

## **Annex D:** Summary of proposed support for vaccine doses for the ‘Big catch-up’

The PPC considered three potential options on how to finance additional doses required for the Big Catch-Up: Option 0. Permissive approach to allow countries to request additional doses as part of their routine programmes (which would need to be co-financed); or Option 1. Fully fund additional doses required to catch-up up to ~30%<sup>1</sup> of children missed (at an aggregated portfolio level) during the pandemic; or Option 2. Fully fund all additional doses that countries request for catch-up. The Secretariat recommended Option 1 to the PPC. This was designed to balance alleviating the potential barrier to catch-up posed by co-financing with limiting the risk from providing fully funded doses to the Gavi co-financing model.

Given the one-off nature of this effort that is a direct result of the pandemic, and the urgency to close critical immunity gaps, **the PPC emphasised the need to be as permissive as possible within bounds of financial feasibility.** The PPC therefore **recommends to the Board to approve flexibility to provide fully funded catch-up doses for children missed during the pandemic for an initial amount of US\$ 290 million subject to countries developing robust plans.** It should be noted that this amount is an initial estimate and is likely to evolve as countries finalise their plans.

The primary risk with this approach is that it may incentivise countries to request large number of fully paid catch up doses via unrealistic plans. These doses, which are fungible in nature across catch up and routine programmes, could subsequently be used in routine programmes (thereby circumventing the need to pay co-financing) or wasted if not deployed rapidly enough. This ultimately could erode the sustainability of the Gavi co-financing model and country efforts to build sufficient fiscal space for their vaccination programmes. There is also a risk that these doses may be used to re-immunise already vaccinated children if countries feel there is no financial cost to re-immunisation. Risk mitigation measures to protect core co-financing requirements and prevent wastage would need to be put in place operationally, including:

1. Provision of fully funded doses for big catch-up to be **time-limited** to the 2024-2025 period.
2. Ensuring the robustness of the country catch-up plans and the implementation support to countries by augmenting the capacity of Alliance at global, regional and country level, including through the provision of project management support.
3. **Assessment of in-country stock** and scheduled deliveries to determine dose requirements for catch-up.
4. Phased supply of additional fully funded catch-up doses with countries needing to demonstrate the first round of catch-up activities occur as planned before additional doses are provided. Phased supply also mitigates potential inequities across

<sup>1</sup> This level of fully funded doses would enable countries to reach all children who were missed due to pandemic-related backsliding as well as a portion of the children who would have been zero dose even without the pandemic. NOTE: This threshold is at an aggregate portfolio level

countries (e.g., large country requests in a first-come first-serve model poses a risk).

5. Assessment of **outstanding co-financing liabilities on a case-by-case basis** to determine catch-up support.

Another key risk is related to monitoring. Routine monitoring systems are designed to capture routine performance for each calendar year and do not account for previous cohorts that may have caught up later. WHO and UNICEF are currently working to develop a monitoring and learning agenda to track implementation and impact of the Big Catch-Up and identify learnings as we look to strengthen routinised catch-up immunisation going forward. However, it will take countries time to adjust their data systems and it is unlikely that these will be able to rigorously capture catch-up vaccination in the near term.

The PPC acknowledged the risks associated with the approach but encouraged the Secretariat to treat the Big Catch-up as an emergency and do its best to manage risks through operational processes. It should be noted that even after putting in place risk mitigation measures, **residual risks related to core co-financing, wastage and monitoring would persist.**