

Annex G: Independent Review Committee (IRC)

Applications reviewed during the Gavi 5.0/5.1 strategic period (2021-2025)

The Gavi 5.0 strategic period (2021–2025) has been shaped by the global disruption caused by the COVID-19 (C-19) pandemic, which significantly disrupted immunisation delivery efforts and planning. As a result, the implementation of the 2018 Vaccine Investment Strategy (VIS), which expanded the portfolio of Gavi-supported vaccines, was temporarily paused and only resumed midway through the period. These contextual shifts are reflected in the application patterns reviewed by the Independent Review Committee (IRC) (see Figure 4).

To date, the IRC has reviewed a total of **677¹ applications for Gavi support** during the Gavi 5.0 period—representing a substantial increase compared to previous strategic cycles. Of these, **630 applications (92%) were approved**, while **47 (8%) were recommended for re-review**, highlighting the consistently high quality of submissions assessed throughout the period (see Figure 1).

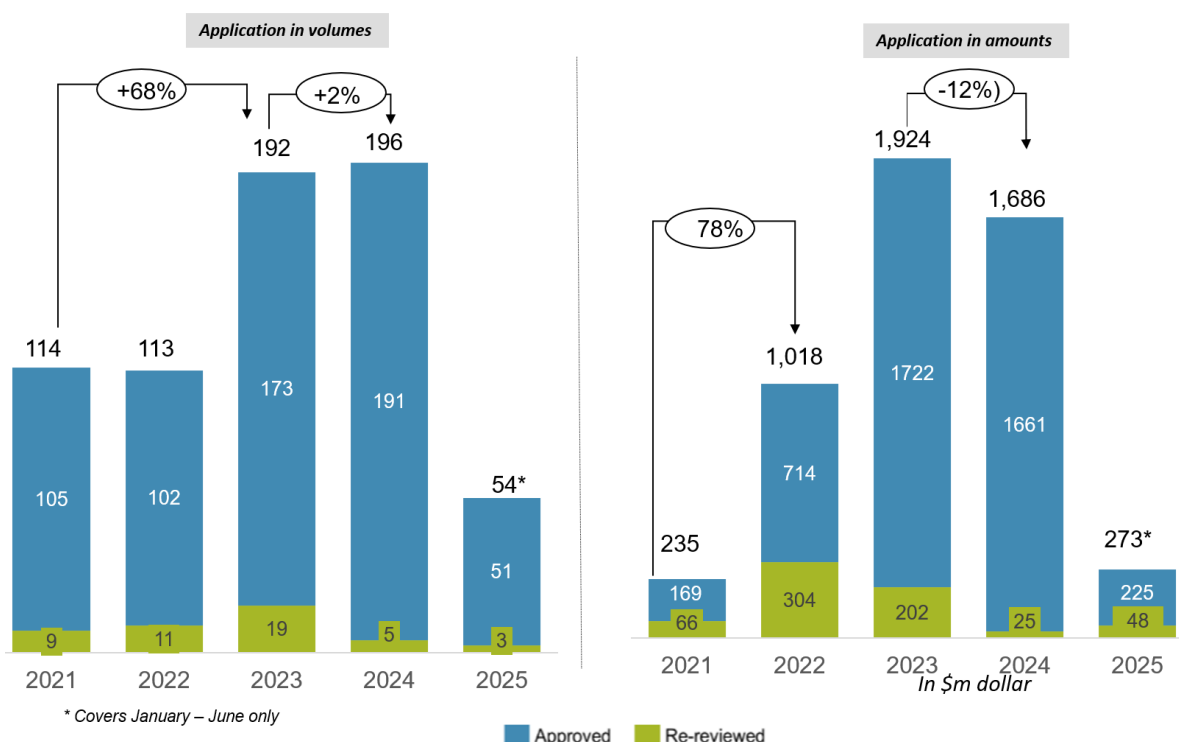


Figure 1: IRC reviewed applications (application volumes and financial data) overview 2021 - 2025

Application volumes were relatively low during the outset of the strategic period, largely due to the global focus on C-19. Activity increased significantly in 2023 and 2024, reflecting a shift in programme priorities. The early pandemic phase was dominated by COVAX cold chain equipment (CCE) reviews, followed by a pivot in 2022 toward Targeted Country Assistance (TCA) and Equity Accelerator Funding (EAF). Since 2023, there has been a resurgence of previously deferred Full Portfolio

¹ This figure does not yet include applications expected during the November IRC and other time-sensitive reviews. The total number of applications is projected to exceed 700 by the end of the year.

Planning applications, encompassing Health System Strengthening (HSS) investments and new vaccine introductions. Throughout this period, the Committee has maintained a balance between rapid responsiveness to urgent outbreaks, including early COVAX-related requests, Mpox, and diphtheria, and structured portfolio development. These efforts remain aligned with the Board's strategic objectives under Gavi 5.0 and Gavi 5.1.

Application Trends: Covid-19 Period

Between the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and early 2022, IRC-reviewed applications were predominantly focused on pandemic response and outbreak prevention. Cold Chain Equipment and Optimisation Platform (CCEOP) requests represented the majority, accounting for 77 out of 119 applications (64.7%), reflecting the strategic emphasis on expanding cold chain capacity—including ultra-cold chain freezers—to support vaccine delivery under temperature-controlled conditions. Measles and measles-rubella (MR) preventative campaign applications (21, or 17.6%) constituted the largest share of vaccine support requests, totalling approximately US\$ 154 million. This investment aligned with the urgent need to mitigate risks from outbreak-prone diseases following disruptions to routine immunisation services. The remaining 17% of applications covered a mix of health system strengthening, other vaccine introductions, and emergency outbreak responses, contributing to a diversified yet targeted portfolio during a period of global health crisis.

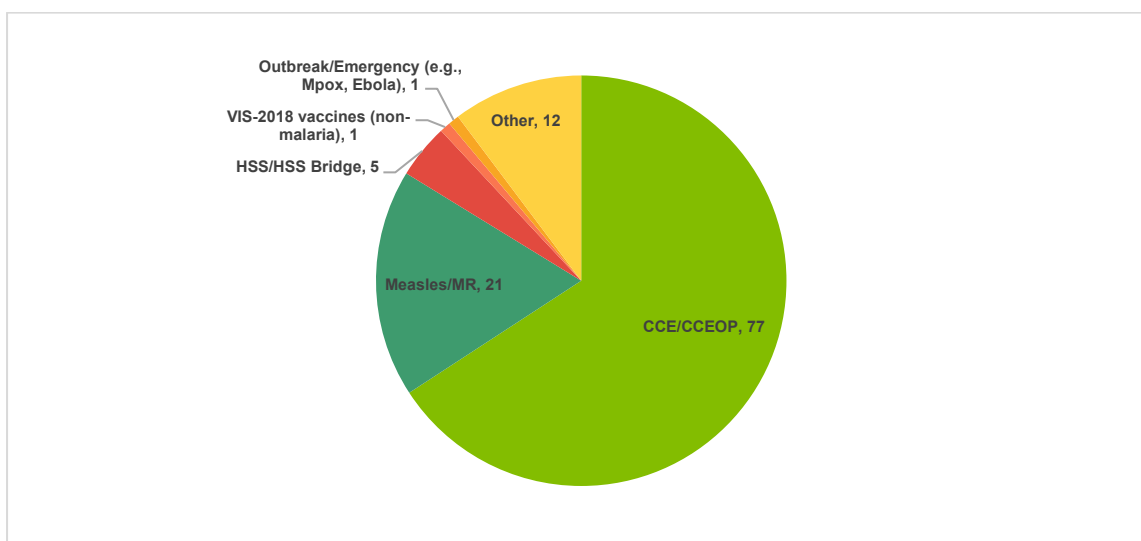


Figure 2: IRC Reviewed Funding Applications COVID-19 Period to Early 2022

Application Trends: Post-C-19 Period

From April 2022, the IRC observed a marked surge and diversification in funding applications, as countries transitioned out of emergency C-19 response and resumed planned immunisation activities.

This shift coincided with the reactivation of the VIS 2018 agenda. Applications for VIS 2018 vaccines became the largest category by volume, with 129 submissions (22.3%) valued at approximately US\$ 1.2 billion. Malaria vaccine requests came for the first time in Nov 2022, with 44 applications (7.6%) totalling around US\$ 410 million. Measles remained a material component at roughly 10% of applications, while

CCE/CCEOP shifted to a supporting role at 7.9%. Overall financial volume rose to approximately US\$ 4.9 billion, reflecting both the reopening of deferred investments and the scale-up of new vaccine introductions.

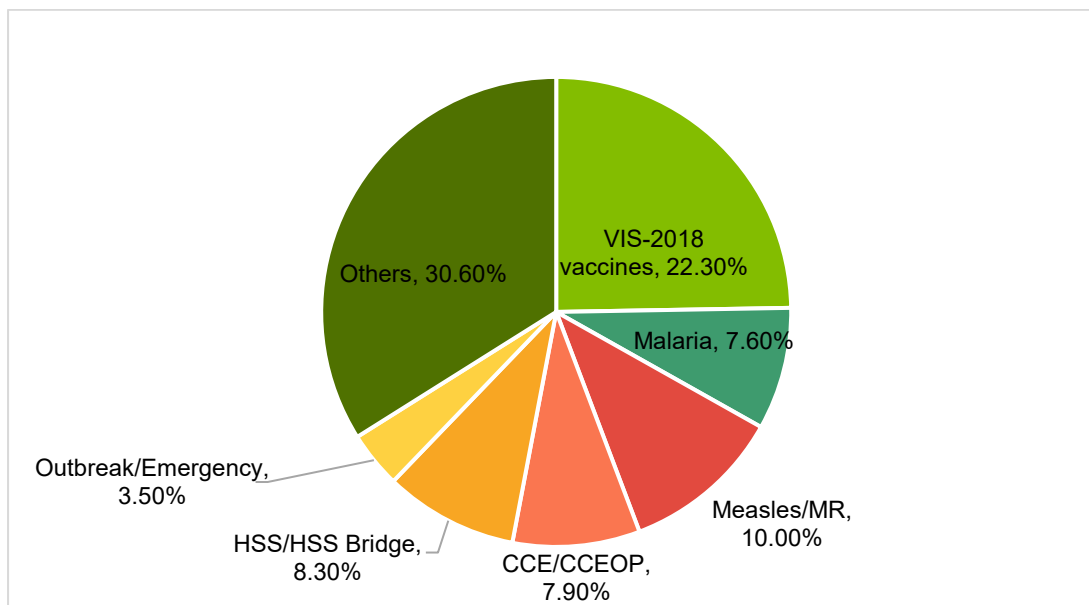


Figure 3:IRC Reviewed Funding Applications Post-C19 Period from April 2022 – date

Portfolio diversification

With the resumption of VIS 2018, the nature of applications shifted, demonstrating a steady diversification. Approximately 54% of vaccine requests reviewed by the IRC were new vaccines offered by Gavi during the 5.0 strategic period. This surge reflected heightened country demand and demonstrated the Committee's ability to scale operations and pivot to emerging public-health priorities. As illustrated in figure 4, requests span established portfolio vaccines and newer products, including Malaria, Hexa, Rabies, HepB-birth dose, Mpox and others.

In addition, the IRC progressively expanded its scope (Figure 5) to review additional cash submissions, including innovation top-ups, equity accelerator funding (EAF) and middle-income country (MIC) requests, signaling deepening technical capacity aligned to the evolving strategy.

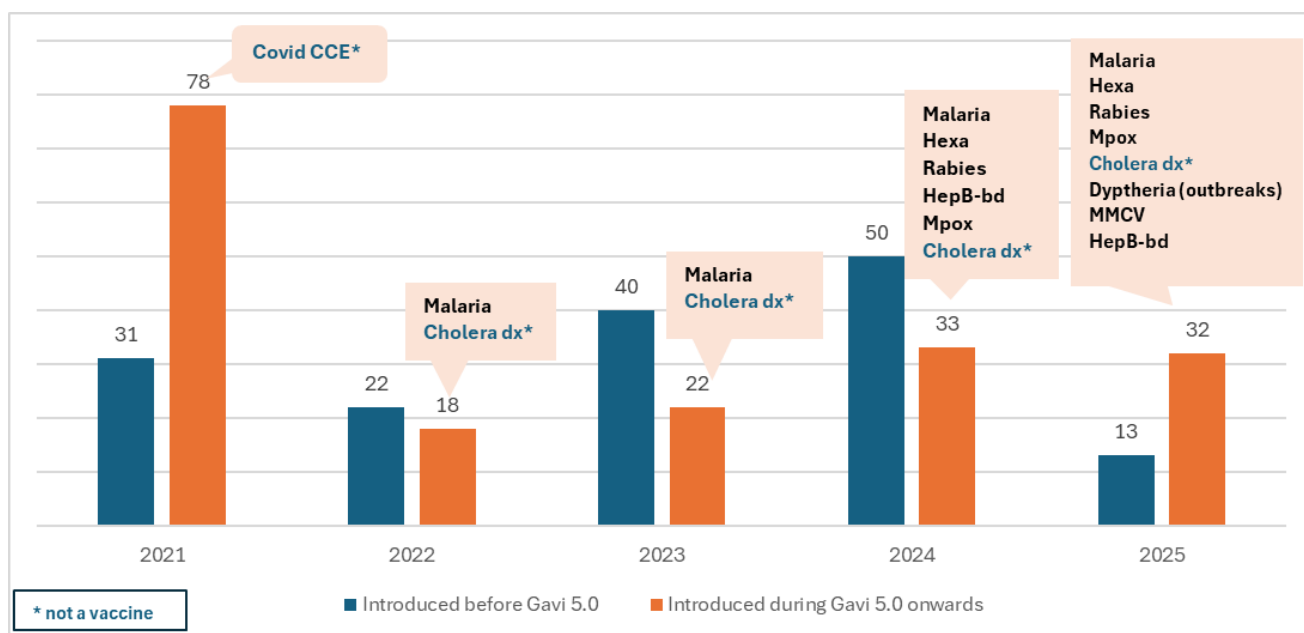


Figure 4 Vaccine support reviewed by IRC between 2021 – date

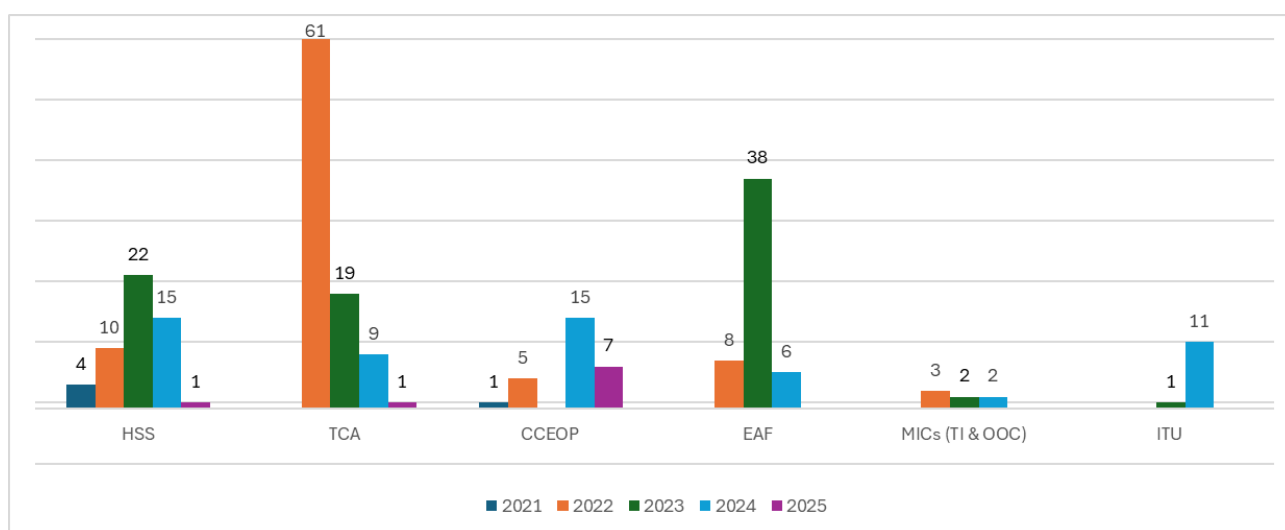


Figure 5: Cash support reviewed by the IRC between 2021 to date

IRC Transformation

The IRC Transformation project, launched in September 2023 and completed in March 2025, significantly enhanced Gavi's application review processes by improving efficiency, quality, and strategic alignment. Structured around four key workstreams—differentiated review processes, quality assurance, membership and culture, and learning and mandate—the transformation introduced tailored review criteria and processes, updated and simplified templates, and enhanced the consistency and quality of IRC reports. It also strengthened IRC cohesion through training, leadership development, and revised governance, culminating in updated Terms of Reference approved by the Board. Enhanced collaboration with Gavi governance bodies and systematic tracking of recommendations further improved accountability and strategic oversight across the Alliance.

As part of the broader IRC transformation, the utilisation of the reviewer pool was significantly enhanced. A total of 128 reviewers were recruited to support IRC application rounds. Efforts during this period focused on optimising the deployment of existing reviewers while strategically expanding the pool with new expertise to meet evolving programme priorities, including the introduction of newer vaccine initiatives.

As of 2025, active IRC membership stands at 90, representing a broad and balanced pool. The current gender ratio is 60% male to 40% female is in line with Gavi's committee requirements and compares favorably to Gavi 4.0. Individual review rounds tend to achieve near-gender-parity. Additionally, this period saw a 24% (from 26% to 50%) rise in IRC members from Gavi-eligible countries, strengthening contextual relevance and fairness in reviews

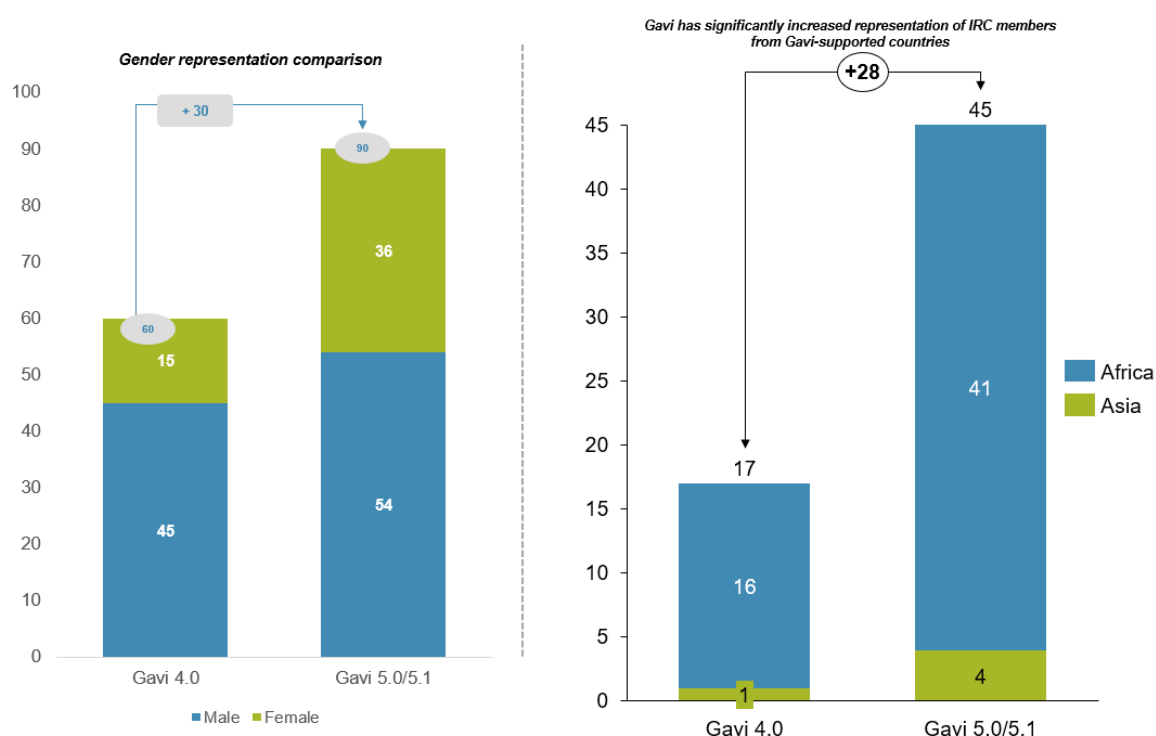


Figure 6: Shifts in IRC Membership Gavi 4.0 vs Gavi 5.0/5.1

Leadership update: Following the release of the 2023 IRC evaluation report, Professor Rose Leke was appointed as Chair of the IRC. In 2024, Dr Bola Oyeledun and Mr Pierre Corneille Namahoro were appointed as Vice Chairs. Under this leadership, the IRC transformation agenda progressed, yielding significant benefits and learnings across processes and outcomes, as reported to the PPC in May 2025.

Looking Ahead: The IRC continues to evolve in line with Gavi's strategic priorities. It has effectively managed growing complexity, responded to surges in demand, and supported innovation across technical and financial levers. In preparation for Gavi 6.0, the Independent IRC is undertaking a comprehensive revision of its review processes to enhance integration and alignment with evolving strategic priorities and systems. This includes the development of robust training modules to build reviewer capacity, as well as proactive planning for targeted recruitment to ensure the committee is equipped with the necessary expertise and diversity moving forward.