

# Gavi's approach to engagement with former and never-eligible Middle Income Countries (MICs)

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BOARD MEETING

**Santiago Cornejo**

15-17 December 2020, Virtual Meeting



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# The objectives of the MICs Approach address key threats to sustainability and equity, which are core to Gavi 5.0

## Challenges



**MICs are missing critical vaccine introductions**, and never-Gavis lag behind former-Gavis with similar income levels

- E.g., **8** never-Gavi MICs are missing all three of PCV, rotavirus, and HPV vaccines, and **11** are missing two of the three<sup>2</sup>



**Risk of backsliding, heightened by the pandemic**, threatens Gavi legacy and exacerbates inequities

- E.g., **8** former Gavis have seen a decrease in number of children vaccinated in 2020 vs. 2019<sup>1</sup>

## MICs Objectives

**Drive sustainable introductions of key missing vaccines** in former and never Gavi-eligible countries

**Prevent and mitigate backsliding** in former Gavi-eligible countries

Given the relevance of these threats to the successful delivery of Gavi 5.0, it is **critical to move forward on the MICs agenda now.**

# A gradual approach, with a primary near-term focus on backsliding in former Gavis, is proposed in light of COVID-19

- The pandemic has constrained the capacity of countries and the Alliance, **necessitating tradeoffs**
- Furthermore, in most countries **new non-COVID-19 vaccine introductions will not be a priority** near-term  
 → Initial activities will be **targeted**, focused on countries with **meaningful opportunities for impact**



1. Inclusion of never-Gavi LMICs <\$6k to be reviewed by the Board in June 2022.

# Reflecting on the key points of feedback from the PPC, and requesting the Board's guidance

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Feedback was **positive** and **supportive**. **All decision proposals were recommended to the Board.**

*Key points of feedback:*



## More specificity on **Fragility**:

- FER policy for Gavi-eligible countries is being evaluated, including reviewing how Gavi might identify a 'fragile' country and what responses are appropriate.
- Important that Gavi have a consistent approach to fragility across its policy framework.
- Based on this learning, the FER policy review will consider if and how Gavi could engage with fragile MICs.



## To develop a **Theory of Change (ToC)**:

- The Secretariat has since developed a draft ToC, focusing on the priorities for the first 18 months.
- The Secretariat will continue to work with partners to develop this and welcome the Board's guidance.



## To formalise the **learning agenda**:

- The Secretariat has since developed draft 'use cases' and 'key priorities/questions' to drive the learning agenda. We welcome the Board's reflection and guidance.
- Working with Alliance partners, the Secretariat will refine these use cases and learning questions to develop a detailed learning agenda that is aligned with the broader Gavi 5.0 Learning System.

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## Recommendation

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The Gavi Alliance Programme and Policy Committee **recommends** to the Gavi Alliance Board that it:

- a) **Approve** the objectives of the Middle-Income Countries (MICs) Approach, namely (i) to prevent backsliding in vaccine coverage in former Gavi-eligible countries, and (ii) to drive the sustainable introduction of key missing vaccines in both former and select never Gavi-eligible countries;
- b) Noting that the Board has already approved (in June 2019) the inclusion of former Gavi-eligible countries in the scope of eligibility for the MICs Approach, **approve** the inclusion of never Gavi-eligible LMICs (<US\$ 4,000 GNI p.c.) and all other never Gavi-eligible World Bank IDA-eligible economies in the scope of eligibility for the MICs Approach;

## Recommendation

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- c) **Approve** the funding envelope of US\$ 281 million for the MICs Approach during the period of Gavi 5.0, i.e. from January 2021 to December 2025;
- d) **Approve** the proposal for 'initial engagement', as described in Annex B to Doc 07, from January 2021 to June 2022, accounting for up to 25% of the total MICs funding envelope, noting that additional proposals to deliver on the full MICs Approach will be brought for Board approval in June 2022, along with a review of the inclusion of non-IDA eligible, never Gavi-eligible UMICs <US\$ 6,000 GNI p.c. into the MICs Approach.

## Recommendation

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- e) **Approve** extending the time period from until December 2020 to until June 2022 for use of the US\$ 20 million for targeted support previously approved by the Board (June 2020) for former Gavi-eligible countries to strengthen political will and address an identified risk of reduction in coverage rates of vaccines introduced with Gavi support in that country.

**THANK YOU**

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