

**Joint Meeting**  
**Gavi Alliance Evaluation Advisory Committee**  
**Gavi Alliance Programme and Policy Committee**  
25 October 2017  
Gavi Alliance Offices, Geneva, Switzerland

**1. Chair's Welcome**

- 1.1 The meeting commenced at 14.05 Geneva time on 25 October 2017. Rob Moodie, Evaluation Advisory Committee (EAC) Chair, and Richard Sezibera, Programme and Policy Committee (PPC Chair), co-chaired the meeting.
- 1.2 The Co-chairs welcomed participants to this first joint meeting of the EAC and the PPC and Committee members introduced themselves.
- 1.3 Seth Berkley, CEO, highlighted the importance of this meeting in the context of the importance for Gavi of working within a learning and data-driven culture and subsequently ensuring that the outcomes of Gavi's evaluation work are used to inform the programmatic and policy recommendations being considered by the PPC.
- 1.4 The Co-chairs gave a brief presentation on the roles and responsibilities of their respective Committees as outlined in their Committee Charters.
- 1.5 Standing declarations of interest were tabled to the Committee (Docs 01a and 01b in the meeting pack).

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**2. Monitoring & Evaluation to drive results in the 2016-2020 strategy**

- 2.1 The EAC Chair chaired this session.
- 2.2 Hope Johnson, Director, Monitoring & Evaluation, introduced this item, referring to Gavi's 2016-2020 Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Framework, which comprises a number of different tools and strategies with the aim of strengthening accountability, fostering learning and catalysing data strengthening.
- 2.3 She provided information on the overall approach which focuses on four areas: strategy policy and programme development; planning; implementation and monitoring; and lessons learnt and course correction.

- 2.4 She highlighted the importance of connecting the work of the EAC and the PPC. The EAC can ensure that relevant, high quality and timely evidence is made available and which can then be taken into consideration when designing and implementing programmes and policies which fall within the remit of the PPC.

### *Discussion*

- In response to a question relating to the use of data in the Joint Appraisals (JAs) to measure equity, the Secretariat noted that part of preparation for the JAs in countries includes a data review of the available data so that the information can be used to inform discussions. The JA template includes questions about inequities which explore the location of under-immunised children, what the barriers are, the role Gavi support has played so far and what more can be done going forward. A lot of work is being done around equity analysis and UNICEF is taking the lead in carrying out equity assessments in countries to understand drivers of inequities, other than wealth.
- One participant suggested that the discussion on inequities should be broadened to include interventions outside the immunisation community, as well as looking more closely at urban slums which have in the past not always been considered as widely as rural areas.
- Participants noted the challenge of bringing together different data sets which may not always be aligned in terms both of content and systems. The Secretariat referred to work that is being done on this by groups such as Zenysis. The long term goal is of course to have better reliable data sets.
- Participants noted that discussions in relation to the use of biomarkers is ongoing and that the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) had done some work on this in the context of the Full Country Evaluations (FCE) project.
- The importance of ensuring that the PPC can make evidence-based policy decisions was highlighted. The Secretariat indicated that this information is already being taken into account in PPC papers and proposed that going forward, when appropriate, this will be extended through the addition of a specific annex to a PPC paper providing more details on the outcomes of any relevant evaluations that should be used to inform the PPC deliberations.
- One PPC member suggested that it could also be useful for the PPC to have some more contextual information, such as information on what is happening in middle income countries that have never been Gavi-eligible.
- Participants noted that the M&E work done by Gavi strives to ensure that the work already being done in countries by the countries themselves as well as by partners is built on and not duplicated. The emphasis is on ensuring that the improvements are made in collecting and analysing the data which is already available and not burdening the health workers and other in-country stakeholders with additional reporting obligations.

- It was agreed that it would be useful for Gavi to continue to explore possible synergies with non-Alliance stakeholders who are also involved in in-country evaluations.
- One participant noted that while the data is often being compiled on the ground in countries it is often being used for global purposes but does not always filter down to the subnational level and the frontline workers to make it useful for them in their work and to help them to understand how they can use it themselves to bring about improvement. It was suggested that this is something that it might be useful to explore further.
- The Secretariat clarified that work continues with countries and in-country partners in relation to some of the challenges of measuring coverage and equity, which can often be country-specific or even district- or community-specific. It has been established that some of this work is better done in-country as part of the HSIS grants. This work has also been found to be a good way of building in-country capacity.
- Participants noted that due to the importance of ensuring the independence of the evaluation work, the evaluations commissioned by Gavi are conducted by external firms. However, when relevant, the synthesis and review is done by the Secretariat, which reduced the need for consultants to do this work.
- In response to a question relating to the use of data to implement performance-based funding (PBF) the Secretariat noted that it is has been difficult to get reliable data and it is likely post the evaluation that different methodology will need to be used for PBF.
- Participants noted that in terms of improving the understanding of the data it could be useful to consider the use of infographics as a way of enabling a quick visualisation of the data for key stakeholders including Ministers. The Secretariat noted in this context that work is being done on scaling up the use of dashboards and that this can be looked at as a means of further improving communication.
- It was highlighted that it is also important to reflect on the potentially political nature of data in some contexts and that this is one of many reasons why it is important to engage with people at the highest political levels to ensure that there is a better understanding of the importance of being able to have accurate data to ensure that the funding flows for health services are appropriate.
- In view of the increasing disparities which are being seen in similar data coming from different sources, it was suggested that it might be appropriate to look at grading the quality of data. The Secretariat indicated that a lot of work goes on in relation to the triangulation of data which generates useful discussions in relation to data and data quality. It has been ascertained that one of the fastest ways to get countries to move is to work with them to help them to improve the ways in which they calculate their official estimates.

- The Secretariat indicated that there is continued engagement with the SAGE data working group and that discussions with the Global Fund are ongoing in relation to strengthening joint engagement in relation to M&E at the country level.
- Finally, participants noted that a peer review of Gavi's evaluation function had just been completed and that some of the issues highlighted, and which would be addressed going forward, included issues around the choice of appropriate consultants to carry out some of the evaluation work and in particular around their engagement in countries. There is a desire to bring more country-based evaluators into the pool, including in-country academic institutions. The recommendations of the peer review will also be used to inform a revision of Gavi's Evaluation Policy as well as the EAC Charter, both of which will be submitted to the Board for approval.

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### **3. EAC and PPC: Areas for potential collaboration**

- 3.1 The PPC Chair chaired this session, the aim of which was to have an open discussion on how the EAC and PPC can potentially collaborate more closely together going forward.
- 3.2 Referring to the discussions under the previous item he highlighted the importance of ensuring that countries that have invested in quality data are not disincentivised, and that the Alliance has to be honest about its evaluations, data and achievements.
- 3.2 Hope Johnson, Director, Monitoring & Evaluation, presented a slide which had been prepared on behalf of the Committee Chairs and which outlined the expected outcomes of this discussion: better harmonisation/coordination between the EAC and the PPC; a more systematic investment in a prospective evaluations agenda, and how the two Committees can agree on areas that may benefit from such evaluations; a better anchoring of evaluation design as part of Gavi's policy and programme design; a more effective use of evaluation findings to plug any gaps in policy and/or programme implementation.

#### *Discussion*

- In relation to suggestions for future evaluations it was proposed that it could be useful to consider a prospective evaluation of the polio wind-down and perhaps also an evaluation relating to the impacts of outbreak response in emergency and non-emergency environments and campaigns on routine immunisation. The Secretariat noted in relation to the latter that this had been done through the FCE project during the MR campaign in Bangladesh and that it was also foreseen for the planned MR campaign in Nigeria.

- It was suggested that it could be useful to do a compilation of major findings and recommendations of all of the different evaluations which have been done and the Secretariat noted that this is being worked on.
- In the context of a discussion on the importance of increasing visibility of the outcomes of Gavi's evaluation work, it was suggested that it could be useful to include relevant evaluation results as part of the Gavi mid-term review (MTR) planned for 2018.
- In relation to suggested activities for EAC and PPC collaboration, the following was agreed:
  - The PPC will be invited to provide input to Gavi's evaluations workplan
  - The PPC will be invited to provide input to the Terms of Reference (ToRs) of evaluations where relevant (such as evaluations of Gavi policies and programmes)
  - Evaluations evidence will be presented to the PPC in the form of an annex to relevant PPC papers when (new) policies/processes/ programmes are being reviewed; and
  - The EAC will provide an evaluability assessment of (new) policies/processes/ programmes being reviewed by the PPC
  - The EAC will be provided with access to the agenda and papers for PPC meetings
- It was agreed that a joint session of the EAC and PPC would be organised annually.
- It was noted that in the context of taking forward the recommendations of the peer review of Gavi's evaluation function there will be a discussion in relation to improving the engagement of the EAC with the Board and senior management, and also ensuring that the EAC is kept apprised of evaluations of Gavi which are carried out externally e.g. MOPAN, which is currently not the case.
- After determining there was no further business, the meeting was brought to a close.

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Mrs Joanne Goetz  
Secretary to the Meeting

## Attachment A

## Participants

### Evaluation Advisory Committee Members

- Rob Moodie, Chair
- Zulfiqar A. Bhutta
- Jeanine Condo
- Anna Hamrell
- Nina Schwalbe
- Viroj Tangcharoensathien
- Wieneke Vullings

### Programme and Policy Committee Members

- Richard Sezibera, Chair
- Rama Lakshminarayanan
- Violaine Mitchell
- Robin Nandy
- Jean-Marie Okwo-Bele
- Edna Yolani Batres
- Abdul Wali Ghayur
- Lene Lothe
- Jason Lane
- Susan McKinney
- Lindsey Dietschi
- Dure Samin Akram
- Seth Berkley, Chief Executive Officer
- Alejandro Cravioto

### Guests

- Mira Johri, EAC member elect
- Kate O'Brien, PPC member elect

### Observers

- Stephen Karengera, Special Adviser to the PPC Chair
- Rolando Pinel, Special Adviser to Edna Yolani Batres

### Regrets

- Syed Monjurul Islam (PPC)
- Ummy Ally Mwalimu (PPC)
- Jean-François Pactet (PPC)
- Adar Poonawalla (PPC)
- Helen Rees (PPC)

### Gavi Secretariat

- Anuradha Gupta
- Emmanuella Baguma
- Abdallah Bchir
- Chimwemwe Chitsulo
- Laura Craw
- Daniela Figueroa-Downing
- Alex de Jonquières
- Joanne Goetz
- Hope Johnson
- Leslie Moreland
- Abigail Neel
- Alba Vilajeliu