

Gavi Transition Guidance from 5.1 to 6.0: Funding Extension of HSS and/or TCA support

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1. Context and purpose

Gavi's 6.0 strategy introduces a single, consolidated grant that combines cash and technical assistance (TA) support. All countries will transition to this model by the end of 2027, either through a new holistic application for a 6.0 grant or by reprogramming existing approved grants. This shift will align grant timelines, consolidate funding levers, simplify planning, and improve strategic focus.

Some countries with 5.1 Health Systems Strengthening (HSS) grants and Targeted Country Assistance (TCA¹) support ending before their 6.0 grant funding begins may face a funding gap if they lack sufficient unspent funds to cover the transition period. This guidance explains how these countries can bridge this gap by requesting time-limited additional funding, referred to as "costed extensions", of their existing HSS and TCA support.

Countries may be eligible for TCA extension only, or both TCA and HSS extensions. In both cases, the aim of the extension funding is to ensure continuity of essential immunization and technical support, avoid service disruptions, and prevent backsliding in coverage, during the transition period until 6.0 grants are in place.

These guidelines cover only HSS and TCA extensions. Under Gavi 6.0, funding streams for new vaccine introductions (VIGs), campaign operational costs (OPS), and switch grants will be consolidated into countries' holistic 6.0 cash grant ceilings. Separate transition guidance, including application process, eligibility, and deadlines for utilising VIGs, OPs, and switch grants approved in 2025 or earlier during Gavi 6.0, will be issued by the end of 2025. Any such utilisation will be deducted from the country's overall 6.0 cash grant ceiling.

2. Eligibility and transition timelines

TCA and HSS extensions:

Countries can apply for a costed HSS and TCA extension if:

1. Their current HSS grant ends in 2025, 2026 or by Q2 2027, and they are expected to face a funding gap while preparing and getting approval for their new 6.0 holistic grant. These countries may receive additional funding to extend their current HSS and TCA support for

¹ TCA support will be phased out under Gavi 6.0. The term TCA is used here to reflect that activities considered for extension are those appearing in TCA plans approved in Gavi 5.1. Under 6.0, country-level TA will be delivered primarily through the long-term specialist support provided through the Country Foundational Fund complemented by TA activities funded through the cash grant.

up to 18 months, starting from January 2026 and ending no later than June 2027. After that, it is expected that they will have transitioned to their new 6.0 grant.

2. Their current HSS grant ends in 2025, and they have recently approved 5.1 HSS grants planned to start in 2026, and they are expected to face a funding gap while undergoing the reprogramming and consolidation exercise of the approved grant in 2026. These countries may receive additional funding to extend their current HSS and TCA support for up to 18 months, starting from January 2026 and ending no later than June 2027. After that, it is expected that they will have transitioned to their new, reprogrammed, 6.0 grant.

TCA extensions:

Countries can receive a TCA extension for up to 24 months (from January 2026 through December 2027) or until their new 6.0 grant is in place, whichever is shorter - based on their approved 5.1 TCA plan.

Funding for the extensions will be deducted from the country's 6.0 cash grant ceiling.

Countries facing a gap between the end of their 5.1 grants and the start of their 6.0 grants, but with sufficient remaining balances to cover the transition period, may request a no-cost extension in line with Gavi's standard procedures.

Eligible countries will receive formal communication noting the maximum allowable funding and the duration of the extension period.

Eligible Activities

Extensions are not new grants and are intended to enable the continuation of essential activities already approved in existing HSS grants and TCA plans. No major changes or new activities that fall outside the original grant objectives are expected, apart from work related to preparing the new holistic 6.0 application or the reprogramming of existing grants to develop a consolidated 6.0 grant.

HSS extensions must focus on critical activities already included within an approved grant that are essential to sustaining immunisation delivery and programme operations during the transition period until 6.0 grants are in place. Examples of such activities include:

- Maintaining outreach and PIRI to support service delivery and community uptake.
- Continued support for EPI staff and operational systems such as HMIS and eLMIS;
- Enabling governance functions through key bodies like the ICC and NITAG;
- Ensuring effective vaccine supply chain management, including distribution and cold chain maintenance; and
- Fulfilling financial management requirements such as assurance provision and regular financial reporting.

TCA extensions must be limited to essential technical assistance functions already included in TCA plans approved under Gavi 5.1. These functions must be critical to sustaining immunisation delivery and programme operations during the transition period until 6.0 grants are in place. Examples include ongoing technical assistance provided by core Alliance partners or expanded partners that directly support the continuation of key HSS activities as listed above. However, these must not duplicate functions funded through the country component of the Foundational Fund².

All activities proposed for extension must follow the Gavi 5.0 Programme Funding Guidelines ([English/French](#)) and Budget Eligibility Guidelines ([English/French](#)).

Important to note: WHO and UNICEF will extend key roles under 5.1 Foundational Support from January to June 2026 to ensure continuity until 6.0 Country Foundations begin in July 2026. Countries will help decide which roles to retain. TA already covered through this support should not be duplicated under TCA extensions.

3. Application Process

Gavi will inform eligible countries of their extension funding ceilings and timelines in a letter shared with this guidance. Countries should work with their Senior Country Manager (SCM) to:

- Identify essential HSS activities that should continue during the extension period
- Identify essential TCA activities and confirm they are not already covered under Country Foundational support

Applications must include:

- A short narrative (maximum 5 pages) justifying the request for HSS and/or TCA extensions
- An updated HSS budget using the existing format, limited to activities proposed for extension
- A completed TCA plan using the Gavi TCA Extension Costed Workplan (Annex C) limited to activities proposed for extension, indicating partners currently providing key TA functions

² The five functions supported at country level under the Foundational Fund are: Specialists in Immunisation Programme Support, Demand Generation and Community Engagement, Data Management, Vaccine Management and Cold Chain, and Outbreak Response.

TCA requests must be endorsed by the EPI Manager (or equivalent). Requests including HSS must be endorsed by the Minister of Health (or their designate). The Ministry of Finance should also be informed before submitting the request to Gavi.

Submissions:

All submissions of extension requesting should be sent to proposals@gavi.org with the Gavi Senior Country Manager in copy.

Deadlines:

- **19 September 2025** for all TA extensions and HSS extensions starting before April 2026.
- **Q1 2026** for HSS extensions starting after April 2026. *This applies to a small number of countries with non-urgent HSS needs.*

Following submission, proposals will be reviewed by the appropriate approval pathway.

4. Contracting

Since the extensions cover activities already approved under existing HSS workplans and TCA plans, they will be processed as amendments to current contracts. In most cases, a partner is already in place with an active contract, and that contract will be extended for the new period using the same terms and unit costs. Both Core and expanded partners (such as CSOs and private sector actors) may be concerned with these extensions.

Countries must apply the same unit costs and rates used in their approved 5.1 HSS and TCA plans - no changes to cost assumptions are allowed.

5. Accountability and Reporting

All standard reporting requirements and cycles will continue during the extension period. Financial and programmatic reporting will follow the same formats, timelines, and responsibilities as in the original contract. For TCA extensions, programmatic milestone reporting will be submitted offline, as the PEF portal will no longer be used in 6.0.

Gavi will continue to monitor performance, ensure accountability, and review value for money as part of its usual oversight processes. If any issues arise such as delays or underperformance by contracted partners, corrective action will be taken according to standard procedures.

6. Annexes

Annex A: Narrative template (2-4 pages) to justify proposed extensions. The same budget templates used for approved and ongoing HSS grants under 5.1 will be used for extension requests. Only activities proposed for extension should be retained; others should be removed.

Annex B: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Annex C: Gavi TCA Extension Costed Workplan