

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW COMMITTEE TO THE GAVI ALLIANCE ON THE REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS - SEPTEMBER 2020

Executive Summary

Process. The Independent Review Committee (IRC) held an ad-hoc meeting on 21-24 September 2020 to review CCEOP applications from three Gavi-eligible countries. The meeting was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Five IRC members participated, i.e. three cold chain and logistics (CCL) experts, one generalist, and one Chair (see Annex 1 for full list). CCL members presented draft reports of their assigned countries, which were discussed in plenary sessions. Additionally, the Gavi Secretariat and partners provided country-specific briefings and additional information to assist IRC deliberations and recommendations for approval or re-review for each country application. During this review, IRC members focused on:

- reviewing country CCEOP funding requests and supporting documentation to improve coverage and equity by ensuring vaccine availability and potency through efficient supply chains;
- producing country-specific reports with recommendations.

Methodology. Reviews included desk review and presentation of three country CCEOP applications with full IRC plenary discussion and agreement of recommendations.

Results. The full IRC recommended approval of the three CCEOP applications (i.e. DPRK, Niger, Somalia), including a total budget of **US\$8,799,184** for procurement of **2,082** items of cold-chain equipment (CCE).

Table 1. Country requests and IRC review outcomes

Country (full review)	Application	Outcome
DPRK	CCEOP	Approval
Niger	CCEOP	Approval
Somalia	CCEOP	Approval

Methods and Processes

This ad-hoc Independent Review Committee was held virtually on 21-24 September 2020 because of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. Five IRC members from five countries reviewed three CCEOP applications from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Niger, and Somalia.

The Gavi Secretariat shared applications and supporting documents one week prior to the meeting to allow members time to prepare draft reports. Each proposal included application form and supporting documents. Two IRC members reviewed each country proposal independently, as primary or secondary reviewer, then presented separate reports to the committee. The Secretariat and Alliance partners provided briefings on relevant CCEOP topics or country proposal development to assist IRC members in their reviews and discussion. IRC members then discussed each proposal in plenary until reaching consensus. The Secretariat and Alliance partners supported plenaries by providing information and clarifications where requested. After

the committee's consensus on the recommendation for each proposal, the first reviewer consolidated the country report to address discussions and recommendations, sent it for editing on clarity and consistency, and then to the Secretariat for a fact check.

Review criteria

IRC country proposal review was guided by the IRC Terms of Reference and key concerns in line with Gavi's mission. The IRC adhered strictly to the guidelines to ensure integrity, consistency, and transparency of Gavi's funding process. The two possible decision categories were:

- **Recommendation for Approval** when no issues were identified that required re-review by IRC experts, the issues raised by the IRC will be addressed by the country in consultation with the Secretariat and partners.
- **Recommendation for Re-review** when there are issues that require revision and further review by IRC experts, entailing more extensive revision of the application and re-submission to the IRC.

Key findings and recommendations

Gavi has worked to build greater resilience in supply chains, which is starting to show results, though the emergence of COVID-19 early in 2020 poses new threats. Supply chains have been disrupted by the reduction in global travel and transport, which has delayed shipments of vaccines and cold chain equipment (e.g. to DPRK). Lockdowns have led to delays in installation and decommissioning of CCE (e.g. Somalia).

Recommendation: CCEOP installation and commissioning should remain a priority, to ensure supply chain readiness. Gavi to request assessment of delays and impact in countries, to safeguard readiness of supply chains before supply of new vaccines, especially new vaccines introductions.

Conclusion

The full IRC reviewed and approved 3 CCEOP applications (i.e. DPRK, Niger, Somalia), including a total budget of **US\$8,799,184** for procurement of **2,082 CCE**. No applications were recommended for re-review.

Acknowledgements

The IRC wishes to express its appreciation to: (i) the Gavi Executive Team for their continued support; (ii) the Gavi Secretariat (Lindsey, Verena, Sonia, Anjana) for their excellent organisation and assistance at all times, without which this IRC meeting would not have been possible; (iii) all SCMs and CCEOP Focal Points for vital comments during plenary sessions; (iv) the IT team who ensured the success of this virtual IRC meeting format; and (v) Alliance partners (particularly WHO) who attended faithfully and provided insight and clarifications on global policies and strategic issues. The IRC remains grateful and looks forward to your continuing support and assistance.

Annex 1. List of participating IRC members

Name	Nationality	Profession, location	Gender	Expertise
Lymo, Dafrossa <i>CHAIR</i>	Tanzania	EPI Manager, Tanzania	Female	Program Management, HSS, RI, Surveillance, M&E.
Howard, Natasha	Canada, UK	Associate Professor, NUS School of Public Health and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Singapore	Female	Fragility, Emergencies, Refugees, HSS, HPV.
Jaillard, Philippe	France	Independent consultant, France	Male	Supply chain and logistics.
Kaucley, Landry	Benin	Director of Logistics, National Agency for Vaccination and Primary Health Care, Benin	Male	Supply chain and logistics.
Stassen, Mario	Netherlands	Independent consultant, Netherlands	Male	Supply chain and logistics.