

DOCUMENT ADMINISTRATION

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1. Purpose and Objective

- 1.1. The **objective** of this policy is to set out the criteria and procedures that determine which countries¹ are able to receive Gavi support and to define the transition pathway through which this support is phased out. The **purpose** is to ensure that Gavi funding is aligned with its mission to focus support on lower-income countries.
- 1.2. Further information about the levels of Gavi funding for these countries is found in the **Co-financing policy**, the **Health Systems and Immunisation Strengthening (HSIS) policy**, as well as other context-specific funding approaches. Additionally, the **Framework for Gavi Funding to Countries** outlines the overall structure of Gavi's support to countries.

2. Definitions

- **Countries able to receive Gavi support:** Countries that are in one of Gavi's four transition phases: initial self-financing, preparatory transition, accelerated transition, and catalytic. These phases and thresholds are detailed in section 4 of this policy. A country's phase has implications on the type and level of support a country can receive. The ability to receive support does not imply an entitlement.
- **Gavi-eligible country:** a country which is in initial self-financing phase, preparatory transition phase, or accelerated transition phase.²
- **Gross National Income per capita (GNI p.c.):** GNI is the gross national income, converted to U.S. dollars using the World Bank Atlas method, divided by the midyear population. GNI is the sum of value added by all resident producers plus any product taxes (less subsidies) not included in the valuation of output plus net receipts of primary income (compensation of employees and property income) from abroad.
- **Small Island Developing States (SIDS):** A distinct group of States and Associate Members of United Nations regional commissions that face unique social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities as defined by the United Nations.

3. Principles

- 3.1. The following principles guide the application of the Gavi-eligibility and transition policy:
 - **Country led, sustainable:** Gavi support is country led, meaning that it bolsters country leadership to sustainably prioritise, deliver and finance immunisation. It is directly linked to a country's ability to pay and is intended to be catalytic and time-limited and to incentivise domestic investment in health.

¹ In this document, the term 'countries' is used to denote both countries and economies. Gavi's engagement does not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of Gavi concerning the legal status of any country, territory or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of frontiers or boundaries.

² For added clarity, a country which is in the catalytic phase is not Gavi-eligible

- **Equity:** Gavi support is designed to increase equity in immunisation delivery by supporting the introduction of new vaccines and by helping countries sustainably reach zero dose children³ and missed communities⁴.
- **Differentiated, transparent and predictable:** The use of Gavi support is differentiated to meet the needs of countries as they change over time. Transparency and predictability are ensured through clear and consistent communication enabling countries to plan effectively.

4. Procedures and Thresholds

- 4.1. **Transition phases:** GNI p.c. and eligibility to borrow from the International Development Association (IDA) are used to define four **transition phases** for countries able to receive support from Gavi: initial self-financing, preparatory transition, accelerated transition, and catalytic.
- 4.2. **Gavi-eligible countries:** GNI p.c. is used to determine eligibility for Gavi support on an annual basis. The threshold for eligibility for Gavi support is **US\$ 2300** GNI p.c. in 2026. The threshold for eligibility is updated annually using the inflation adjustments the World Bank makes annually to its income categories.
- 4.3. **Initial self-financing, preparatory transition and accelerated transition phases:**
 - 4.3.1. A Gavi-eligible country is considered to be in the **initial self-financing phase** if its GNI p.c. is equal to or below the World Bank's low-income threshold and will remain in this phase until its GNI p.c. is above the low-income threshold, updated annually by the World Bank.
 - 4.3.2. A Gavi-eligible country is considered to be in the **preparatory transition phase** if its GNI p.c. is above the World Bank's low-income threshold until it meets the criteria to enter the accelerated transition phase. (see 4.3.3).
 - 4.3.3. A Gavi-eligible country enters the **accelerated transition phase** when its three-year average GNI p.c. as well as its most recent GNI p.c. are above the Gavi eligibility threshold (see 4.2) **and** the country has a co-financing share (as defined in the co-financing policy) of at least 35% of vaccine costs⁵. The accelerated transition phase lasts eight years, except for Small Island Developing States in this phase where it extends to twelve years.
 - 4.3.4. During the accelerated transition phase, the country remains **eligible** to apply for new vaccine support in any year. Countries will receive eight years of vaccine procurement support from the year of introduction, regardless of whether transition occurs during the eight years. Such Gavi support during any years after the accelerated transition phase only applies to products procured at the same prices as applicable to Gavi-eligible countries during

³ Zero-dose children are those who have not received any routine vaccine. For operational purposes, Gavi measures zero-dose children as those who have not received their first dose of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis containing vaccine (DTP1).

⁴ Clusters of zero-dose and under-immunised children. These communities often face multiple deprivations and vulnerabilities, including lack of services, socio-economic inequities and often gender-related barriers.

⁵ This includes the cost of all Gavi-supported vaccine programmes, excluding malaria from the calculation of co-financing share and including costs of devices and freight.

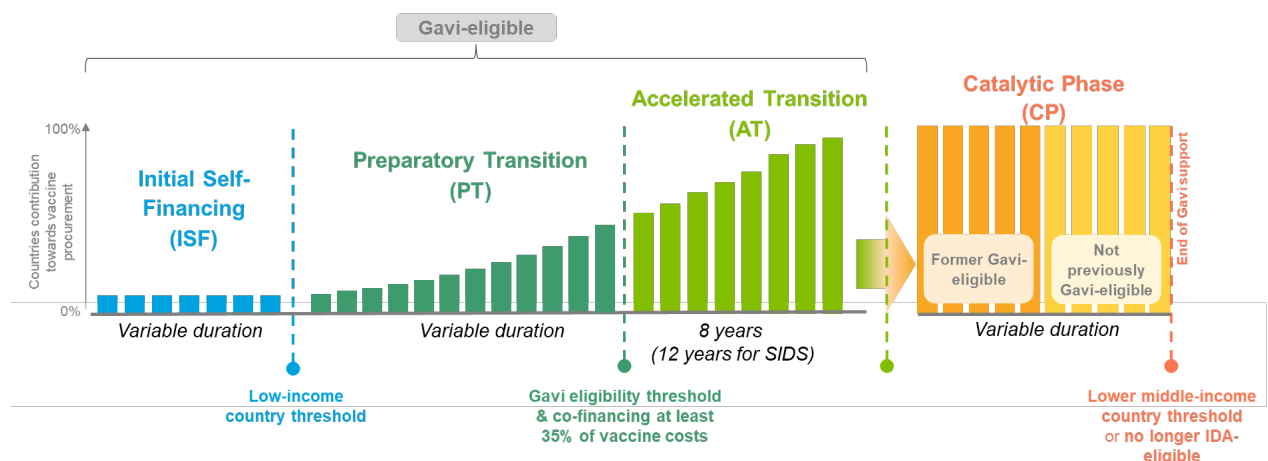
these years, otherwise Gavi support is limited to the duration of the accelerated transition phase.

- 4.3.5. A country in accelerated transition phase, at risk of unsuccessful programmatic transition may apply for five years of additional targeted HSIS support following their transition out of the accelerated transition phase. This support aims to address acute programmatic challenges countries may experience to aid their successful transition out of Gavi support. Further details on this support can be found in the HSIS policy and Gavi's operational guidelines.

4.4. Catalytic Phase:

- 4.4.1. A country is in the catalytic phase if it is not Gavi-eligible and a) its GNI p.c. is equal to or below the World Bank's lower-middle income threshold, or b) if they are eligible to borrow from the International Development Association (IDA-eligible). Countries that have transitioned out of the accelerated transition phase and meet one of these criteria are referred to as former Gavi-eligible. Countries that have never been Gavi-eligible and meet one of these criteria are also part of the catalytic phase.
- 4.4.2. Countries can enter the catalytic phase at any point during Gavi strategic period and they remain in this phase for its entirety. A country whose GNI p.c. rises above the World Bank's lower middle-income threshold or is no longer IDA-eligible will not be in the catalytic phase in the next strategic period.

Figure 1: Illustration of transition phases and thresholds for countries able to receive Gavi support



4.5. Rules for updating eligibility status

- 4.5.1. Any country whose GNI p.c. drops below the low-income or Gavi-eligibility threshold, based on its most recent GNI p.c. in any given year will be reclassified into the appropriate transition phase. Implications for co-financing in these instances are detailed in the co-financing policy.
- 4.5.2. A country's new status is updated after the release of World Bank data on 1 July every calendar year and becomes effective as of 1 January of the

next calendar year. The thresholds and country status are published on the Gavi website.⁶

- 4.5.3. Ability to receive support will not be considered for poorer states/provinces within higher income countries (i.e. Gavi will not offer sub-national support for countries that are not themselves able to receive Gavi support).

5. Exceptions

- 5.1. Countries will remain in preparatory transition for two additional years if their average GNI p.c. over the past three years is above the threshold, and they experienced more than 30% single-year increase in GNI p.c. in the previous five years.
- 5.2. Countries classified as low-income by the World Bank without a published GNI p.c. may be determined by the CEO to be in the initial self-financing phase. Non Gavi-eligible countries classified as lower-middle income or IDA-eligible by the World Bank without a published GNI p.c. may be determined by the CEO to be in the catalytic phase. In each case the Board will be informed.
- 5.3. Countries without a published World Bank income classification will be reviewed individually, with Board approval required for each case.

6. Implementation and Monitoring

- 6.1. This policy comes into effect on 1 January 2026 and replaces the Eligibility and Transition policy approved by the Board in December 2022.
- 6.2. The monitoring of this policy is outlined in Annex A to the Framework for Gavi Funding to Countries document and describes the relevant indicators that are reported on annually.
- 6.3. This policy will be reviewed and updated as and when required. Any amendments to this policy are subject to Gavi Board approval.

⁶ <https://www.gavi.org/programmes-impact/types-support/sustainability>
<https://www.gavi.org/types-support/sustainability/eligibility>