V3P update: reflecting on 2015
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The Vaccine Product Price and Procurement (V3P) project was created a few years ago to address countries’ request for greater transparency on vaccine prices.

In October 2014, SAGE recommended that all countries share their vaccine price information with V3P (see GVAP Assessment report 2014, p.23). This year, countries took a step further and a resolution (WHA 68.6) on the GVAP was adopted at the World Health Assembly. It specifically addresses the issue of access to sustainable supply of affordable vaccines for low and middle income countries (MICs), including the promotion of vaccine price transparency.

Several WHO regional offices, countries and partners are already making progress and have integrated price transparency and access to affordable and timely supply into their work, supporting presentations, forums, workshops and meetings on the subject – recognizing the benefits that price transparency can bring to sustainable immunization programs in all countries, and particularly for MICs transitioning out of Gavi support and MICs that are not Gavi-eligible.

Thanks to this collective effort, for the first time, the V3P database can show the following results:

- **40 countries have shared data in 2015, from five WHO regions.** More than half of the countries are MICs. The Regional Office for Europe has been particularly supportive of the project: 28 countries of the region have shared prices. Similarly, efforts done in the African and the Western Pacific Regions have resulted in four countries from each region sharing price information with V3P for the first time this year.
- **PAHO and UNICEF** are continuous strong supporters of the project, contributing several years of price information.
- The database contains **1,600 vaccine price records**.
- Pricing information has been shared by countries on **47 different vaccine types**.
- It is the **first year that the data is published on the website** (graphs and download options are available).
- **More than 3,900 users** have accessed the website, from all over the world.

A few countries are already using V3P data to inform their decision-making and secure better procurement contracts. The data collected also enables to better understand vaccine pricing. According to this year’s data, the strongest factors influencing prices seem to be linked to procurement mechanism and income level. These relationships seem stronger for the new vaccine markets. Also, no strong correlation could be highlighted between price and volume, except when products are procured in very large quantities (e.g. through UNICEF SD or PAHO).

Efforts by regions need to be maintained and strengthened to increase participation: **having additional countries share prices will improve the usefulness of the data, the variety and quality of analyses and will allow for more decisive conclusions.** More information and findings from the V3P data can be found in the GVAP Vaccine Price Report 2015, an integrated part of the GVAP Secretariat Report 2015 (p. 154-163).

Given all these encouraging facts and recognizing the great efforts and achievements in this area, SAGE, in its GVAP Assessment Report 2015 (p. 12), placed access to vaccine pricing data in the category “successes that can be the norm”.

Within one year, efforts in vaccine price transparency and participation in V3P have grown from being a recommendation to being recognized as a success. We therefore want to thank all participating countries, as well as colleagues from WHO, PAHO, UNICEF and other partners for the amazing progress done this year.

Next year, we will continue to invite countries to participate in this effort, in particular through the Joint WHO/UNICEF Reporting Form (JRF) process. Together, we can indeed turn this success into a norm.

The V3P platform is accessible at: [www.who.int/immunization/v3p](http://www.who.int/immunization/v3p).

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