



## GAVI Country Graduation Assessment Mission

The Vaccine Alliance GAVI, which is committed to increasing the access to immunization with the motive of supporting countries, including new vaccine introductions and overcoming challenges of sustainable financing, has supported Sri Lanka since 2003. Introduction of Hep B and Pentavalent vaccines, injection safety items and Health System Strengthening (HSS) supports were a few of the activities supported by GAVI. With the increase of country GNI per capita income above 1580 US\$, Sri Lanka is considered as a graduating country from GAVI support, since 2011 where the financial support from GAVI was systematically reduced. Sri Lanka will be graduated from December 2015 and thereafter not eligible for GAVI routine support to the National Programme of Immunization (NPI). However, GAVI will keep continue to support Sri Lanka in different mode of collaborations.



GAVI country graduation assessment mission including GAVI alliance partner organizations of GAVI secretariat, WHO, UNICEF and Sabin Institute was held from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> February with the objective of developing a country GAVI graduation plan identifying priority areas to be strengthened with an identified limited funding support. The foreign delegates met with all relevant health authorities including the Hon. Minister of Health and the Director

General of Health Services as well as other relevant stakeholders. A two-day workshop was conducted with the participation of all stakeholders of the immunization programme in Sri Lanka in identifying areas to be strengthened through the graduation plan.

A district visit to Kegalle was undertaken by the foreign alliances to understand the provincial and district level support received at field level implementation of the National programme of Immunization.



The mission was impressed at the self-sustainability of the Sri Lankan immunization programme and expressed the view on sharing Sri Lankan success with the international community.