

# ISSUES IN AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESS TO VACCINES AND THE ROLE OF THE VACCINE INDUSTRY

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**A**ccess to vaccines and their affordability are prime concerns in developing countries. While much has been done to address these critical determinants of immunization by multi-lateral agencies, there are many aspects related to the character and structure of the industry which are still to be effectively addressed. Chief among these are the non-egalitarian mission of vaccine companies, the oligopolistic character of the industry, lack of focus on vaccines for neglected diseases and pursuit of profit maximization. Compounding this at the field level are issues related to health system preparedness, delivery infrastructure, program errors, and to some extent the negative social and religious influence. It is imperative on the vaccine industry to shed its reticence and play a pro-active and egalitarian role to foster shared value with governments and the society, and thereby make immunization affordable and accessible to all.

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