

Annex A: Eligibility and Transition Policy



Gavi Alliance Eligibility and Transition Policy Version 4.0

DOCUMENT ADMINISTRATION

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4.0	Prepared by: Marta Tufet, Head, Policy	
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1. Purpose & Objective

- 1.1 The **purpose** of this policy is to set out the criteria and procedures that determine which countries are eligible for Gavi support and to define the transition pathway through which this support is phased out, ensuring that Gavi funding is aligned with its mission to focus support on lower-income countries.
- 1.2 Further information about the levels of Gavi funding for Gavi-eligible countries is found in the co-financing policy and Health Systems and Immunisation Strengthening (HSIS) policy. Additionally, the **Framework for Gavi Funding to Countries** outlines the overall structure of Gavi's support to countries.

2. Definitions

- 2.1 **Gross National Income per capita (GNI p.c.):** GNI is the sum of value added by all resident producers plus any product taxes (less subsidies) not included in the valuation of output plus net receipts of primary income (compensation of employees and property income) from abroad. GNI p.c. is GNI divided by mid-year population. GNI p.c. in US dollars is converted using the World Bank Atlas Method which smooths exchange rate fluctuations using a three-year rolling average, price-adjusted conversion factor, calculated by the World Bank.
- 2.2 **Gavi-eligible country:** a country which is in one of the three phases of Gavi support defined by GNI p.c. thresholds. These phases and thresholds are detailed in section 4 of this policy.
- 2.3 **Penta3 coverage:** percentage of infants in a given country that received three doses of pentavalent (or equivalent) vaccine based on WHO/UNICEF WUENIC source.

3. Principles

- 3.1 The following principles guide the application of the Gavi-eligibility and transition policy:

Country-led, predictable and sustainable: Gavi support is country-driven, meaning that it bolsters country leadership to sustainably deliver and finance immunisation. It is predictable over time and directly linked to a country's ability to pay and is intended to be catalytic and time-limited and to incentivise domestic investments in health.

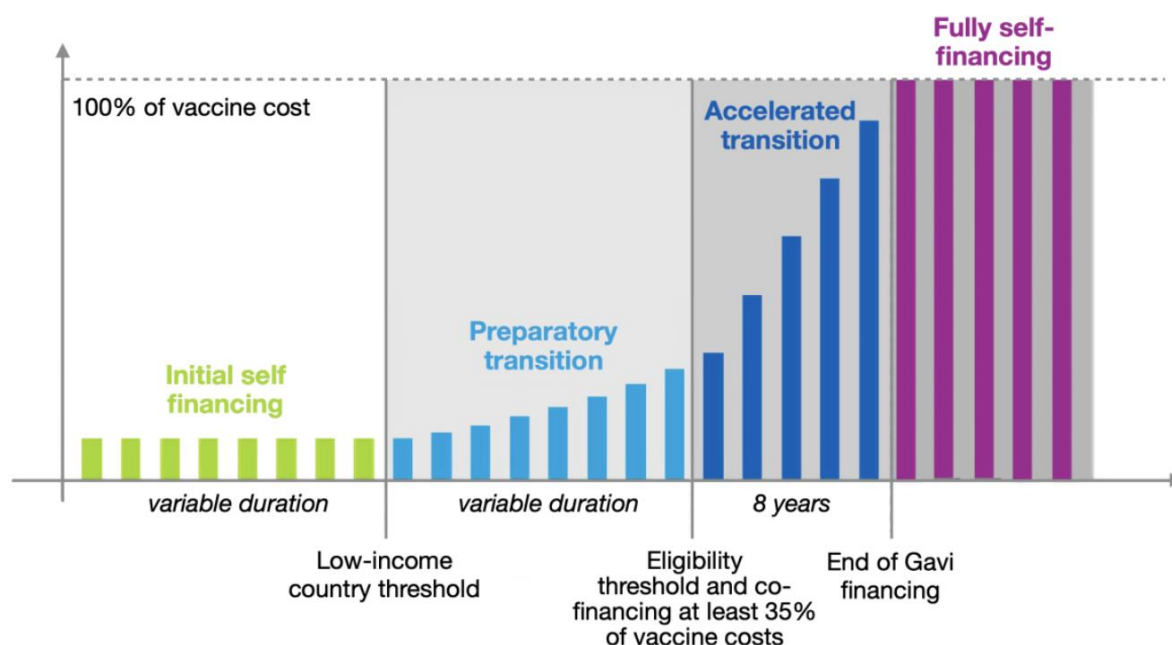
Tailored to context, adaptable and flexible: The use of Gavi support is differentiated to meet the needs of countries as they change over time.

4. Procedures and Thresholds

- 4.1 Gavi uses GNI p.c. to determine eligibility for Gavi support. The threshold for eligibility for Gavi support is **US\$ 1730 GNI p.c.** in 2023. The threshold for eligibility is updated annually using the inflation adjustments the World Bank makes annually to its income categories.

- 4.2 GNI p.c. is used to define the three phases of Gavi support for Gavi-eligible countries (**transition phase**): initial self-financing, preparatory transition and accelerated transition.
- 4.3 A Gavi-eligible country is considered to be in the **initial self-financing phase** if its GNI p.c. is equal to or below the World Bank’s low-income threshold. In 2023 the low-income threshold is US\$ 1085 GNI p.c. The low-income threshold is updated annually in line with the World Bank’s definition of low-income economies.
- 4.4 A Gavi-eligible country is considered to be in the **preparatory transition phase** if its GNI p.c. is above the World Bank’s low-income threshold until it enters the accelerated transition phase.
- 4.5 A Gavi-eligible country enters the **accelerated transition phase** when its three-year average GNI p.c. as well as its most recent GNI p.c. are above the eligibility threshold, and the country is co-financing at least 35% of vaccine costs¹. The duration of the accelerated transition phase is **eight years**, during which period the country remains **eligible** to apply for new vaccine support in any year.
- 4.6 Countries which have transitioned out of Gavi-eligibility, i.e. after they have left the accelerated transition phase, become known as ‘fully self-financing’ or ‘former Gavi-eligible’ countries.

Figure 1: Illustration of transition phases and thresholds



- 4.7 Any country whose GNI p.c. drops below the low-income or Gavi-eligibility threshold, based on its most recent GNI p.c. in any given year will be

¹ Excluding malaria from the calculation of co-financing share and including costs of devices and freight.

reclassified into the appropriate transition phase. Implications for co-financing in these instances are detailed in the co-financing policy.

- 4.8 Subject to availability of funding and approval in accordance with Gavi's processes, Gavi will honour all existing multi-year commitments for Health Systems Strengthening (HSS) support to countries in accelerated transition. Approval of new HSS grants for countries in accelerated transition are restricted to those countries with Penta3 coverage below 90%.
- 4.9 A country's new status is updated after the release of World Bank data on 1 July every calendar year and becomes effective as of 1 January of the next calendar year.
- 4.10 The thresholds and country status are published on the Gavi website².
- 4.11 Eligibility will not be considered for poorer states/provinces within higher income countries (i.e. Gavi will not offer sub-national support for countries that are not Gavi-eligible).

5. Exceptions

- 5.1 Countries will remain in preparatory transition for two additional years if: i) their average GNI p.c. over the past three years is above the threshold, and they experienced more than 30% single-year increase in GNI p.c. in the previous five years; or ii) their average GNI p.c. over the past three years is above the threshold, they experienced a more than 20% single-year increase in GNI p.c. in the previous five years, and have a Penta3 coverage estimate below 90%.
- 5.2 Countries classified as low-income by the World Bank without a published World Bank GNI p.c. may be determined by the CEO to be in initial self-financing phase. Countries without a published World Bank income classification will be treated on a case-by-case basis. In each case the Board will be informed.

6. Implementation and Monitoring

- 6.1 This policy comes into effect on 1 January 2023 and replaces the Eligibility and Transition policy approved by the Board in June 2015.
- 6.2 Monitoring of this policy is outlined in Annex A to the Framework for Gavi Funding to Countries document and describes the relevant indicators that are reported on annually.
- 6.3 This policy will be reviewed and updated as and when required. Any amendments to this policy are subject to Gavi Board approval.

² <https://www.gavi.org/programmes-impact/types-support/sustainability> <https://www.gavi.org/types-support/sustainability/eligibility>