

Gavi Alliance Programme and Policy Committee Meeting

20 November 2024

Virtual meeting

1. Chair's report

- 1.1 Noting that the meeting had been duly convened and finding a quorum of members present, the meeting commenced at 14.03 Geneva time on 20 November 2024. Anne Schuchat, Programme and Policy Committee (PPC) Chair, chaired the meeting.
- 1.2 Standing declarations of interest were tabled to the Committee (Doc 01a in the Committee pack).

2. Update of the Prioritisation Mechanism for Gavi's Support to Countries

- 2.1 The Chair provided some introductory comments on the current Gavi prioritisation mechanism, which dates from 2013, and which could be triggered still on the basis of country demand exceeding available resources. She also clarified that the 2013 mechanism did not include any consideration for market health or for outbreaks, so was no longer considered to be fit for purpose.
- 2.2 Sania Nishtar, CEO, noted that there had been an increase in country demand for Gavi 5.1 programmes in 2025, which had been reflected in the latest Financial Forecast endorsed by the Audit & Finance Committee in October 2024. She reported that there was a range of actions ongoing across the Secretariat to ensure that Gavi is optimising resources available for maximum impact, including a detailed review of all programme envelopes and anticipated disbursement and utilisation, as well as of country cash balances, and that some additional resources had been identified. She indicated that despite these actions, it is best practice to ensure there is an updated and fit for purpose prioritisation mechanism in place in case of a situation where country demand is in excess of the available resources. She also clarified that any update to the Gavi 5.1 prioritisation mechanism would not apply to Gavi 6.0 strategy trade-offs.
- 2.3 Marta Tufet Bayona, Head, Policy, and Quentin Guillon, Head, Strategy, Design & Delivery, presented on the proposed update to the prioritisation mechanism for Gavi's support to countries (Doc 02).

Discussion

- PPC members noted that the scope of the prioritisation mechanism was deliberately narrow, applying only to Independent Review Committee review

items that did not yet have a Decision Letter, or forecasted applications for the remainder of the strategic period, and were New Vaccine Support applications or cash grants with no communicated ceilings, e.g. Innovation Top Up.

- PPC members requested that the updated policy be amended so that the Audit & Finance Committee (AFC) would systematically review any mismatch between demand and resources and provide assurance that all alternatives including making additional resources available had been exhausted before triggering the prioritisation mechanism, given the impact this would have for children in terms of potential exposure of vaccine-preventable diseases.
- In the short-term, it was requested to plan for a Board closed session in December 2024 to review any potential mismatch of resources and country demand, as well as efficiencies and allocation of interest income.
- PPC members requested an updated country by country simulation table with the cost numbers and cut-offs that clarified what would not be covered through the prioritisation.
- PPC members noted their appreciation for the depth of the Secretariat's work despite the short timelines, and noted how quickly this update had been designed, the potential impact of the prioritisation mechanism on market shaping, the strength of focus on equity and other technical inputs such as the validity of health impact models.
- Several PPC members perceived a lack of coherence with national plans and priorities and expressed concern about potentially blocking country innovations. It was noted that in line with the Lusaka agenda that this should be addressed by consulting countries with multiple applications in any prioritisation round regarding the priority order of their applications.
- It was also discussed that there will be a further iteration of the prioritisation mechanism for Gavi 6.0. PPC members noted that it will be important to take the appropriate time to design it, and to build in i) consideration of any cash balances not utilised, and ii) further vaccination targeting, which could allow Gavi to support more applications.
- PPC members were supportive of accepting the updated policy as a last resort that incorporated the technical points mentioned in the meeting, including related to country prioritisation, market shaping, outbreak response, and health impact.

Decision One

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

- a) **Approve** the revised update of the 'Prioritisation Mechanism for Gavi's Support to Countries' attached as Annex A to Doc 02, as amended by discussions at the PPC; and
- b) **Note** that the Secretariat will propose further revisions to the Mechanism during 2025 to ensure that it is fit for purpose for the Gavi 6.0 strategic period.

The Gavi Alliance Programme and Policy Committee **requested** that:

The Board meet in closed session at its meeting in December 2024 to review Gavi's resources that may be available to fund programmes to inform the potential prioritisation need for 2025.

Julie Hamra (IFPMA), Rajinder Suri (DCVMN), Anne Marie Mbengue Seye (CSO), Ephrem Lemango (UNICEF), Kent Ranson (World Bank) and Kate O'Brien (WHO) recused themselves and did not vote on Decision One above.

3. Funding Policy Review: Health Systems and Immunisation Strengthening Policy

- 3.1 Marta Tufet Bayona, Head, Policy, introduced this item, which was a continuation of the discussion on this topic at the PPC meeting on 22-24 October 2024. She presented additional information on the progress of the allocation for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) (Doc 03a) in Gavi 5.1 and how a proposed guardrail in Gavi 6.0 would represent a similar level of investment within a consolidated cash grant.
- 3.2 She also presented on the options for the inclusion of Partners' Engagement Framework (PEF) Targeted Country Assistance (TCA) into the consolidated grant and noted that there had been a revised set of decision language circulated to the PPC prior to the meeting. This language aimed to place country ownership and simplicity at the forefront, while providing predictable funding to core partners for foundational long-term country support functions as well as ensuring greater accountability by linking resources, activities and outcomes (Doc 03b).
- 3.3 Sania Nishtar, CEO, reflected that the Alliance is at an inflection point where funding policies have grown too complex and in preparation for Gavi 6.0 there had been an effort to simplify, streamline ways of working, while at the same time increasing focus on accountability.

Discussion

- PPC members expressed their continued support of the endeavour to simplify policies and processes within Gavi's grant management.
- In relation to the recommendation on the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) guardrail, PPC members were supportive.
- On the question of the inclusion of PEF TCA into the consolidated cash envelope, the PPC had a robust discussion with diverse views and noted that there had not been much time for consultation. There was consensus about the need for countries to have ownership, for there to be longer-term predictability of funding for partners. PPC members focused on whether to expand predictable funding for foundational support functions beyond Alliance core partners recognising that in some contexts expanded partners may provide this type of support, as well as the importance of having a transparent methodology to allocate funding to partners with an accountability framework to monitor progress towards results and manage performance.
- The Chair noted that in the absence of the PPC member from the Nordic constituency, a summary of the constituency's positions had been circulated to PPC, and she exceptionally invited an observer from the Netherlands, Johanneke de Hoogh, to clarify the constituency's position on this item.
- The PPC amended the proposed revised decision language to make clear that core partners would receive a pot of funding to be delineated for countries. The Secretariat noted that it was a high-level decision and that the details would need to be established as part of the operationalisation process.
- The PPC was unable to reach consensus on decision three below and a minority position expressed by Pavani Ram on behalf of the United States/Australia/Korea (Republic of) donor constituency cluster and Adrien de Chaisemartin on behalf of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will be reported to the Board.

Decision Two

The Gavi Alliance Programme and Policy Committee **recommended** to the Gavi Alliance Board:

With respect to the consolidation of funding levers, that it **approve**:

Guardrails to safeguard investments in Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) by maintaining a 10% minimum allocation for CSOs within the consolidated grant ceilings provided to countries at the start of the strategic period.

Anne Marie Mbengue Seye (CSO), Ephrem Lemango (UNICEF), Kent Ranson (World Bank), and Kate O'Brien (WHO) recused themselves and did not vote on Decision Two above.

Decision Three

The Gavi Alliance Programme and Policy Committee **recommended** to the Gavi Alliance Board:

With respect to the consolidation of funding levers, that it:

- a) **allocate** a portion of funds from the Partners' Engagement Framework (PEF) Targeted Country Assistance (TCA) and potentially from Strategic Focus Area (SFA) funding pots to the Foundational Support pot of core partners in advance of the definition of country ceilings, for predictable funding of key long-term country functions. The allocation proportion and methodology will be developed by the Secretariat in consultation with Countries and Alliance partners. An accountability framework to ensure partners meet the Alliance's objectives in countries effectively and transparently with these funds will be developed to be approved by the Board;
- b) **approve** inclusion of PEF TCA funds apportioned to countries into the consolidated cash grant per the cash allocation formula in the policy; and
- c) **note** that this option will be time-limited to 6.0, with a review by the PPC to consider its extension into 7.0.

Anne Marie Mbengue Seye (CSO), Ephrem Lemango (UNICEF), Kent Ranson (World Bank), and Kate O'Brien (WHO) recused themselves and did not vote on Decision Three above.

4. Funding Policy Review: Eligibility, Transition and Co-financing, including Catalytic Phase

- 4.1 Amy LaTreille, Director, Fragile & Conflict Countries, introduced this item, which was a continuation of the discussion on this topic at the PPC meeting on 22-24 October 2024 (Doc 04).

Discussion

- PPC members were supportive of the refined language.
- One PPC Member commented that although he no longer had any concern about the language proposed, it would be useful to be more specific about how this determination would be made. The Secretariat clarified that this was a tool of last resort and that all available options would be exhausted before applying this option.

Decision Four

The Gavi Alliance Programme and Policy Committee **recommended** to the Gavi Alliance Board, subject to the availability of funding for the 2026-2030 period following Gavi's replenishment for that period, that it:

Approve that co-financing obligations do not apply where Gavi channels vaccines and support directly through Alliance and other partners in exceptional emergency situations and humanitarian settings.

Julie Hamra (IFPMA) and Rajinder Suri (DCVMN) recused themselves and did not vote on Decision Four above.

5. Nigeria Accountability Framework

5.1 The Chair noted for the record that Tokunbo Oshin, Director, High Impact Countries, who would be presenting this item, is a dual national of the United Kingdom and Nigeria and that in his role, he oversees the Secretariat's engagement with Nigeria along with the rest of the High Impact portfolio. In line with Gavi's Conflict of Interest Policy for the Secretariat, this circumstance was openly discussed as part of his recruitment and was assessed as being manageable.

5.2 Mr Oshin introduced this item (Doc 05).

Discussion

- PPC members commended the progress in Gavi's engagement with the Federal Government of Nigeria, including through recent in-country planning meetings, and supported the direction proposed by the Secretariat.
- With respect to the Lusaka agenda, PPC members recognised how Gavi is leading the way and the example that had been set by Gavi for other Global Health Institutions.
- PPC members also noted the importance of success for Nigeria and for Gavi's mission and reflected on upcoming challenges to co-financing and affordability for Nigeria.

6. Review of decisions

6.1 Joanne Goetz, Head, Governance, reviewed the decision language with the Committee which was approved by them.

7. Any other business

- 7.1 After determining there was no further business, the meeting was brought to a close.

Mrs Joanne Goetz
Secretary to the Meeting

Attachment A

Participants

Committee Members

- Anne Schuchat, Chair
- Awa Marie Coll Seck
- Adrien de Chaisemartin
- Michael Kent Ranson
- Ephrem Lemango
- Kate O'Brien
- Abdelkadre Mahamat Hassane
- Lakshmi Somatunga
- Mohamed Jama
- Kediende Chong (Agenda items 1-2)
- Brian Erazo Muñoz
- Cécile Billaux
- Rob Whitby
- Pavani Ram
- Hitoshi Murakami
- Julie Hamra
- Rajinder Suri
- Anne Marie Mbengue Seye
- Sania Nishtar, Chief Executive Officer
- Hanna Nohynek

Other Board members attending

- Francesca Manno
- Bvudzai Magadzire

Other guests

- Johanneke de Hoogh (Agenda items 1-3)

Regrets

- Katja Meijaard
- Ngashi Ngongo

Observers

- Ruzan Gyurjyan, Special Advisor to the EURO Constituency
- Muluken Desta, Special Advisor to the Anglo-Africa Constituency
- Annick Sidibé, Special Advisor to the Francophone-Lusophone Africa Constituency
- Manuel Sierra, Special Advisor to the PAHO Constituency
- Pratap Sahoo, Special Advisor to the SEARO Constituency
- Zaeem UI Haaq, Special Advisor to the EMRO Constituency
- Inês Sérvulo, Special Adviser, Gavi Board Chair
- Vivian Lopez, Special Adviser to the Gavi Board Vice Chair
- Lauren Franzel-Sassanpour (WHO)(Agenda items 5-6)

Gavi Secretariat

- Thabani Maphosa
- Derrick Sim
- Francois Note
- Brenda Killen
- Hannah Burris
- Johannes Ahrendts
- Hope Johnson
- Sally Dalgaard
- Marta Tufet (Agenda Items 2-4)
- Quentin Guillon (Agenda Item 2)
- Amy LaTrielle (Agenda Item 4)
- Tokunbo Oshin (Agenda Item 5)
- Joanne Goetz
- Meegan Murray-Lopez