

Guidance on Procurement of Vaccines and Cold Chain Equipment

1. Procurement of vaccines and vaccine devices

Countries receiving NVS support have the following two options for the procurement of vaccines and vaccine devices:

- through a Gavi procurement agency (UNICEF or the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Revolving Fund); or
- self-procurement, wherein countries receive the equivalent financial support directly from Gavi.

These options are available for all vaccines supported by Gavi, **except for the pneumococcal vaccine** (including the co-financed portion), which has to be procured through UNICEF due to the terms and conditions of the pneumococcal AMC. Countries procuring pneumococcal vaccine through UNICEF can still self-procure vaccine devices.

1.1 Requirements for self-procuring countries

All countries may procure their co-financed portion through UNICEF or an alternative mechanism (to be specified in the application). In the former option, countries should transfer funds directly to UNICEF as outlined in the Procurement Services Memorandum of Understanding between UNICEF and the country (either to UNICEF Supply Division or to the country office). Co-financed funds should never be transferred to the Gavi Secretariat. The country agrees with the procurement partner to share information with Gavi on the status of the purchase of co-financed portion of the vaccines and supplies.

Countries proposing to self-procure using Gavi funds are required to include a description of their procurement mechanism, details on how vaccine and vaccine devices will be procured and managed (including timings for procurement and their coordination with national planning and budgeting cycles), and assurances on the procurement of quality products (as described below) in their application.

To assure the procurement of quality products, countries are required to adhere to the following self-procurement conditions:

For vaccines:

- these need to be selected from the list of WHO pre-qualified products; or
- fully functional National Regulatory Authorities (as assessed by WHO) in both the country of manufacture and the country of purchase must assure that the proposed vaccine complies with WHO's definition of quality vaccines (as described in WHO's Technical Report Series)¹ and has no unresolved quality problems reported to WHO.

For auto-disable syringes and cold chain equipment:

- these products need to be pre-qualified under WHO's Performance, Quality and Safety system.
- for disposal boxes, countries must either procure devices that appear on the relevant WHO list of pre-qualified products or submit to WHO a certificate of quality from the relevant national authority.

¹ Available at: http://who.int/biologicals/technical_report_series/en/

Prior to self-procurement, Gavi will review the country procurement mechanism to assess whether it satisfies acceptable procurement methods and to make recommendations on minimum reporting requirements and possible improvements.

How self-procurement works

The country will receive the total funding for the procurement in a lump sum from Gavi only after the country agrees to conform to the above-mentioned Gavi recommendations. The amount of financial support provided by Gavi is based on the weighted average price for the vaccine (across all products and presentations) as forecasted by the Gavi Secretariat, in consultation with Gavi's procurement agencies. If a country's negotiated procurement price is higher than the amount of financial support provided by Gavi, the government is required to pay the difference in order to purchase enough vaccines to reach the target population. If the price is lower than the amount of financial support provided by Gavi, the country shall invest the excess funds in the immunisation programme and report on the use of these funds in subsequent monitoring reports to Gavi.



Further information on Gavi's policy for self-procurement is available here: www.gavi.org/about/governance/programme-policies/self-procurement-policy.

2. Equipment procurement

UNICEF Supply Division (SD) is the sole procurement agent for the CCE Optimisation Platform. All countries applying through the CCE Optimisation Platform are therefore required to procure through this agent. Should a country decide to self-procure, the CCE Optimisation Platform will not joint-finance the investment.

Buffer fees: A 7% buffer on total equipment cost is built into country yearly budgets. This could cover, for example, currency variations, demurrage and associated costs, or implementation deviations, and will be returned to country, if unused.

Procurement fees: Countries will also need to pay UNICEF's procurement costs for the country joint investment portion, estimated to be up to 8.5%. Please obtain actual amounts from the UNICEF country office.

After a platform support application has been approved by Gavi, the country will work with UNICEF-SD to agree on final pricing, model selection by year, and delivery timelines.

Countries that choose to finance their share of the joint investment with in-country resources or through non-Gavi partners will agree with UNICEF-SD, the appropriate \$US amount and transfer it to UNICEF-SD prior to procurement. HSS funds used for the country joint investment will be transferred directly by Gavi to UNICEF on behalf of the country.

Disbursement of Gavi's joint investment share to UNICEF is contingent on UNICEF confirming receipt of country joint investment share.