

Tech start-up Simprints selected as a 2018 Gavi INFUSE Pacesetter to ensure every child is protected against vaccine-preventable disease.

After a rigorous, multi-round review by leaders in business, health, and government, Simprints was selected by Gavi as one of four tried and tested innovations that have potential to improve vaccine delivery around the world.

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, is a public–private global health partnership committed to increasing access to immunisation in poor countries. [INFUSE](#) is an initiative launched at Davos in 2016; its purpose is to incubate the most promising innovations in vaccinations delivery and infuse them with capital and expertise to help take them scale. This year, over 200 innovators applied to the programme; 11 proceeded to a final round of pitching to a panel of evaluators from Google, the Gates Foundation, MasterCard, the governments of Canada and France, among others; and four were chosen to receive monetary and non-monetary support to scale for impact.

[Simprints](#) builds open standard biometric technology that is 228% more accurate with the scarred, worn fingerprints typical of "last mile" beneficiaries. Simprints empowers already existing mobile tools used by NGOs and governments to deliver accurate, essential services like healthcare at the frontlines. As a Pacesetter, Simprints will receive targeted support from Gavi's community, leveraging connections to key stakeholders in ministries of health, technology providers, and potentially match funders for projects in vaccine coverage for the last mile. Their goal with Gavi is to radically disrupt the inaccurate way we currently track and deliver vaccines, and instead build a world where every infant and child—not guesswork—actually counts in the fight against vaccine-preventable disease.

According to Gavi ([2018](#)), only 7% of children living in the 73 poorest countries are fully immunized. Seth Berkley, CEO of Gavi, says, "With one in four children born without being registered, it is an identity crisis that now represents one of the biggest barriers to achieving our development goals...From biometrics and data-analytics systems to wireless embedded sensors and energy innovations, it should now be possible, for example, to create new, affordable and secure digital ID systems capable of working in poorly resourced settings, even where there is no reliable electricity. By leapfrogging existing antiquated systems, this could enable every child to have a unique medical record that follows them through life."