

Annex A: Audit and Investigations - background

- In 2009 Gavi became an independent organisation (from UNICEF as ‘hosting body’), and Gavi’s Internal Audit function was first established as a single person activity. In December 2014, with a growing need for assurance, the Board approved the reconstitution of audit as the 13-person Audit and Investigations (A&I) function. A&I comprises the third line of defence being independent of Gavi’s core activities and oversight functions and reports to the Board, which is achieved through routine reporting to the AFC, and the Chief Executive Officer. Audits and other reviews are conducted against annual plans approved by the AFC, drawn from a risk-based assessment of priority.
- A&I operates under a charter approved by the Board, (“Audit and Investigations Terms of Reference”) which is reviewed and updated periodically. This sets out the basis of operation of the function, its reporting relationship to the AFC and Board, and critically, the basis of its independence.
- The A&I function undertakes four main activities:
 - Internal Audit which is an independent and objective assurance and consulting activity to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of the organisation's risk management, control, and governance processes.
 - Programme Audit which conducts audits of programmes in-country to assess whether: a) programmes are operating with appropriate systems and processes in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Partnership Framework Agreement (PFA) agreed between country and Gavi, and is sufficient to support an independent and sustainable programme after transition from Gavi support; b) Gavi support, including cash, vaccines and related supplies, have been used as intended to provide value-for-money, considering both financial and programmatic aspects.
 - Investigations and Counter-Fraud which conducts an evidence-based examination of possible misuse and other misconduct within Gavi, in Gavi-supported programmes in-country, or which otherwise impact upon the organisation. It undertakes preventive activities to minimise the risk of such conduct occurring and/or impacting the organisation.
 - Whistleblower Reporting which receives reports from internal and external sources, and follows up as appropriate, on potential concerns relating to financial or programmatic misuse, sexual exploitation and abuse, or other misconduct.
- While each audit or investigation provides insight in its own right on Gavi’s risk exposure and its mitigation, the accumulation of the function’s body of work forms an institutional knowledge base of risk and control.