

SUBJECT: CONSENT AGENDA: CONTINUATION OF SUPPORT TO SOUTH SUDAN

Agenda item: 02f

Category: For Decision

1. Continued support to South Sudan

- 1.1 Despite an overall positive trend in co-financing of Gavi programmes (see Strategy Progress Update), South Sudan in recent years has struggled to co-finance Gavi-supported vaccines due to ongoing conflict and the decreasing global oil price. In 2016, the PPC and the Board already found that the exceptional circumstances in the country justified the continuation of Gavi support despite the country's defaulter status on its 2015 co-financing obligations (see Doc 07a to the 2016 December Gavi Alliance Board).
- 1.2 Despite the challenges, during the last Health Summit,¹ the government has committed to increase its budget for health as soon as the economy improves. Furthermore, thanks to the active advocacy from the Gavi Secretariat, among others, a vaccine specific budget line was added to the 2017-2018 national budget to cover co-financing obligations. Gavi is following up with the country in order to ensure a more sustainable approach to co-financing going forward.
- 1.3 Nevertheless, since the overall situation in the country has worsened over the past months due to a further proliferation of the conflict and is not expected to change in the immediate to short term future, South Sudan has not been able to fulfil its 2016 co-financing obligations and has requested the continuation of Gavi support despite its default status (letter sent to Gavi on 28 April 2017). With South Sudan's current vaccine stocks, it is not expected to experience a shortage of doses due to 2016 arrears.
- 1.4 In view of the above, the Gavi Alliance Programme and Policy Committee recommends to the Gavi Alliance Board that it:

Find that exceptional circumstances in South Sudan justify the continuation of Gavi support irrespective of its default status on its 2016 co-financing obligations.

¹ The Ministry of Health convened the Third Health Summit in March 2017 with the theme "Harnessing strong partnerships for a resilient health system towards attainment of Universal Health Coverage" to encourage partners to work together with the Ministry and others in building "a well-functioning resilient health system looking towards the larger goal of achieving Universal Health Coverage."
https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/health_cluster_bulletin_mar_2017.pdf

- 1.5 Going forward the Secretariat intends to present to the next PPC meeting a proposed approach on how to address the continuation of support for Yemen and South-Sudan.