Gavi's approach to engagement with former and never-eligible Middle Income Countries (MICs)

BOARD MEETING Santiago Cornejo 15-17 December 2020, Virtual Meeting



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The objectives of the MICs Approach address key threats to sustainability and equity, which are core to Gavi 5.0

Challenges

MICs are missing critical vaccine introductions, and never-Gavis lag behind former-Gavis with similar income levels

> E.g., 8 never-Gavi MICs are missing all three of PCV. rotavirus, and HPV vaccines, and 11 are missing two of the three²

Risk of backsliding, heightened by the pandemic, threatens Gavi legacy and exacerbates inequities

> E.g., 8 former Gavis have seen a decrease in number of children vaccinated in 2020 vs. 2019¹

MICs Objectives

Drive sustainable introductions of key missing vaccines in former and never Gavi-eligible countries

Prevent and mitigate backsliding in former Gavieligible countries

Given the relevance of these threats to the successful delivery of Gavi 5.0, it is critical to move forward on the MICs agenda now.

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1. Over the first 6 months of the year. Preliminary data. WHO Administrative Data Estimates for DTP3, November 2020. 2. Includes never-Gavi MICs with GNI p.c. <\$6,000 and additional never-Gavi IDA eligible economies. 15-17 December 2020 Note: In this presentation, the acronyms "MIC", "LMIC", and "UMIC", and the word "countries" include economies. that are not UN member states.



A gradual approach, with a primary near-term focus on backsliding in former Gavis, is proposed in light of COVID-19

- The pandemic has constrained the capacity of countries and the Alliance, necessitating tradeoffs
- Furthermore, in most countries new non-COVID-19 vaccine introductions will not be a priority near-term
 → Initial activities will be targeted, focused on countries with meaningful opportunities for impact

in S	Former-Gavi countries	Never-Gavi LMICs & IDA-eligible economies ¹	
Primary focus in first 18 months	Preventing and mitigating backsliding via political will building, enhancing the immunisation ecosystem, and targeted interventions to restore coverage	Strengthening relationships, building on partner experiences, via engagement through the COVAX AMC	
Opportunistic activities	Leveraging COVID-19 vaccine introductions to lay the groundwork for future successful introductions of PCV, rota and HPV, via incremental investments to broaden the relevance of planned COVID-19 vaccine delivery support		
	In very few cases, providing targeted support for new HPV, rotavirus, or PCV introductions where countries have already initiated them, via political will building and enhancing the immunisation ecosystem		
	We propose an initial window of ~US\$ 70 million of the US\$ 281 million envelope for the first 18 months.		

The full suite of support, including consideration of UMICs <6 for inclusion, will come back to the Board in June 2022.

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1. Inclusion of never-Gavi UMICs <\$6k to be reviewed by the Board in June 2022.

Reflecting on the key points of feedback from the PPC, and requesting the Board's guidance

Feedback was positive and supportive. All decision proposals were recommended to the Board.

Key points of feedback:

More specificity on Fragility:

- FER policy for Gavi-eligible countries is being evaluated, including reviewing how Gavi might identify a 'fragile' country and what responses are appropriate.
- Important that Gavi have a consistent approach to fragility across its policy framework.
- Based on this learning, the FER policy review will consider if and how Gavi could engage with fragile MICs.

To develop a **Theory of Change (ToC)**:

- The Secretariat has since developed a draft ToC, focusing on the priorities for the first 18 months.
- The Secretariat will continue to work with partners to develop this and welcome the Board's guidance.



To formalise the **learning agenda:**

- The Secretariat has since developed draft 'use cases' and 'key priorities/questions' to drive the learning agenda.
 We welcome the Board's reflection and guidance.
- Working with Alliance partners, the Secretariat will refine these use cases and learning questions to develop a detailed learning agenda that is aligned with the broader Gavi 5.0 Learning System.

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Recommendation

The Gavi Alliance Programme and Policy Committee **recommends** to the Gavi Alliance Board that it:

- a) <u>Approve</u> the objectives of the Middle-Income Countries (MICs) Approach, namely (i) to prevent backsliding in vaccine coverage in former Gavi-eligible countries, and (ii) to drive the sustainable introduction of key missing vaccines in both former and select never Gavi-eligible countries;
- b) Noting that the Board has already approved (in June 2019) the inclusion of former Gavi-eligible countries in the scope of eligibility for the MICs Approach, <u>approve</u> the inclusion of never Gavi-eligible LMICs (<US\$ 4,000 GNI p.c.) and all other never Gavi-eligible World Bank IDA-eligible economies in the scope of eligibility for the MICs Approach;

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Recommendation

- c) <u>Approve</u> the funding envelope of US\$ 281 million for the MICs Approach during the period of Gavi 5.0, i.e. from January 2021 to December 2025;
- d) <u>Approve</u> the proposal for 'initial engagement', as described in Annex B to Doc 07, from January 2021 to June 2022, accounting for up to 25% of the total MICs funding envelope, noting that additional proposals to deliver on the full MICs Approach will be brought for Board approval in June 2022, along with a review of the inclusion of non-IDA eligible, never Gavi-eligible UMICs <US\$ 6,000 GNI p.c. into the MICs Approach.



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Recommendation

e) <u>Approve</u> extending the time period from until December 2020 to until June 2022 for use of the US\$ 20 million for targeted support previously approved by the Board (June 2020) for former Gavi-eligible countries to strengthen political will and address an identified risk of reduction in coverage rates of vaccines introduced with Gavi support in that country.

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