

Annex C: Paragraphs referenced in decision point (d) on the rules under which support could be provided to fragile MICs

7. Responding to the needs of fragile MICs

7.1 The MICs Approach presented by the Secretariat to the Board in December 2020 was not designed to respond to the needs of fragile MICs and therefore did not include support to help affected countries maintain critical routine immunisation programmes during times of great difficulty. **At that time, when the Board reviewed and approved the MICs Approach, the PPC Chair reported that several PPC members had suggested the Secretariat further explore how to work with fragile MICs¹.** Since then, global events including conflict and economic crises have brought the challenges faced by affected countries into alarming focus and several MICs experiencing situations of crisis have approached Gavi for support.

7.2 Accordingly, the Secretariat developed and presented a specific proposal to support fragile MICs, alongside two country requests for support, to the PPC in May 2022 for consideration. Following PPC feedback at that meeting, the Secretariat has subsequently worked to define a more distinct **set of rules under which dedicated support could be provided to MICs that face challenges caused by fragility, emergencies and displaced persons.** This rules-based approach ringfences potential support within clear boundaries that speak to Gavi's model and the Alliance's comparative advantages and determines the conditions under which countries that are eligible under the MICs approach can receive dedicated support towards maintaining critical routine immunisation programmes.

7.3 A rules-based approach to responding to the needs of fragile MICs

7.4 To be considered for dedicated support as a 'fragile MIC', **the country must first be eligible under the MICs Approach².** Countries that are not eligible under the MICs Approach would not be supported. The country must then also meet **all the following conditions:**

- First, the country must **fall within the classification for settings of chronic fragility, acute emergencies and/or hosting displaced populations** as set out in Gavi's Fragility, Emergencies and Displaced Populations (FED) Policy,
- Second, there must be an **evidence-based demonstration of a time-limited need**, against which Gavi is best placed to respond in line with the Alliance's comparative advantages, and
- Third, the country has given a **clear commitment to sustain funding for immunisation** following the end of any Gavi support, thereby avoiding creating dependencies in line with Gavi's development model.

¹ Board meeting, December 2020 <https://www.gavi.org/sites/default/files/board/minutes/2020/Board-2020-Mtg-06-Minutes.pdf>

² i.e., a former-Gavi country, a never-Gavi LMIC or an IDA-eligible economy

- 7.5 Only if a country eligible under the MICs Approach meets these three conditions would the Secretariat explore providing dedicated support to help the country to maintain its routine immunisation programme. The **support modalities** that the Secretariat proposes to make available to fragile MICs are **vaccine financing for existing routine immunisation programmes** and **technical assistance**, alongside assessing whether countries could access Gavi prices (if this could lead to savings). Health systems strengthening support would not be provided and thus Gavi support to fragile MICs would only be channelled through partners, not directly to countries. **Support would not be guaranteed but determined on a case-by-case basis**, designed in collaboration with in-country partners to complement any other support being provided, and would be carefully monitored against its impact. So as not to divert resources from Gavi-eligible countries, **any funding for fragile MICs would be from within the approved MICs Approach budget**. As a defined envelope would create a presumption of spend, the Secretariat is proposing a **maximum ceiling of 25% of the overall MICs Approach budget**, also ensuring that any support to fragile MICs does not prevent Gavi responding to the needs the MICs Approach was set up to meet. The provision of any support and the determination of whether the above conditions are met would be approved by the CEO.