Hepatitis A (Hep A) is a viral liver disease that can cause mild to severe illness. The Hepatitis A virus (HAV) is transmitted through ingestion of contaminated food and water or direct contact with an infectious person. Almost everyone recovers fully from Hep A with lifelong immunity. However, a small proportion of people infected with Hep A could die from fulminant hepatitis. WHO estimates that Hep A caused approximately 7,134 deaths in 2016 (accounting for 0.5% of the mortality due to viral hepatitis)*. Currently, two pediatric and two adult Hepatitis A vaccines are pre-qualified by WHO.

Historically, demand for Hepatitis A Vaccine through UNICEF has been sporadic, and many countries procured through UNICEF after their national sourcing systems fail to yield results or in the context of outbreaks where demand outstrips supply and countries are unable to access vaccine through established national systems.


The procurement of Hep A vaccine is solely dependent on the national governments’ financing and there is no external donor support. For this reason, the demand for the vaccine through UNICEF remains volatile. Demand is forecasted at approximately 850 thousand doses per year during the next three years.

![Hepatitis A Vaccine Demand Forecast](https://www.unicef.org/supply/)

**ISSUES & CHALLENGES**

Poor demand forecasting:

- Inadequate national systems to anticipate demand for preventive immunization or monitor cyclic recurrences in order to establish contingency outbreak response mechanisms.
- Delayed availability of or lack of financing hampers demand planning and timely confirmation of demand.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

- UNICEF continuously pursues information on countries’ vaccine requirements and works with countries with the aim of enhancing demand forecast accuracy to enable improved and longer-term forecasts communicated to the industry.
- UNICEF plans to issue the next tender during 2024 to enable establishing continued access to supply of Hep A vaccine during 2025 and beyond.

[https://www.unicef.org/supply/](https://www.unicef.org/supply/)