

Health System Strengthening Programme Evaluation

Madagascar

Gavi provided funding for Madagascar's health system strengthening (HSS) programme from 2008-2013. The 2014 HSS support evaluation was commissioned by Gavi and conducted by John Snow, Inc.

BACKGROUND

Recognising that achieving immunisation coverage is dependent upon strong service systems the Gavi Board took the first steps to widen Gavi support to HSS in 2005.

Countries are encouraged to use Gavi HSS funding to target the "bottlenecks" or barriers in the health system that impede progress in improving the provision of and demand for immunisation and other maternal and child health (MCH) services.

Madagascar's HSS programme focused on five key areas:

- I. Strengthen the provision of quality health services to the entire population
- II. Improve human resources management of the health sector
- III. Increase the mobilization and allocation of financial resources
- IV. Stimulate demand and use of the health services
- V. Strengthen and institutionalize a monitoring and evaluation system

OBJECTIVES

The evaluation assessed performance related to the achievement of the planned objectives in Madagascar's HSS support proposal, including:

- its contribution to improved health system performance
- the potential link between Gavi HSS funding and improved immunization system performance and outcomes
- the effect of the country context, particularly the political situation, on Gavi HSS Support performance

METHODOLOGY

Findings are based on both qualitative and quantitative data collected through document review, questionnaires, field visits, and key informant interviews.

KEY FINDINGS

Gavi was helpful in proposal development and responsive to questions about the proposal process.

The lack of involvement of CSOs in the team developing the proposal may have contributed to the proposal not including funding for their activities which focused on supporting community agents.

Involving decentralized territorial collectives, NGOs, and associations in the pursuit of HSS activities is a sustainability strategy; these organizations are a likely source of future financial and technical support.

HSS activities were partially successful in improving access, quality, and equity of immunization and other services by hiring and deploying health staff to areas poorly served by trained health personnel, providing vehicles and motorbikes, and renovating health facilities.

A positive outcome of a second reprogramming, which focused on specific components of the immunization programme, was that all of the MoPH Departments and the immunization programme began participating in supervision, monitoring, and training.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Gavi should provide training and support on procurement to the entire HSS support team and clear rules and regulations for procurement of goods are necessary to ensure transparency.

Provision of a manual of procedures about how to implement Gavi HSS activities is essential.

Include a risk mitigation plan in future HSS proposals.

Increase the involvement of regional, district, and community level staff to instill a greater sense of ownership of the HSS activities at different levels of the health system.

Expand the NGO mapping activity to include information on how the intervention domains by the partners are addressed geographically.

Convene a joint meeting with key ICC members prior to implementation of future HSS activities and work to align donor support.

The report's final recommendations help inform the country and Gavi Board regarding future HSS proposals from the country.
