

Application Guidance for Gavi's 6.0 Country Foundations (2026-2030)

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

Global Health Campus
Ch. du Pommier 40, 1218 Le Grand-Saconnex
Geneva, Switzerland

Tel. +41 22 909 65 00
Fax +41 22 909 65 50
www.gavi.org

1. At a Glance

Aim	To provide long-term, predictable funding to WHO and UNICEF and, in select countries where contextually applicable, other country-selected partners, to strengthen national immunisation programmes through dedicated technical assistance staff
Funding Available	\$155M for Gavi 6.0 (2026-2030). Each country will receive a Country Foundations budget for the full 6.0 period. The 6-month extension amount already granted from Jan - June 2026 will be deducted from the total 6.0 Country Foundations budget for each country.
Eligible Countries	All Gavi-eligible countries as per the Gavi Eligibility & Transition Policy
Eligible Partners	Primarily for WHO and UNICEF and, in select countries where contextually applicable, other country-selected partners.
Duration of Support	This application will cover the period from July 2026 – December 2030, after the initial 6-months Country Foundations extension (January - June 2026).
Who can apply	Countries apply for this support through the Ministry of Health (MOH) or the EPI team. The application should be prepared in consultation with the Gavi Secretariat Country Team, UNICEF, WHO, and where relevant, other selected partners and national stakeholders.
How to apply	Applications must be submitted to proposals@gavi.org by MOH/EPI or submission can be delegated to WHO or UNICEF.
Application Deadline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Core and Accelerated Transition countries: 23 January 2026 Fragile & Conflict and High Impact countries: 13 February 2026
Where to get help	Consult the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and/or contact your Gavi Secretariat Senior Country Manager and Programme Manager.

2. Background and Context

2.1 What is Country Foundations?

Country Foundations is one of the support channels within Gavi's broader model of support under the 6.0 strategy. It provides predictable funding that benefits countries, and it flows through partners who place technical personnel in country. These personnel support governments as they strengthen essential immunisation functions, and are accountable to the government and the Gavi Secretariat for delivery. Funding is intended primarily for WHO and UNICEF, and in select countries for other partners chosen according to local context.

2.2 How does Country Foundations fit within the new Gavi 6.0 model?

Country Foundations works alongside Gavi's consolidated cash grant. Country Foundations provides long-term support for the foundational functions needed to maintain and strengthen national immunisation programmes, including planning, coordination, monitoring and advocacy. Country Foundations funds WHO and UNICEF, and in some countries other selected partners, from July 2026 to December 2030, covering long-term staff and operational costs linked to essential immunisation functions. Short-term activities or projects are not eligible.

The consolidated cash grant is available to all partners and follows each country's 6.0 consolidation timeline. It complements Country Foundations by funding shorter-term and more project focused technical assistance, and it can also supplement support for the Country Foundations functions when needed. Together, these two mechanisms replace the former Targeted Country Assistance under the Gavi 5.1 Partners' Engagement Framework. Country Foundations is being programmed first, in advance of the 6.0 consolidated cash grant, to enable foundational resources to be in place to support countries in the development of the 6.0 grants.

3. Funding Scope and Priorities

3.1 What is in scope?

Country Foundations support a defined set of functions that help sustain strong immunisation programmes and contribute to capacity strengthening in recipient countries. Only the functions listed below are eligible for funding through Country Foundations. They must contribute to skills transfer and reinforce national capacity for long-term sustainability of the immunisation system. The five eligible functions are outlined below (see Application Template in Annex A for more details on specific areas of work per function):

1. **Immunisation Programme Support function (mandatory)** – provides overall support to MOH/EPI to support strategic and operational planning and forecasting (including support for vaccine portfolio optimisation and prioritisation), coordination of Alliance partners, advocacy, monitoring and implementation.
2. **Demand function** – supports strategies to increase demand generation, community engagement, and awareness including efforts related to acceptance of vaccines through improved use of social/behavioral data, strong coordination mechanisms, and tailored demand strategies.
3. **Data function** – supports strengthening of immunisation data systems through improved data collection, analysis, and use for decision-making.
4. **Vaccine and cold chain management function** – supports improvement of vaccine supply, storage, and cold chain systems through strengthening of planning,

governance, storage, distribution network (particularly to last mile), system management, and issue identification.

5. **Outbreak/emergency preparedness and response function** – supports preparedness and response to disease outbreaks and other emergencies through support related to effective coordination, planning, monitoring systems, and response actions.

Where Country Foundations supports technical assistance (TA), this TA should be high-quality: drawing on relevant experience and expertise, responding to different country needs, focusing on outcomes and impact, be country-owned and contribute to the sustainable transfer of capacity, and efficient and well-coordinated.

If a country needs support for functions beyond the five listed above from WHO, UNICEF or other partners, it can fund these positions through the consolidated cash grant.

3.2 What costs are allowed?

Country Foundations funding covers staff and related operational costs that directly support immunisation strengthening. Operational costs can include items such as meetings and travel. These costs should not exceed 20% of the total budget. Any request to exceed this threshold should be justified in the budget assumptions in the workplan. Costs outside this scope, including non-staff activities, should be funded through the country's consolidated cash grant. Since overall resources will be lower in Gavi 6.0 compared to Gavi 5.0, countries are encouraged to prioritise investments and activities carefully.

4. Application Process

The application process comprises several steps. First, the application is developed, including the selection of functions, identification of partners, development of budgets, and selection of indicators and corresponding targets. The country, or a delegated partner then submits the application. Gavi reviews submitted applications through the Independent Review Committee (IRC). Applications will undergo internal Secretariat approval and once approved, they will then proceed to contracting with identified partners, followed by regular review during implementation.

4.1 Application Development

Throughout every step of the application development below, the Ministry of Health and the EPI team should consult and work with the Gavi Secretariat Country Team, UNICEF, WHO and relevant national stakeholders to ensure alignment with national priorities and existing coordination mechanisms. For countries classified as fragile, refer to Gavi's Approach to Fragile and Humanitarian settings for Gavi 6.0 for further flexibilities.

4.1.1 Selecting Functions

Foundational functions and areas of work should be selected from the eligible list in the Monitoring section of the application template (Annex A).

The *Immunisation Programme Support function* is mandatory in all Country Foundations applications. It is expected that at least 1 FTE (across all partners) would be dedicated to the delivery of all areas of work related to the Immunisation Programme Support function in each country. Other functions should be selected based on national priorities, capacity gaps, and long-term system needs. Selection is done in consultation with the Gavi Secretariat, WHO, UNICEF and relevant stakeholders, but the Ministry of Health through the EPI team makes the final selection.

4.1.2 Identifying Partners

MOH/EPI should identify partner(s) to carry out each selected function. Country Foundations is intended to provide long-term funding primarily to WHO and UNICEF, and it is expected that both will be selected in each country. Other partners may be chosen if they currently support a selected function under Gavi 5.1 and if WHO or UNICEF do not currently perform that role. If multiple partners are identified for a function, the application should explain how their roles complement each other. Partners identified by MOH/EPI are subject to IRC review and internal approval, and subsequent selection & contracting will be subject to Gavi's procurement processes and regulations (e.g., global RFP and secondary bidding process).

4.1.3 Developing the Budget

In close collaboration with UNICEF, WHO, and other selected partners, the MOH and EPI team should determine a high-level allocation of the Country Foundations budget across the selected functions and areas of work. Identified partners should then complete the Application Template in Annex A. They should outline the staff required, including position titles, levels and location (whether they are national or sub-national) as well as the staffing and operational costs needed to deliver the functions. Partners should share this information with the MOH and EPI team to ensure alignment.

Staff may be international or national, but partners are encouraged to recruit qualified national professionals to strengthen national capacity, ownership and sustainability. Positions should ideally cover the full grant period from July 2026 – December 2030, after the initial 6-months Country Foundations extension (January - June 2026). The minimum commitment is two years. Reprogramming requests can be submitted if circumstances change.

Please note that if expanded partners are selected, they will be requested to develop a programmatic & financial proposal using the standard Gavi procurement template.

4.1.4 Selecting Performance Indicators and Targets

All partners funded through Country Foundations must use the Partnership Accountability Framework (PAF) to link functions to measurable results. Partners are accountable to the MOH and EPI team and to Gavi for performance.

Indicators and targets should be selected for each function in close engagement with Gavi Secretariat team. Mandatory indicators for each area of work are listed in the Monitoring section of the Application Template (Annex A). At least one mandatory indicator must be selected for each area of work. Countries may add optional indicators but should keep the

total to one or two per area of work to maintain a manageable monitoring load. If more than one partner is selected for a function, indicators must be aligned with the specific areas of work assigned to each partner, to ensure clear accountability.

Targets must be realistic, based on available baseline data and aligned with Gavi 6.0 strategic objectives. Indicators are expected to be reported twice a year, unless annual reporting is justified. Reports from the first reporting cycle may be used to refine baselines and targets. These targets will then be reflected in partner grant agreements, or for any expanded partners, these targets will be converted into obligations of result and used within the future contracts.

For each indicator, the following elements must be specified in the Application Template (Annex A):

- **Indicative Baseline:** An indicative baseline value should be provided for each indicator to serve as the reference point for measuring progress against annual or biannual targets.
- **Reporting Timeframe:** Indicators should ideally be reported biannually, with corresponding biannual targets. If an indicator is to be reported annually, this must be explicitly stated, and an annual target should be set (e.g., for H2 each year).
- **Target Values:** Targets for the reporting cycles should demonstrate incremental progress relative to the baseline to reflect ambitions of Gavi 6.0 strategy.
- **Data Sources:** The data source(s) for each indicator must be clearly identified to ensure consistency and reliability in data collection.

4.2 Application Submission

Countries apply through the Ministry of Health or the EPI team. Countries can delegate submission to WHO or UNICEF. For countries classified as fragile, refer to Gavi's Approach to Fragile and Humanitarian settings for Gavi 6.0.

Applicants should complete and submit the Country Foundations Application Template (Annex A) which includes a narrative and a budgeted workplan with selected indicators and targets. Where UNICEF and WHO have been selected as partners, it is highly encouraged to ensure applications are reviewed by relevant regional offices and headquarters before final submission to Gavi Secretariat.

Submissions must be within the Gavi Secretariat-communicated Country Foundations budget and must be signed off by the EPI Manager or delegated authority, as well as all selected partners.

Applications should be sent to proposals@gavi.org with the Gavi Senior Country Manager and Programme Manager, EPI Manager, and selected partners in copy by the following dates:

- Core and Accelerated Transition countries: **23 January 2026**
- Fragile & Conflict and High Impact countries: **13 February 2026**

4.3 Application Review and Approval

Gavi's Independent Review Committee (IRC) will review the Country Foundation applications as part of Gavi's quality assurance process. The IRC will review against the following review criteria:

- Are the selected country foundational functions aligned with national priorities e.g., NIS or equivalent?
- Are the selected country foundational functions based on identified capacity gaps/needs at national and sub-national levels?
- Does the country's application include a clear approach to strengthening the sustainability of the national immunisation programme?
- Has partner identification been sufficiently justified? If more than one partner is identified to perform a foundational function, is partner programming complementary and non-duplicative?
- Is the proposed staffing for identified partners aligned to and appropriate for achieving the intended impact of partner support?
- Are operational costs reasonable for the proposed scope of work?
- Are ambitious yet achievable targets available for all relevant indicators?

Once reviewed, the Gavi Secretariat will communicate outcomes no later than May 2026 and any recommendations for revision. Recommended applications will then proceed to internal Secretariat approval and contracting no later than June 2026.

5. Contracting

After approval, Gavi will sign agreements with identified partners. WHO and UNICEF will be contracted through standard Gavi grant agreements, while other partners will follow Gavi's procurement procedures, including the Global Request for Proposal (RFP) process, where applicable. UNICEF, WHO, and other contracted organisations are responsible for recruiting, onboarding, and managing assigned staff. Gavi must be notified once recruitment under CF has been completed.

6. Accountability and Reporting

UNICEF, WHO and other contracted partners will report programme results bi-annually against PAF indicators. Financial reporting will be tracked quarterly. Reports must be jointly reviewed and co-signed by UNICEF, WHO and other selected partners and the EPI team before submission to Gavi. Progress will be reviewed every six months by the MOH and Gavi in collaboration with WHO, UNICEF, and other contracted partners. Poor or delayed performance may lead to corrective actions or additional oversight. Detailed performance management guidance will be developed separately.

The PAF reporting processes will align with Gavi's 6.0 Execution Framework and will be integrated into partner agreements. Performance or coordination issues will be addressed through country-level discussions and existing coordination mechanisms such as Regional Working Groups, for example.

7. Annex

[Annex A Country Foundations Application Template](#)