

A dose of reality: Will the Advanced Market Commitment pilot maximise lives saved?

31 March 2009



Today, a new paper has been launched that challenges the established arguments for the Advanced Market Commitment (AMC) model and reveals a history of rejected alternatives that could increase the number of children immunised by the millions. *Advanced Market Commitments: Current Realities and Alternate Approaches* by Professor Donald W. Light, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, USA has been published by Health Action International and Medico International.

“For donors, public health advocates and most importantly, developing country governments, patients and consumers, this paper offers a fresh perspective on the AMC design and the problematic process that has driven the pilot project.” Tim Reed, Director, Health Action International.

The purpose of the AMC concept sponsored by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation was to motivate originator pharmaceutical companies to conduct research into vaccines for the ‘neglected diseases’ that mainly affect developing countries. Instead, GAVI’s (Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation) AMC pilot has become an overpriced procurement agreement for supplementary doses of existing vaccines developed for affluent markets. Donors have committed more than 1.5 billion USD to purchasing vaccines at a price that locks in extra profits and reduces the number of children that could be immunised.

Whilst acknowledging the importance of the essential AMC concept, the report looks behind the bright lights and marketing speak and offers a deeper insight into the history and development of the concept. Light presents a critique of the design process and proposes workable alternatives to the current model, combining advanced purchasing with low prices and sharing or licensing of intellectual property.

Oxfam International agrees that “the first advanced market commitment, as the report demonstrates, has a number of fundamental flaws that should raise concern amongst donors and public health experts. Oxfam hopes both donor countries and GAVI pay heed to the findings of this paper and consider major changes to the first advanced market commitment to ensure it truly meets the needs of poor people in developing countries.”

Advanced Market Commitments: Current Realities and Alternate Approaches reopens the debate about how best to structure advanced purchases so that they truly address the burden of neglected diseases in developing countries. There is no more important question for proponents of the AMC than how to maximise the number of children immunised.

The report is available at www.haiweb.org

“Oxfam lauds this new publication as a thorough critique of the many problems associated with the first advanced market commitment. It is essential to identify new sources of financing to create incentives to develop new medicines and vaccines that address the needs of poor countries.” **Oxfam International**

PRESS RELEASE

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