



**Gavi CSO
Constituency**
Helping Reach Every Child

Report of the Gavi CSO Consultation Webinar - 3

Influencing Policy and Equity: How CSOs Strengthen Gavi's Work Across the Health System

October 16, 2025

An Overview of the Webinar

The third webinar in a series of Gavi CSO Consultation opportunities was organized by the Gavi CSO Constituency on the 16th of October 2025. The third and final webinar in the 2025 Gavi CSO Constituency consultation series focused on **advocacy for equitable immunisation** and the role of **CSOs in shaping policies, financing, and governance**. It brought together CSO leaders from Ethiopia, Nigeria, and the UK, alongside Gavi Secretariat representatives, to explore how **grassroots and global advocacy** can strengthen immunisation systems and reach **zero-dose and under-immunised children**.

Speakers showcased the **diversity and impact of CSO advocacy**, spanning subnational action, faith-based mobilisation, parliamentary engagement, and donor advocacy, while underscoring the need for **governance spaces where CSO voices influence Gavi's decisions**.

The session centered on **one key question**: *How can CSOs — from the most local to the global level — help shape immunization policies, strategies, and financing in ways that ensure equity and inclusion in immunization?*

This question guided the thematic focus on defining advocacy in different contexts, overcoming advocacy challenges, strengthening partnerships, and ensuring CSO contributions drive equity outcomes

Primary Objective of the Webinar:

- To explore how CSOs can influence immunization policy, strategy and financing to ensure equity and inclusion — and to gather their direct insights to shape future Gavi–CSO collaboration.
- To strengthen CSO-led advocacy as a core pillar of equitable immunization.

Focus Themes

- CSOs as Policy and Equity Actors in Gavi 6.0
- Governance Structure and Opportunities for CSO Engagement
- Understanding CSO Advocacy at Different Levels

Sessions and Speakers:

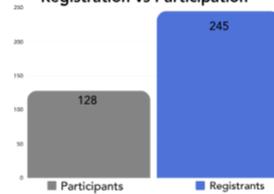
Sl.#	Session	Speaker/s
1.	Welcome and Framing the Dialogue	Kirsten Gagnaire Founder and CEO, Kati Collective
2.	Setting the Scene: CSOs as Policy and Equity Actors	Clara Rudholm, Senior Manager, Civil Society and Community Engagement, Gavi
3.	CSO Spotlights	
a.	EOTC – DICAC, Ethiopia	Banteamlak Gelaw (BSc, MPH) - Head of Health & Social Affairs Department, EOTC-DICAC
b.	Vaccine Network for Disease Control (VNDC), Nigeria	Chika Kemi Offor, Chief Executive Officer, Vaccine Network for Disease. Control
c.	Results UK	Alex Runswick, Head of Policy Advocacy
4.	Governance Structure and Opportunities for CSO Engagement	Dr. Tessa Oraro-Lawrence, Special Advisor to the CSO Constituency Board Members Lisa Hilmi, Executive Director, CORE Group
5.	Understanding CSO Advocacy at Different Levels	Kirsten Gagnaire Founder and CEO, Kati Collective
6.	Open Q&A With the Gavi Secretariat	Kirsten Gagnaire Founder and CEO, Kati Collective
7.	Closing and Next Steps	Kirsten Gagnaire Founder and CEO, Kati Collective

An Overview of Participants, Organisations and Geographies

Webinar 3 Infographics

This presentation captures an overview of CSO registration and participation, highlighting numbers, geographic and size spread, Gavi funding status, attendance patterns and key engagement trends.

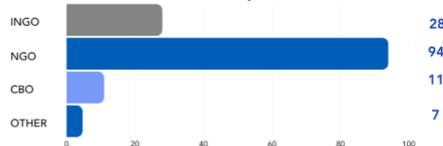
Registration vs Participation



Geographical Spread



CSO Size Spread



Response Category	Count	Percentage
No, we have not received Gavi funds	93	37.8%
Yes, through the Fund Manager Mechanism	82	33.3%
Yes, through Gavi directly	43	17.5%
Yes, through Gavi Alliance Partners (WHO, UNICEF, etc.)	28	11.4%

The above infographic indicates various aspects of the webinar as follows:

- **Participation:** Out of 245 registrations, 128 participants attended the call.
- **Type of Organisations:** The webinar witnessed participation from a wide variety of organisations including International NGOs, NGOs with regional networks and Community based Organisations.
- **Geographical spread:** Most participants were from Africa with organisations also participating from Asia, Africa, North America, Europe, and Oceania.
- **Summary of participant responses on receiving Gavi funding:** The webinar received a total of **245 registrations** representing **150 organizations** worldwide. All 245 participants responded to the question on receiving Gavi funding. Of these, 153 participants reported having received Gavi funds. Among them, 43 participants indicated direct funding from Gavi, 28 received funding through Gavi Alliance partners (WHO, UNICEF etc.), and 82 obtained funds via the Fund Manager mechanism. In contrast, 93 participants stated that they had not received any funding from Gavi.

Opening Remarks

Kirsten Gagnaire, CEO of Kati Collective and facilitator of the series, introduced the purpose of the webinar, noting that this was the culmination of a year-long effort to strengthen Gavi's approach to civil society engagement. The session was designed to be both informational and consultative, enabling two-way sharing: CSOs would hear directly from Gavi on policies and opportunities, while Gavi would gain real-world insights and candid feedback from those implementing immunisation efforts on the ground.

She further framed the thematic focus on advocacy — how CSOs at local, national, and global levels influence immunisation strategies, financing, and equity outcomes. With a diverse lineup of speakers and an interactive discussion planned, the session aimed to showcase the breadth of CSO advocacy and how their contributions strengthen Gavi's work across health systems

Setting the Scene: CSOs as Policy and Equity Actors

Clara Rudholm, Senior Manager, Civil Society and Community Engagement, highlighted the significant role CSOs play in driving accountability and equity within national immunisation systems. Over the current Gavi 5.0 strategy period, CSOs have been instrumental in ensuring that immunisation services reach communities that have historically been missed — sometimes for decades. Their direct connection to communities has enabled them to advocate for equity gaps that national systems may overlook.

A concrete outcome of years of CSO advocacy is the minimum 10% catalytic funding window for civil society within Gavi country allocations. This is more than a budget line: it is a formal recognition that CSOs are part of how Gavi delivers results on zero-dose, equity and accountability, not an add-on at the margins. In many countries, this window is now helping to resource CSO roles in demand generation, community monitoring and policy dialogue, while at global level CSOs are contributing to Gavi's resource mobilisation and playing an active role in the governance spaces where strategy and investment decisions are made.

At the same time, Clara acknowledged that engagement at national level remains uneven. In some countries, CSOs have had clear entry points into decision-making spaces. In others, they have lacked the access needed to influence how Gavi funding is designed or delivered. Gavi's own mid-term review confirmed the need to expand and strengthen the policy influence of CSOs, especially where space remains limited.

Looking ahead to Gavi 6.0, Clara described new models of CSO-led advocacy — including catalytic funding for immunisation financing advocacy in Nigeria, and a fund-manager mechanism supporting subnational and district-level organisations to influence policy closer to communities. These shifts reflect a growing recognition that CSOs are critical equity actors, whose experience and insight should shape how Gavi operates at every level of the system.

Country and CSO Spotlights

1. EOTC-DICAC, Ethiopia

Speaker: Banteamlak Gelaw (BSc, MPH) - Head of Health & Social Affairs Department

EOTC-DICAC leads an advocacy initiative focused on immunisation equity and primary health care strengthening, working across six zones of the South Ethiopia region to reach zero-dose and unvaccinated children in hard-to-reach, pastoralist and remote communities. Their work uses faith-based dialogue to address vaccine hesitancy and actively engages local leaders and community structures to ensure services reach the most marginalized populations.

Achievements:

- Expanded immunisation access in remote zones, targeting pastoralist and underserved populations.
- Reduced vaccine hesitancy through community, faith-based engagement and messaging focused on addressing myths and misconceptions.
- Strengthened multi-sector partnerships to improve primary healthcare delivery and community accountability.

- Supported equity-focused advocacy, prioritising resources for those without regular access to health services.
- Highlighted community voices, advocating for policies that support destitute and excluded groups.

2. Vaccine Network for Disease Control (VNDC), Nigeria

Speaker: Chika Kemi Offor, Chief Executive Officer, Vaccine Network for Disease Control (VNDC), Nigeria

VNDC leads the PREACH Project (Partnership to Reach Zero-Dose Children), advocating for sustainable domestic financing for immunisation in Nigeria. Their advocacy is grounded in strong stakeholder collaboration, working with government, parliamentarians, media, and CSO coalitions to increase budget allocations, timely release of funds, and accountability for immunisation financing. They operate directly in eight states, while partnering with others nationally, to influence decision-makers at federal and state levels and ensure financing improvements translate into health workforce support and service delivery strengthening.

Achievements:

- Nearly doubled national immunisation budget allocation (2022–2024) and increased fund releases by 100%.
- Secured over 100 billion Naira (nearly 70 million USD) in fully released budget resources during the two-year advocacy period.
- Strengthened domestic health workforce, enabling Gombe State to finance salaries for 440+ health workers.
- Built capacity and established a Parliamentarian Caucus championing domestic resource mobilisation for immunisation.
- Improved budget release efficiency, reducing bureaucratic steps from 27 to 23 through national-level advocacy with the Ministry of Health.

3. Results UK

Speaker: Alex Runswick, Head of Policy Advocacy

- Results UK is a dedicated advocacy organisation focused on ending poverty by improving health, education, and economic opportunity. Within global health, they conduct policy and resource-mobilisation advocacy toward the UK Government and global institutions, ensuring that the UK maintains strong commitment to Gavi as its largest sovereign donor. They engage policymakers by linking Gavi’s work to the UK’s own priorities — including women and girls, global

health security, and support to UK science — while also demonstrating strong support for Gavi from low- and middle-income countries to reinforce donor confidence.

Achievements

- Sustained strong UK donor support to Gavi through a complex 18-month replenishment advocacy campaign.
- Influenced UK policy priorities by showing how Gavi advances domestic objectives (e.g., women & girls, science, security).
- Highlighted support from Gavi-funded countries to reinforce global solidarity for donor investment.
- Engaged both UK Government and Gavi governance structures to ensure CSO priorities remain central (incl. zero-dose focus).
- Applied diverse, long-term advocacy tactics tailored to political realities to drive financing commitments.

Governance Structure and Opportunities for CSO Engagement

Speakers:

- Dr. Tessa Oraro-Lawrence Special Advisor to the CSO Constituency Board team
- Lisa Hilmi, Executive Director, CORE Group

Dr. Tessa Oraro-Lawrence outlined how CSO voices are woven into Gavi's governance system, ensuring that country-level experiences inform global decision-making. She noted that this session was especially useful for members new to the constituency, helping them understand how their technical expertise and community insights can shape Gavi's work. CSO engagement, she explained, occurs through three main channels — participation in technical working groups such as the APPT, representation in formal governance structures like the Gavi Board and Policy and Programme Committee (PPC), and feedback loops that connect national realities to global decision-making.

Dr. Tessa identified the PPC as a critical entry point for CSO influence, noting that major issues such as Nigeria's engagement and the high-valency HPV vaccine are discussed there. She encouraged CSOs with relevant expertise to apply for the 2026–27 PPC representative seat, emphasising that active participation strengthens accountability, equity, and inclusion. She reinforced that there are real opportunities for CSOs to shape Gavi decisions, and that their engagement ensures policies and investments remain grounded in community needs and realities.

Lisa Hilmi, Executive Director, CORE Group highlighted that the governance redesign process aims to ensure that the Gavi CSO Constituency structure is inclusive, transparent, and fit for purpose under the 6.0 strategy. She explained that this process is anchored around four key pillars: (1) strengthening governance and representation, (2) enhancing coordination and alignment of CSOs at national and regional levels, (3) promoting meaningful participation and feedback loops so that CSOs are not merely consulted but actively influence policy and programme design, and (4) building synergies with other global health initiatives to maximise impact and reduce duplication.

Lisa emphasised that this reform is not just administrative but a shift towards equitable participation and accountability. She noted that CSOs will have new opportunities to co-create and shape Gavi's engagement model through surveys, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews. By embedding participation, evidence, and iteration into the process, the redesign will ensure that CSO voices—from local to global levels—inform decision-making and strengthen the alliance's collective impact on immunisation equity and health outcomes.

Dialogue: Understanding CSO Advocacy at Different Levels

Facilitator-led group discussion & Mentimeter input

Mentimeter prompts and responses:

1. What motivates your organisation to engage in initiatives like the Gavi CSO redesign and strengthening?

Key Themes:

1. **Strengthen influence and participation in decision-making** - Desire to actively shape immunisation policies and initiatives, ability to hold governments and partners accountable, ensuring CSOs have a recognized role and voice.
2. **Improve equity and reach underserved communities** - commitment to reaching zero-dose and missed populations, ensuring community voices and perspectives drive design and delivery, visibility and advocacy for those behind the numbers.
3. **Showcase and elevate CSO contributions** - demonstrating the impact CSOs have on the immunisation ecosystem, boosting CSO confidence and recognition, amplifying CSO leadership in national and global spaces.
4. **Enhance collaboration, coordination, and alignment** - more efficient partnerships across actors, cross-learning and shared problem-solving, strengthened unity within the constituency.

5. **Build capacity for more effective advocacy** - peer learning and skills development, better access to funding and mechanisms to engage, creating agile, modern structures for civil society engagement.
6. **Learning and continuous improvement** - applying lessons from past experiences, designing systems that are adaptable and progressive, improving Gavi support processes for CSOs.
7. **Alignment with mission and values** - shared commitment to preventing diseases through immunisation, responsibility to the communities CSOs serve; advancing social justice and resilience.

2. Which communities or issues are at the heart of your organisation's advocacy efforts?

- Zero-dose and under-immunised children
- Marginalised and hard-to-reach populations
- Local and religious community leaders
- Women and girls' health and empowerment
- Rural and remote communities
- Conflict-affected and fragile settings
- Equity in immunisation access
- Health system strengthening and primary healthcare
- Community engagement and accountability
- Social behaviour changes and vaccine confidence
- Youth and community-led advocacy
- Local engagement and advocacy
- Case stories and testimonials

3. How can Gavi strengthen its engagement with CSOs in your country under the 6.0 strategy?

Key Themes:

1. **Direct and Flexible Funding to CSOs** - mechanisms for direct CSO funding and simplified grant-making processes, scale up of the CSO Fund Manager mechanism to more countries, transparency, flexibility, and inclusiveness in funding.
2. **Capacity Building and Peer Learning** - increased training, mentorship, and peer-to-peer learning opportunities, capacity building for advocacy, policy engagement, and resource management, long-term capacity investment support for youth and grassroots organisations.

3. **Inclusive and Equitable Partnerships** - CSOs as equal partners, not competitors, ensure local CSOs and community-level actors have a voice in Gavi processes, go beyond national-level CSOs to reach subnational and last-mile organisations.
4. **Stronger Coordination and Governance** - national CSO focal points or coordination platforms, structured collaboration between CSOs, Ministries of Health, and subnational teams, facilitate regular dialogue and consultation with Gavi and governments.
5. **Community Engagement and Equity Focus** - leverage CSO roles in community mobilisation, social behaviour change, and zero-dose outreach, support community champions and watch groups to enhance accountability, gain real community-level insights to shape Gavi programming.
6. **Transparency, Trust, and Information Sharing** - open communication and mutual accountability between Gavi and CSOs, meaningful and inclusive engagement sustained over time, adequate time and access to CSOs on information to contribute effectively.
7. **Innovation and Local Adaptation** - innovative engagement models tailored to national contexts, adapt support to local realities and flexibility in implementation, early involvement of CSOs in programme design and policy reviews.

4. What kind of support from Gavi would most strengthen your organisation's advocacy?

Key Themes:

1. **Direct and Increased Funding to CSOs** - direct and flexible funding, dedicated allocation for CSO advocacy, expand local level funding through Fund Manager, simplified, inclusive, and transparent funding procedures accessible to smaller and grassroots organisations.
2. **Capacity Building and Technical Support** - training in strategic advocacy, administration, and financial management, technical assistance to strengthen policy engagement, monitoring, and reporting, targeted capacity assessments and tailored support, especially for local and youth-led CSOs.
3. **Recognition and Inclusion in Decision-Making** - CSOs have a seat at national and global immunisation forums, CSOs as key partners in health systems and policy dialogues, strengthened CSO presence within national immunisation decision-making spaces and government platforms.
4. **Collaboration and Coordination Platforms** - coordination mechanisms for CSOs to interact with Ministries of Health, EPI teams, and other partners, collaborative planning, shared learning, and peer-to-peer exchange, coalitions and networks for stronger advocacy influence.
5. **Sustained and Equitable Community Engagement** - fund community outreach and mobilisation in hard-to-reach and zero-dose areas, support local coalitions

and community champions, recognise CSO contributions in social behaviour change, equity, and vaccine confidence.

6. **Evidence Generation and Advocacy Support** - data-driven advocacy through support for research, evidence production, and learning exchange, knowledge sharing and exposure visits to successful country models, joint advocacy efforts aligned with national immunisation goals.
7. **Sustainability and Long-Term Partnerships** - sustained CSO engagement beyond project cycles, investment in local institutional growth and resilience, regular communication, transparency, and mutual accountability with Gavi and partners.

5. Where do you see the greatest opportunity for your organisation to contribute to advocacy within the Gavi Alliance?

- **Expertise and Reach** - technical expertise and community reach to inform Gavi policies, leveraging local experience and contextual understanding.
- **Coalition Building** - alliances and partnerships among CSOs, strengthened coordination across national and regional networks.
- **Evidence-Based Advocacy** - generating and sharing data and evidence for policy dialogue, evidence-driven decision-making within Gavi.
- **Community Engagement** - mobilising communities and local stakeholders, reducing myths and promoting vaccine confidence.
- **Policy and Financing Influence** - advocating for domestic financing and sustainable funding, engaging parliamentarians and national administrations.
- **Collaboration and Learning** - sharing experiences and best practices among CSOs, Working with governments, media, and technical partners.

Overall Takeaways:

Across all questions, participants consistently called for:

- **CSO Voice and Participation** - desire for stronger representation and influence in Gavi processes.
- **Equity and Inclusion** - focus on zero-dose, marginalised, and hard-to-reach communities.
- **Direct and Flexible Funding** - need for simplified, transparent, and accessible CSO funding.
- **Capacity Strengthening** - building advocacy, leadership, and financial management skills.
- **Partnership and Collaboration** - better coordination and equal partnership with governments and Gavi.

- **Evidence and Learning** - use of data, research, and peer learning for stronger advocacy.
- **Sustainability and Long-Term Support** - demand for consistent, multi-year engagement beyond short projects.
- **Community Engagement** - prioritising grassroots mobilisation, trust-building, and vaccine confidence.
- **Governance and Accountability** - inclusion of CSOs in governance structures and transparent dialogue.
- **Optimism and Commitment** - CSOs are ready and motivated to contribute to Gavi 6.0 goals.

Important comments from the Participants

Dr. Ayana Yeneabat Alemu – Ethiopia (EOTC-DICAC)

- *“Advocacy at policy level is equally important at the grassroots.”*
- *“As a result of CSO advocacy and engagement of local stakeholders, communities with no services for more than one year—and in some cases even longer—accessed vaccines for the first time.”*
- *“Local religious and community leaders, and women volunteers, played a central role in bridging gaps for vaccine delivery.”*
- *“We have produced four case stories with testimonials from parents and community leaders and plan to produce a short video with our local counterparts.”*
- *“We will do the same for conflict-affected communities where immunisation services were disrupted for up to three years.”*

Banteamlak Tadesse – Ethiopia

- *“Women community leaders need to be engaged.”*
- *“Giving priority to CSOs because CSOs are implementing in the community in Ethiopia.”*

Benda Kithaka – Kenya (KILELE Health / ACHA)

- *“Make clear how grassroots CSOs can access the 10% funding for advocacy.”*

Lizzy Igbine – Nigeria (Nigerian Women Agro Allied Farmers Association)

- *“We should take this project to our schools in communities where the presence of health workers is in dire need.”*

Dr. Ayana Yeneabat Alemu (follow-up exchange with Gavi Secretariat)

- Shared plans to **print and display case stories at the upcoming Gavi Constituency workshop**, highlighting the importance of storytelling in advocacy.

Closing Remarks and Next Steps

The webinar highlighted the essential role of CSOs as advocacy and equity actors within the immunisation ecosystem. Through presentations and discussions, participants demonstrated how CSOs bridge the gap between policy and community realities, using local knowledge, partnerships, and advocacy to reach zero-dose and marginalised populations. The session reinforced that equitable immunisation cannot be achieved without meaningful CSO engagement — from influencing policy to driving social behaviour change at the grassroots level.

It also underscored the importance of collaboration, direct funding, and sustained dialogue between Gavi, governments, and civil society. The diverse insights shared across countries and contexts reflected both the strength and diversity of CSO contributions, offering clear direction for how Gavi 6.0 can strengthen engagement through inclusion, trust, and shared accountability.

Next steps from the webinar include:

- Share the summary report and all presentation slides from the webinar with participants to ensure wider access to key discussions and case studies.
- Compile and disseminate CSO examples, such as those shared by EOTC-DICAC (Ethiopia) and VNDC (Nigeria), through the CSO Fund Manager and Gavi platforms to highlight impact and best practices.
- Continue consultations with CSOs to refine governance structures and funding mechanisms under Gavi 6.0.
- Host additional webinars informed by learnings from this series, continuing the dialogue on policy influence, equity, and CSO collaboration.