poor countries. The Vaccine Alliance brings together developing country and donor governments, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the World Bank, the vaccine industry, technical agencies, civil society, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and other private sector partners. Gavi uses innovative finance mechanisms, including co-financing by recipient countries, to secure sustainable funding and adequate supply of quality vaccines. Since 2000, Gavi has contributed to the immunization of an additional 500 million children and the prevention of approximately 7 million future deaths. Learn more at [www.gavi.org](http://www.gavi.org) and connect with us on Facebook and Twitter.

#### **About Global Development – Advising the Leaders**

Global Development – Advising the Leaders (GD) is Geneva-based consultancy group focused on catalyzing and developing transformational partnerships between industry and other stakeholders in global health and development. GD provides unique strategic guidance and intelligence to connect clients and partners with new opportunities and help them reach scale and sustainability for social and economic impact.. For more information: [www.globaldevelopment-impact.org](http://www.globaldevelopment-impact.org).