

IA2030 partners invite governments and interested actors to

- Intensify recovery vaccination efforts to address delays in routine vaccination and expand dissemination services in underserved areas to reach missing children and implement campaigns to prevent outbreaks;
- Implement tailored, people-centered and data-driven strategies to build trust in vaccines and vaccinations, tackle disinformation and increase vaccine uptake, particularly among vulnerable communities;
- Ensure that current pandemic preparedness and response and efforts to strengthen the global health architecture lead to investment in primary health care services (PHC), with explicit support to strengthen and support essential vaccinations;
- Ensure the political commitment of national governments and increase the allocation of national resources to strengthen and support vaccinations in the context of primary health care;
- Prioritize strengthening health information and disease surveillance systems to provide the data and monitoring necessary for programs to have maximum impact.
- Leverage and increase investment in research to develop and improve new and existing vaccines and vaccination services that can meet community needs and achieve IA2030 goals.

On Tuesday 5 May, Facta's editorial staff received a report via WhatsApp asking to verify a video circulated on the instant messaging app and on YouTube entitled "Bill Gates admits that vaccines are used to sterilize and reduce the population".

The video in question was uploaded to YouTube on April 26, 2020 and lasts just under seven minutes in all, showing two public speeches by Bill Gates, an American entrepreneur and philanthropist, at the forefront of pro-vaccination campaigns.

The first video is taken from a Ted conference held by Bill Gates in February 2010, entitled Innovating to zero, dedicated to the future of the planet and strategies for achieving the goal of zero CO2 emissions by 2050. During the conference, Gates pronounces the phrase «the world population today counts 6.8 billion inhabitants and we are heading towards 9 billion. If we do a good job with vaccines, health care and reproductive policies, we can decrease this estimate by 10-15 percent ».

The second video comes from an interview given by Bill Gates to Dr. Sanjay Gupta, CNN correspondent for health issues. Called to respond to his "Vaccine Decade" charity campaign, Gates claimed on February 6, 2011 that "with vaccines we can reduce the number of children who die each year from 9 million to half.

At that point we will have all the tools to reduce infant mortality and reduce population growth.

1. The video circulated on WhatsApp and reported to Facta emphasizes Gates' two statements, concluding that linking vaccination campaigns to reducing population growth is both admission and vaccines to "sterilize the population".



2. Bill Gates has never made any secret of considering world population growth incompatible with improving health conditions, particularly in the poorest countries in the world. But the solution was never that of forced sterilization, but that of minimizing the infant mortality rate.

"It's completely counterintuitive," Gates told the Forbes business magazine in 2012, explaining how after much research he realized that under a certain mortality threshold (10 deaths per thousand people), population growth tends to stabilize. According to Gates, this happens because in some parts of the world, where infant mortality is higher, parents decide to procreate frequently not to have large families but to ensure that at least a percentage of their children survive.

It is the theory commonly known as

The child survival hypothesis, very popular in the seventies and today widely debated in the international scientific community. According to this theory, reduced infant mortality would contribute to increasing the motivation to implement family planning and consequently to lower the rate of population growth.

Beyond the real effectiveness of the proposals, it is important to underline how Bill Gates associates vaccination with a decrease in estimates regarding the world population, but not for the reasons outlined in the title of the video. From the perspective of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, vaccines do not serve "to sterilize the population" but to lower the infant mortality rate.

- Official figures released today by WHO and UNICEF record the largest sustained decline in children's vaccinations in nearly 30 years.
- The percentage of children who received three doses of diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTP3) vaccine - an indicator of vaccination coverage used both within and between countries - fell by 5 percentage points between 2019. and 2021, reaching 81%.



As a result, 25 million children in 2021 alone did not receive one or more doses of DTP from routine vaccination services. This is 2 million more than those who skipped vaccination in 2020 and 6 million more than in 2019, highlighting the growing number of children at risk of terrible but preventable diseases.

The decline is due to many factors, including the increase in the number of children living in contexts of conflict and frailty, where access to vaccinations is often difficult, the increase in misinformation and problems related to COVID-19, such as disruptions to services and the supply chain, diversion of resources to pandemic response activities and containment measures that have limited the access and availability of vaccination services.

18 of the 25 million children did not receive even a dose of DTP during the year, most of whom live in low- and middle-income countries, with India, Nigeria, Indonesia, Ethiopia and the Philippines having the highest numbers. Among the countries with the largest relative increases in the number of children who received no vaccines between 2019 and 2021 are Myanmar and Mozambique.

1. Coverage of the first dose of measles dropped to 81% in 2021, the lowest level since 2008. This means that 24.7 million children did not receive their first dose of measles vaccine in 2021, 5.3 million more than in 2019. Another 14.7 million did not receive the required second dose.

2. Similarly, compared to 2019, 6.7 million more children have not received the third dose of polio vaccine and 3.5 million have not received the first dose of the HPV vaccine, which protects girls from cervical cancer in old age.

"This is a red alert for children's health. We are seeing the largest sustained drop in children's vaccinations in a generation. The consequences will be measured in human lives," said Catherine Russell, UNICEF Director-General.

"While last year the pandemic was expected to have a repercussion following the disruptions and closures caused by COVID-19, what we are seeing now is a persistent decline. COVID-19 is no excuse. We need to catch up. vaccinations for the millions of missing children, otherwise we will inevitably see new epidemics, more sick children and greater pressure on health systems already in difficulty ".



More than a quarter of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine

It was hoped that 2021 would be a year of recovery, during which the strained vaccination programs would replenish and the group of children not reached in 2020 would be made up. Instead, coverage of DTP3 has been pushed back to its lowest level since 2008 and, coupled with the decline in coverage of other core vaccines, has driven the world away from achieving global goals, including the vaccination indicator for the Development Goals. Sustainable.

This historic retreat in vaccination rates takes place against a backdrop of rapidly rising rates of severe acute malnutrition. A malnourished child already has weakened immunity, and missed vaccinations can cause common children's illnesses to quickly become lethal to him. The convergence of a hunger crisis and a growing vaccination shortage threatens to create the conditions for a crisis of child survival.