- **What is the Global Action Plan for Influenza Vaccines (GAP)?**
The Global Action Plan for Influenza Vaccines (GAP) is a global framework aimed to increase the supply of a pandemic vaccine and thereby reduce the gap between the potential vaccine demand and supply anticipated during an influenza pandemic. GAP pursues this goal through three major approaches: (1) increase in seasonal vaccine use; (b) increase in production capacity; and (c) further research and development.

- **How was the GAP developed?**
GAP was developed in consultation with many international experts representing various disciplines, regions and expertise in response to influenza vaccine production challenges that were highlighted by H5N1 outbreaks. On 2-3 May 2006, WHO held a Consultation in Geneva to identify and prioritize practical solutions for reducing the anticipated gaps in vaccine supply. These strategies built the basis for the Global Vaccine Action Plan for Pandemic Influenza Vaccines.

- **Why is the GAP's full title decoded differently in a number of circumstances?**
The original title of GAP 2006 was Global Action Plan to Increase Supply of Pandemic Influenza Vaccine. The review of GAP progress commissioned for 2011 aims to expand the scope of GAP and embody all kinds of influenza vaccines. The title Global Action Plan for Influenza Vaccines is the current full title of the initiative that characterizes its inclusiveness and comprehensive nature.

- **Who are the GAP partners?**
GAP brings together a broad community of experts dealing with influenza vaccines and related issues. These include national immunization programmes, regulatory authorities, vaccines manufacturers, public health decision makers, researchers and funding agencies.

- **How do low-income countries benefit from the GAP?**
GAP offers a number of opportunities for low-income countries to strengthen their influenza vaccine pandemic preparedness and the ability to protect their population against influenza outbreaks. These include:
  - Technical and financial support for vaccine production
  - Training in biomanufacturing
  - Training in quality systems
- **What is the timeline for the GAP?**
GAP is a long-term, continuing initiative aimed at reaching the final goal: providing enough vaccines to immunize the world’s population against influenza.
A comprehensive consultation with all stakeholders (GAP-I (2006)) set short, mid and long-term objectives which are reviewed every year through a consultation with the GAP Advisory Group. A major review and adoption of the reviewed Action Plan – GAP-II is scheduled for July, 2011.
The time horizon for GAP-II is five years.

- **How is the progress against the GAP objectives being monitored?**
The Advisory Group meets on annual basis to review the progress achieved against the three GAP objectives.

- **What is the role of the GAP in the WHO's public health strategy?**
GAP objectives are aligned with the priorities of the WHO public health agenda and contribute to coordinating health development and health security, enhancing evidence-based research and policy and strengthening health systems and institutions in all countries of the world.

- **Why do we need GAP-II (2011)?**
GAP was designed as a practical mechanism to be used by all countries to increase their national capacity to protect their population from influenza pandemic.
The first five years of implementation resulted in considerable increase in influenza vaccine usage and production capacity as well as remarkable successes in the area of technology development. These achievements have proven to be especially beneficial for the developing countries that reported higher engagement in vaccine manufacture and improved vaccine uptake.
GAP-II (2011) will review progress achieved under GAP-I (2006), address issues related to access, affordability and effective deployment of pandemic vaccines, and will provide a roadmap for further actions needed towards a sustainable approach to global pandemic vaccine preparedness.

- **What is the future of the GAP?**
The implementation of GAP requires the concerted efforts of countries, industry and the global health community. An effective partnership and a commitment to sustaining the effort over the next 5–10 years are indispensable.

- **Where can I learn more about the GAP?**
You can find more information on the Global Action Plan for Influenza Vaccines and all related activities performed by WHO and the partners at the official GAP web site: [www.who.org/influenza_vaccines_plan/en/](http://www.who.org/influenza_vaccines_plan/en/) or send an email to [GAP_flu_vaccine@who.int](mailto:GAP_flu_vaccine@who.int).