

Accelerating the Achievements of MDG # 4 & 5 through Immunization: Role of parliamentarians

Devendra Prasad Gnawali, M.Sc. PhD
Senior Program Officer
Sustainable Immunization Financing
Sabin Vaccine Institute

ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly Seminar on Accelerating Achievements of MDGs 4 & 5 through the Role of Women Parliamentarians, 9-12 March, 2011, Phnom Penh, Cambodia





Outlines of Presentation

- Benefits of immunization
 - Child Health (MDGs 4)
 - Maternal Health (MDG 5)
- Statement of the problem
- Sabin's Sustainable Immunization Financing Program
- Working with parliamentarians
 - Asian countries: sub-regional briefings and declarations
- Role of parliamentarians
- The goal: Financial sustainability



Policy Perspective

Only a handful of countries are on track to achieve
the Millennium Development Goals

Why is immunization important?



MDG4: *Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate.*

Fully immunizing every child with routine and newer vaccines (pneumococcal, rotavirus) can contribute up to **25%** of the needed child mortality reduction.



Immunization contributes to other MDGs



MDG 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Immunization prevents productivity losses due to adult and childhood illness and lowers out-of-pocket spending on health



MDG 2: Achieve universal primary education

Immunization promotes child health; healthy children are more likely to attend school regularly and better able to learn.



MDG 5: Improve maternal health

Reaching every family with immunization puts mothers in touch with maternal care services.



MDG 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases

Special immunization activities can distribute bednets, vitamin A, deworming medications and other health interventions.



Societal and Long-term Benefits

Health Gain

Reduction in

- Morbidity
- Mortality

Outcome Related Productivity Health Gain

Increase

- Cognition
- Physical Strength
- Edu Attainment

Behavior Related Productivity Gain

- Child Health & Survival
- Change in Health Seeking Behavior

Health Care Related Productivity Gain

Saving future
medical expenditure

Community Externalities

Herd Immunity



Immunization and Women

Women are primary contact between family and the health systems

Vaccination of children impacts on women's lives

Preventing illness of children through immunization liberates mother's
1. Time, 2. Energy, 3. Resources

Utilizing child immunization services puts mother in touch with other preventives and maternal health services



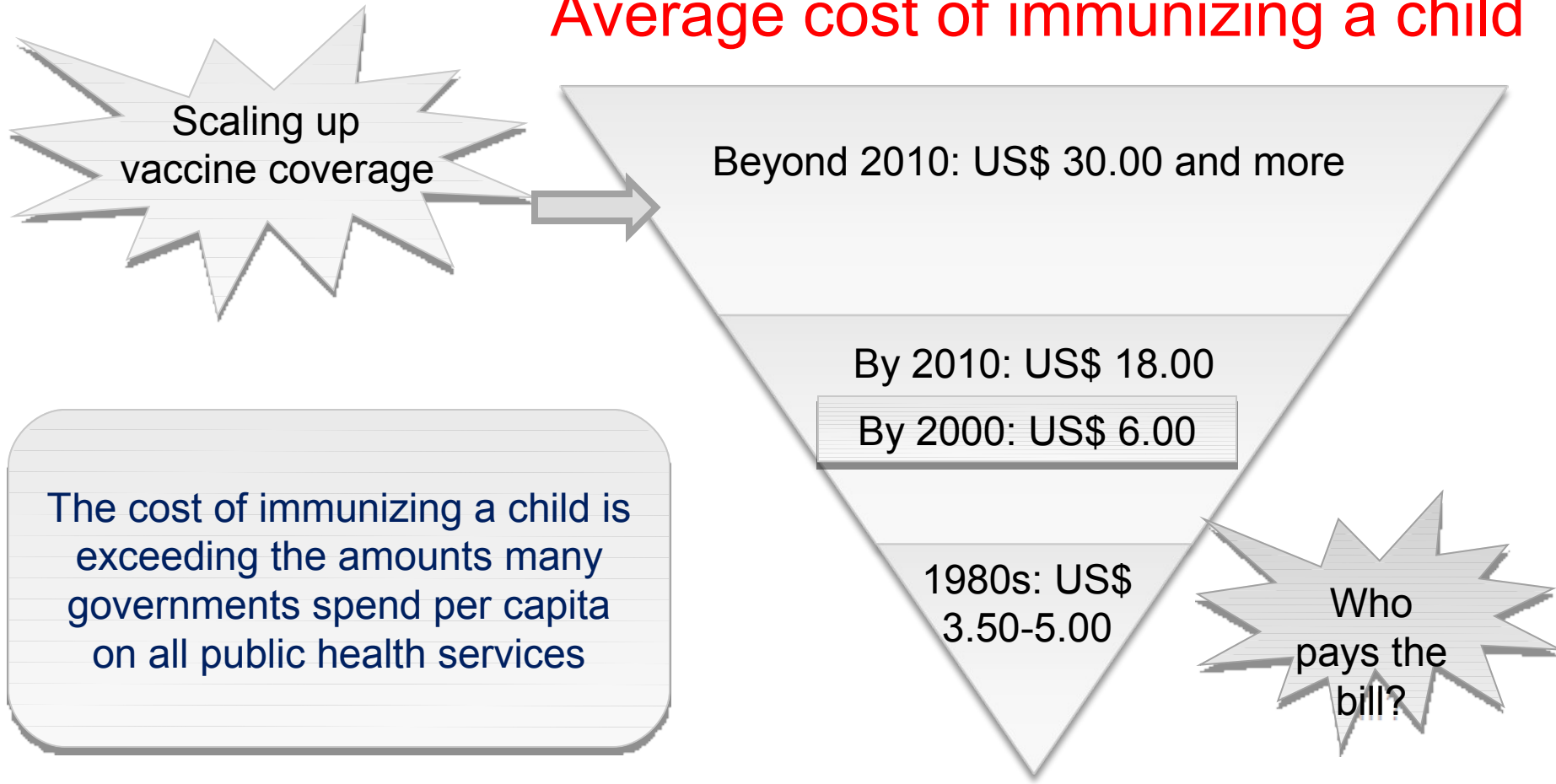
- A new vaccine addresses a major women's health problem is now available
- Cervical cancer: The biggest cancer killer of women in the developing world
- Main cause: human papillomavirus (HPV)
- 85% of the estimated 270,000 women who die of cervical cancer each year reside in developing countries
- The new HPV vaccine became available in 2006
 - Adopted in many high-income countries
 - Still not reach to most women in low-income countries

Source: Investing in immunization through GAVI Alliance: 10 Years of Saving Lives



Statement of Problem

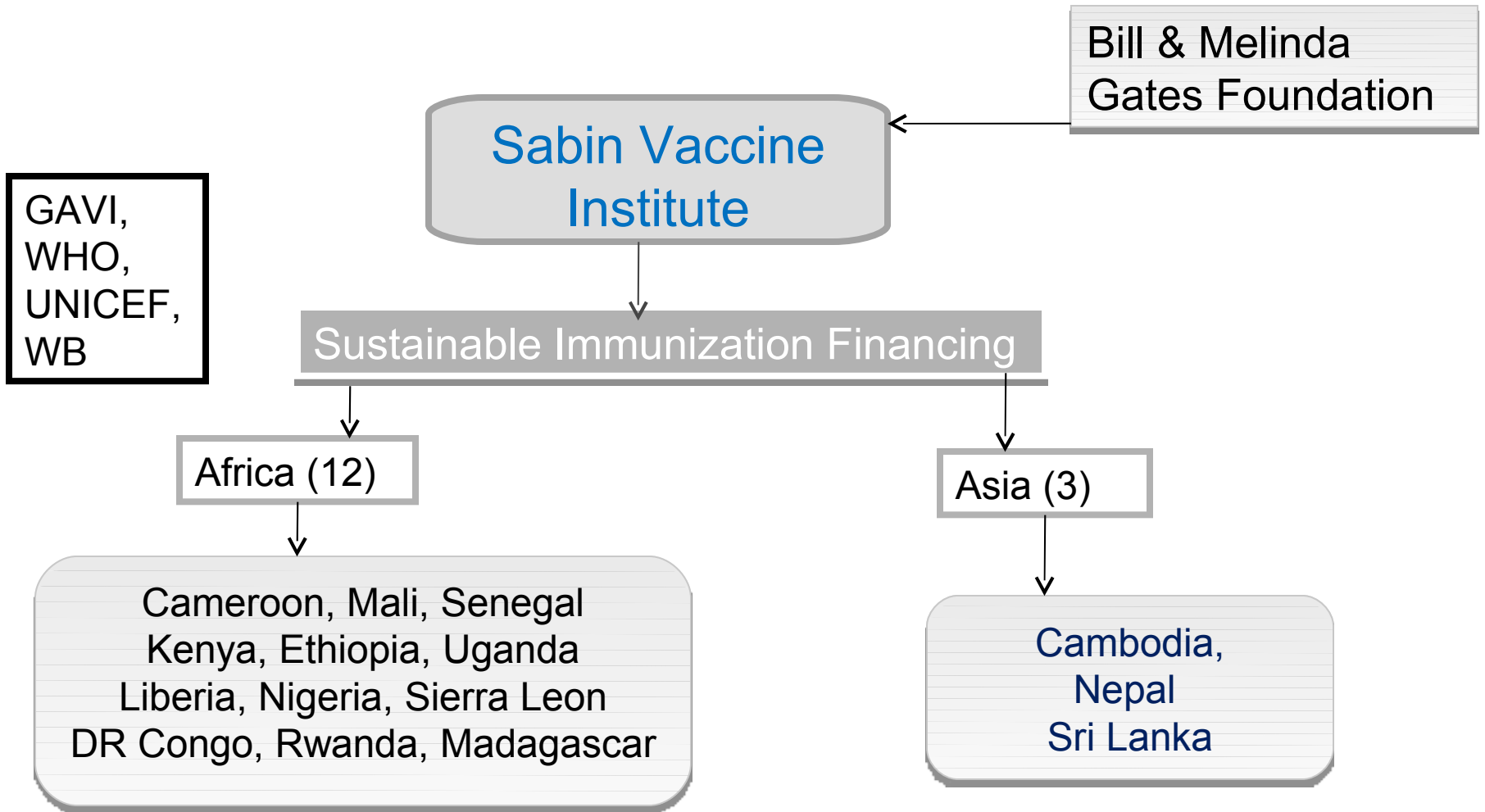
Average cost of immunizing a child



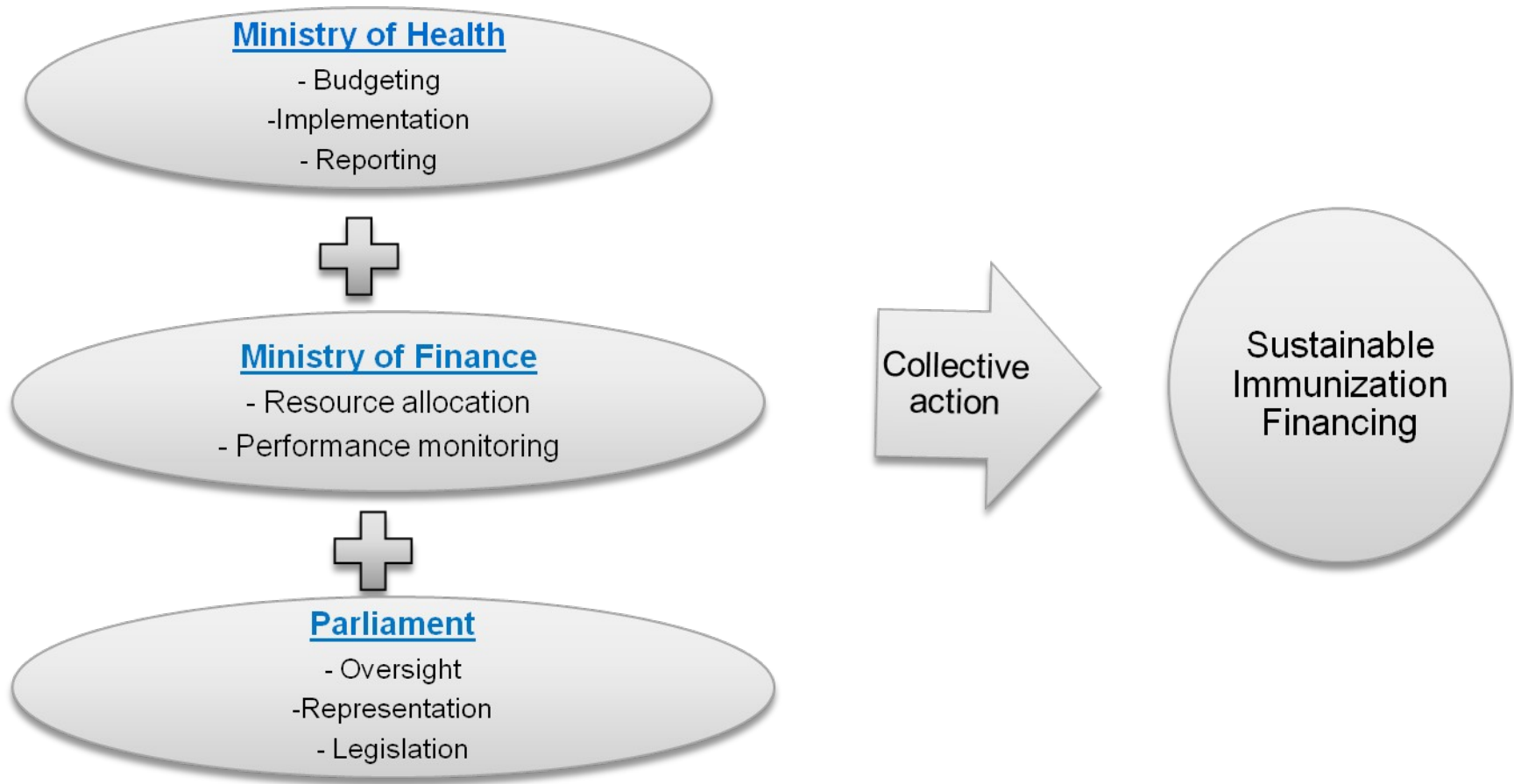
Financial Sustainability

- The GAVI Alliance Board approved the following definition of financial sustainability in 2001:
“Although self-sufficiency is the ultimate goal, in the nearer term, sustainable financing is the ability of a country to mobilize and efficiently use domestic and supplementary external resources on a reliable basis to achieve target levels of immunization performance.”





Institutional Perspective



Asian Sub-regional advocacy

- 1st Sub-regional level symposium for parliamentarians- 9-11 Feb, 2010 (Cambodia, Nepal and Sri Lanka)
- Symposium came up with “Kathmandu Declaration”



Asian Sub-regional advocacy

- 2nd sub-regional symposium for parliamentarians on sustainable immunization financing, 15-16 July, 2010, Colombo Sri Lanka
- Concluded with “Kathmandu-Colombo and Beyond Declaration”



H.E. Mrs. Lork Kheng and H.E. Mrs. Chuon Sochhay with Sri Lankan Health Minister and MPs from Nepal and Sri Lanka



Asian Sub-regional advocacy

- Third sub-regional symposium for parliamentarians on sustainable immunization financing held on 21-22 October, 2010 in Phnom Penh
- Concluded with “Phnom Penh Declaration”



H.E. Post Dr. Cheam Yeap and H.E. Eng Hout with Sabin's Director, Nepalese and Sri Lankan Delegates



Phnom Penh Declaration- 2010

- Identifies the role of parliamentarians in immunization in particular and maternal and child health in general
- Calls for Health Ministry and Finance Ministry to join Parliamentary health committee for collaborative work on financing immunization and MCH program
- Calls for provincial-level parliamentary briefings on immunization and MCH programs
- Emphasizes the goal of financially sustainable immunization systems
 - Need for Immunization Trust Fund
 - Need for Immunization Law



Roles of parliament

Oversight:

- Budget preparation
- Budget execution
- Policy and program performance,

Representation:

- Inform, educate, monitor constituents's concerns

Legislation:

- Bill to assure sustainable immunization financing



IPU: Parliamentarians lead the change for women and children

Represent the
voices of women and
children

Budget for maternal,
newborn and child
health

Legislate to ensure
universal access to
essential care

Advocate nationally
and internationally
for the Millennium
Development Goals

Oversee
government
accountability to
implement policies

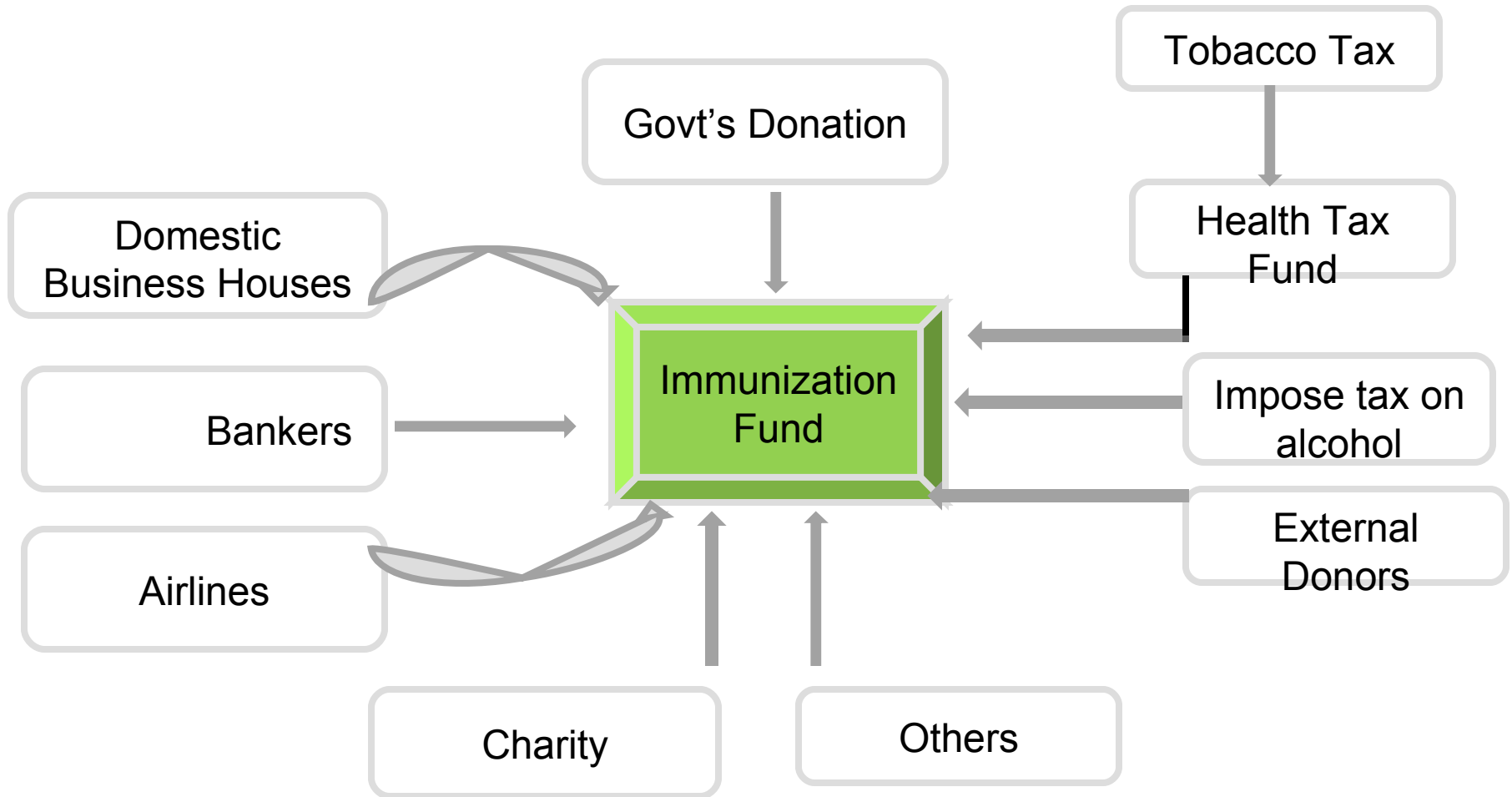


Provincial level briefing

- Cambodia held its first provincial level parliamentary briefings on sustainable immunization financing on 17-18 February, 2011
- Four provinces selected
- Three key national institutions (MoH, MoEF and Parliament) were involved
- Initial Phnom Penh expert briefing
- Discussions with provincial-level officials on problems, opportunities for co-financing immunization and MCH programs



Domestic Fundraising Model for Immunization



Benefits of Immunization Trust Fund

- Predictable and reliable source of immunization financing
- Resources for the long run (Sustainability)
- Principal will grow in size, principal remains untouched
 - only interest earnings used (Sustainability)
- Promotes national self-sufficiency
- Fosters greater accountability
- Involves new stakeholders



Regional level

- PAHO Revolving Fund
- At SAARC level
 - Sri Lanka has raised the issue of having SAARC level Revolving Fund for immunization
- At ASEAN level
 - We can think at ASEAN level

Country level:

- Health Trust Fund, Bhutan
- Immunization Trust Fund, Costa Rica



Immunization Laws

- Focus on existing immunization policies and strategies, update them periodically
- Clarify roles, responsibilities of health personnel, expert advisory committees
- Identify revenue sources and establish permanent budget lines for immunization
- 26 Latin American countries have IL
- Most of the SIF countries developing laws



Thanks!

