



GAVI/12/047/sk/rh

The Minister of Health
Ministry of Health
PO Box 30205
Ridgeway
Lusaka
Zambia

13 April 2012

Dear Minister,

Zambia's Proposal to the GAVI Alliance

In a letter of 29 February 2012, we informed you that the Independent Review Committee (IRC) recommended "**Approval**" of your proposal for rotavirus vaccine introduction. We are pleased to inform you that the GAVI Executive Committee (EC), at its meeting on 12 April 2012, considered and **endorsed the IRC recommendation** of your 2013-2015 proposal for the introduction of rotavirus vaccine. For your reference, the IRC summary report is attached in Appendix A.

As specified and agreed in the submitted application form, Zambia will co-finance the procurement of rotavirus vaccine. The level of co-financing is determined by GAVI's co-financing policy, where Zambia is currently classified in the intermediate group based on the 2010 GNI per capita data released by the World Bank in July 2011. Therefore, Zambia's co-financing requirement is US\$ 0.20 per dose in the first year, followed by an annual increase of 15%. Please note that the requirement to co-finance this vaccine will begin only once the supply of the vaccine commences.

We are keen to support you to make the earliest possible introduction of rotavirus vaccines. However, due to an unprecedented demand for rotavirus vaccines and the lead time required by manufacturers to increase vaccine production, it is possible that the global vaccine supply will not meet all country requirements approved by GAVI in the short term.

As a consequence, the actual amount of doses and the vaccine introduction timeframe may differ from that requested in your proposal. The final total dollar amount of Zambia's co-financing requirement and the allocated number of doses will be communicated to you in a separate letter in due course.

GAVI is committed to providing regular updates to countries and we expect to send you new information on the status of supply in the third quarter of 2012.

Please do not hesitate to contact my colleague Jorn Heldrup at jheldrup@gavialliance.org if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Helen Evans".

Helen Evans
Deputy Chief Executive Officer

GAVI Alliance

2 Chemin des Mines
1202 Geneva
Switzerland

Tel. +41 22 909 6500
Fax +41 22 909 6555

www.gavialliance.org

Attachments: **Appendix A: IRC country report, February 2012**

cc: **The Minister of Finance**
 The Director of Medical Services
 Director Planning Unit, MoH
 The EPI Manager
 WHO Country Representative
 UNICEF Country Representative
 Regional Working Group
 WHO HQ
 UNICEF Programme Division
 UNICEF Supply Division
 The World Bank
 The GAVI Finance Unit

Independent Review Committee, Geneva, February 6-10 2012

Review or response to conditions

The following documents were submitted in support of the response:

1. EVM July 2011
2. Cold chain scale-up strategy
3. Response to conditions document
4. ICC meeting minutes from 2nd November 2011
5. Integrated child health project description and action plan
6. Six transfer of funds letters for cold chain equipment
7. Certificate of site possession for warehouse
8. Six purchase orders for cold chain equipment
9. Application to JICA for financial support for cold chain

Conditions:

Zambia is requested to provide evidence that the cold chain at all levels (National, Province, District, and Health facilities) will be in place at the time of introduction of rotavirus vaccine. Training of health workers and vaccinators should be completed, as recommended. The country must demonstrate that the US \$6.1 million has been secured to expand the cold chain storage capacity at district and health care facility level.

Response:

EVM July 2011

- A 7-day training was completed before the EVM data collection started. The EVM report is of a high quality.
- The national store got a relatively low EVM score and there are many recommendations for improvement.
- Provincial and district levels are also weak with most scores less than 80%. Some facilities get scores above 80%, but several far below.
- An extensive improvement plan with budget is included in the EVM report.

Cold chain scale-up strategy

- Started in 2010.
- US\$ 4,477,000 required to implement the plan and so far US\$ 1,546,000 has been mobilized and is being used.
- The strategy includes full scale expansion of the vaccine storage capacity at the National Vaccine Store and four larger Provincial Vaccine Stores with full renovation of existing buildings and installation of new cold rooms with generator sets. In addition to this, procurement of 83 refrigerators and 250 cold boxes are in process.
- There is also a strategy and budget for items and activities other than cold storage

Response to conditions document

One condition was that "The country must demonstrate that the US\$ 6.1 million has been secured to expand the cold chain storage capacity at district and health care facility level". It is explained that the EVM detailed assessment has shown that the gap is not longer US\$ 6.1 million, but only US\$ 2.2 million.

- The majority of this need is at the health facility level, as funds have been secured and procurement or installation for national, provincial and district levels are in progress.

- JICA is currently in the advanced stages of approving this support for the majority of the remaining cold chain gap and the country is waiting final confirmation of this (\$1.865m).
- There are also other key stakeholders who have expressed their interest in strengthening Zambia's EPI through cold chain investments and other EPI activities and the MOH will work with partners
- Confirmation of this funding will be solidified over the next few months.

ICC meeting minutes from 2nd November 2011

The ICC meeting was attended by as many as 30 partner representatives. The objective was to get their approval to the response to GAVI and it was approved by all.

All conditions are met.

Recommendation: Approval