Access to medicines: the effects of political economy? A case study on HPV vaccine
Outline

- What is political economy?
- Access pathway for HPV vaccine: case study of political economy at global level
- Burden of cervical cancer and situation of HPV vaccine introduction at global level
- Global movements and efforts to boost HPV introduction
- Analysis of the barriers to HPV introduction at global level
- Conclusion
What is political economy?

How the political forces shape economic interactions?

Politics
- Governance
- Making decision
- Making agreements between people

Economy
- Management of available resources
- Resources
- Production, consumption

Understand the interactions between people in making the decision of resource management
Access pathway: HPV vaccine example

Discovery of virus and pathogenesis
- 1956 and 1984

R&D

Production

Licensed
- 2006

Political economy

Global movements and roles/interest of key players

Nation wide introduction
- 2020

to all people

50 years

14 years
Burden of cervical cancer and situation of HPV vaccine introduction at global level
What we would like to see when a new vaccine licensed?

- The access of vaccines to all whom needed especially the most at need.

85% of cases and 90% of deaths from cervical cancer occur in LMIC.

Figure 1: accumulation of global HPV vaccine experience, October 2016.

* Reproduced with permission from the author [7]. Demonstration projects in ‘stopped’ status mainly had fixed 1 or 2 year time periods of implementation which were not continued due to project funding ending.
Low vaccine introduction in the countries where the disease burden is high.

Source: WHO/Global market study
Global movements and efforts to boost HPV introduction at global level
Access pathway: HPV vaccine example

- Discovery of virus and pathogenesis (1956 and 1984)
- R&D
- Production
- Licensed (2006)
- Global movements and roles / interest of key players
- Political economy
- Nation wide introduction (2020)
- to all people

Timeline:
- 50 years
- 14 years
WHO recommend for girls

WHO recommend for boys*

GAVI new VIG

WHO CACX elimination

PATH SD study (BMGF)

WHO DG gender neutral for HPV

Pharma adhoc donation

Vaccine shortage

Adapted from K.E. Gallagher et al./Vaccine 36 (2018) 4761-4767

Percentage of countries that have included HPV vaccines as a part of their national vaccination schedule by country income group, 2000–2016, and projections for the future
Analysis of the barriers to HPV introduction at global level
Why the pace is slow?

Vaccine supply

- HPV 4 dominates market (Oligopoly)
- 2017 market share:
  - HPV 4: 50%
  - HPV 9: 28%
  - HPV 2: 20%
- 3 products in advanced clinical development
- Demand increase
- Cervical cancer elimination, boy, Multi age cohort (MAC)

Supply will not meet demand until 2024

Source: WHO/Global market study
Why the pace is slow?

2  Price

High price per dose and price variability
-- $4.55 - $154.28 (2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HIC price</th>
<th>non-Gavi UNICEF and self-procuring MICs prices</th>
<th>PAHO</th>
<th>GAVI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>highly varied</td>
<td>3X Gavi and ~1.5X PAHO</td>
<td>9.65</td>
<td>4.50</td>
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- Some HIC pay less than average of some MIC price
- PLUS delivery operations costs ranging $2-$8/dose (C4P Costing Tool)

Source: WHO/Global market study
Why the pace is slow?  

- No global leadership

Global cervical cancer elimination

- Prevention: HPV vaccine
  - Technical guidance: WHO
  - Ensure vaccine supply/financial sustainability: GAVI, PATH, UNICEF

- Early treatment

- Screening
  - Ensure program delivery/performance/sustainability: UNICEF, WHO
  - GAVI
Painful facts and gaps for vaccine introduction

- Vaccine introduction in 44% countries but access in highest burden countries is lagging.
- Programmatic challenges in achieving high coverage: experience in running school-based program
- Supply shortage at least to 2024 - further exacerbated if MACs; boys; 9-valent; Will need to work in close collaboration with industry.
- Barriers/Challenges to introduction: Decision-making, Price/Affordability, and Acceptance/Hesitancy
- New initiative Cervical Cancer Elimination – visibility, engagement of broad stakeholders, comprehensive approach, commitments

Technical summary: It is not the root cause.
The real root cause is the political economy at global level.
From this case, what we have learned?

- Under globalization, politics can take place above the state through political integration schemes and through intergovernmental organizations.
- Political activity can also transcend national borders through global movements and NGOs.
- How Are Decisions Made and for Whom?
  - Much of international law and policy has developed for the benefit of developed countries?
  - There has been a concerted effort by the wealthiest and most powerful nations to maintain control over international decision-making and global institutions.
What we should do for More Just, Fair and Equitable World? For the most at need population and for equity

- Understand the political economy and see it as opportunity. (*shape the decision ‘who’ gets ‘what’, ‘when’ and ‘how’, and link to economic interests*)
- Have the capacity to deal with the political economy at global and national level
- Strengthen national capacity (evidence informed policy decision, health system strengthening, social mobilization)

"The real debate associated with globalisation is, ultimately, not about the efficiency of markets, nor about the importance of modern technology. The debate rather, is about inequality of power.” --- Amartya Sen