

**SUBJECT:           PROGRAMME AND POLICY COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT**

**Category:           For Information**

### **Section A: Introduction**

- This report provides the Board with an overview of the activities of the Programme and Policy Committee (PPC) since the Committee Chair last reported to the Board in June 2021.
- The PPC met virtually on 20-22 October 2021. During the meeting, the Committee discussed a number of important topics for the Alliance and agreed on recommendations which are being put forward to the Board at its November-December 2021 meeting for consideration.
- To follow up on discussions at the October 2021 meeting, the PPC reconvened on 12 November 2021 to further discuss and consider two recommendations which are also being put forward to the Board at this meeting, namely i) COVAX: Key Strategic Issues, and ii) Disease Surveillance and Diagnostics to Support Targeted Vaccination in Gavi 5.0.
- The PPC Chair report is attached in the form of a presentation as Annex A and the PPC recommendations to the Board are attached as Annex B.

### **Annexes**

**Annex A:** PPC Chair report

**Annex B:** PPC recommendations to Gavi Alliance Board

# PROGRAMME AND POLICY COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT

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BOARD MEETING

**Helen Rees**

30 November – 2 December 2021, Virtual Meeting

# PPC Meeting, 20-22 October 2021

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## **Discussion, Information and Guidance Items:**

- CEO Update
- Strategy, Programmes and Partnerships: Progress, Risks and Challenges
- COVAX: Key Strategic Issues
- Gavi 5.0: Operationalisation – Funding Policies
- Fragility, Emergencies, Refugees Policy

# PPC Meeting, 20-22 October 2021

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## Recommendations to the Board:

- Gavi 5.0: Measurement Framework (*consent agenda – Doc 01d*)
- Disease Surveillance and Diagnostics in Gavi 5.0 – Yellow Fever (*Agenda Item 12*)
- Civil Society and Community Engagement Approach (*consent agenda – Doc 01d*)
- Private Sector Engagement Strategy (*Agenda Item 11*)
- Malaria Vaccine Programme Investment Case (*Agenda Item 08*)
- Strategic Partnership with India (*Agenda Item 10*)

# PPC Meeting, 20-22 October 2021

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## CEO Update and Strategy, Programmes and Partnerships items:

- PPC members commended the successes achieved during Gavi 4.0 and on COVAX-related work despite multiple challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic
- Expressed concern over the increase of zero-dose children over the past year and noted the urgency of refocusing on zero-dose children
- Discussed risks related to backsliding of routine immunisation (RI) programmes, and related to HPV vaccine supply and stockpile shortages
- Expressed concern on the emerging shortage of syringes, noting the implications this could have on both COVID-19 vaccine delivery and RI programmes
- In relation to COVAX, queried the latest supply forecasts and whether the COVAX Facility is on track to meet its targets for 2021

# PPC Meeting, 20-22 October 2021

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## COVAX: Key Strategic Issues:

- PPC members requested an additional PPC meeting to consider a recommendation to the Board covering key components of the COVAX strategy for 2022
- Encouraged the Secretariat to provide the Board in December 2021 with a road map that clearly sets out: i) the critical issues that will require Board guidance or decision; ii) a clear timeline of the requested decisions; and iii) clarity on the responsibility of COVAX vis-a-vis the other entities and partners
- Recognised the need to gather all the efforts needed to support delivery and encouraged the Secretariat to provide a granular view on the different financial sources for delivery at the Board meeting in December 2021

# PPC Meeting, 20-22 October 2021

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## Gavi 5.0: Operationalisation – Funding Policies:

- PPC members expressed concerns on countries' fiscal bandwidth as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and encouraged the Secretariat to monitor this issue to prevent further impact on future immunisation programmes
- Advised on the topic of exceptions that Gavi policies must not be undermined, and exceptions must not become the norm; however, exceptions should be granted in extraordinary circumstances such as a global pandemic or conflict
- Encouraged the Secretariat to consider a holistic approach to potential extensions to accelerated transition, complementing Gross National Income (GNI), coverage and equity with a consideration of other factors

# PPC Meeting, 20-22 October 2021

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## **Fragility, Emergencies, Refugees Policy:**

- PPC members expressed strong support for the approach presented
- Advised that there is a need for the revised FER policy to be aligned with Gavi 5.0, including placing zero-dose children at the heart of the policy, for there to be continuous review as this is rolled out, and for agility
- Indicated that it will be important to develop a simplified set of metrics for fragility
- Reflected on the need to identify early warning signals for emergencies, not only looking at outbreaks but also preventative response
- Advised on fragile middle-income countries (MICs) to consider geographical limited and time-bound support specifically for refugees, stateless internally displaced populations (IDPs) and vulnerable migrants



# PPC Meeting, 20-22 October 2021

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## Additional items placed on the consent agenda:

- **Gavi 5.0: Measurement Framework**
  - PPC members advised to avoid any additional reporting burden for countries
  - Queried the process for resetting targets as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic
  - Discussed the link between recent evaluation recommendations and this work
- **Civil Society and Community Engagement Approach**
  - PPC members strongly supported this recommendation and considered this to be potentially transformative and aligned with Gavi 5.0
  - Noted that there will be challenges in the operationalisation of the approach as well as the potential for increased complexity as a result of the expanded pool of partners
  - Asked to have a report back on how often the opt-out clause is being invoked by governments and the rationales provided

# PPC Meeting, 20-22 October 2021

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## Recommendations to the Board:

- Listed in Annex B
- Further details from the PPC discussions contained in the relevant papers to the Board, as listed in Slide 3

# PPC Meeting, 12 November 2021

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## Recommendations to the Board:

- COVAX: Key Strategic Issues (*Agenda Item 07*)
- Disease Surveillance and Diagnostics to Support Targeted Vaccination in Gavi 5.0 (*Agenda Item 12*)

# Thank you

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# REVIEW OF DECISIONS

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PROGRAMME AND POLICY COMMITTEE  
20-22 October 2021, Virtual Meeting

## Decision 1: Gavi 5.0: Measurement Framework

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The Gavi Alliance Programme and Policy Committee **recommended** to the Gavi Alliance Board that it:

**Approve** the proposed definitions and targets for remaining Gavi 5.0 mission and strategy performance indicators in Annex D to Doc 04, as amended by discussions at the PPC, noting that the targets are established under the assumption that COVID-19-related disruptions to immunisation programmes will be limited in 2021 and beyond; however, if they are greater or extend longer than assumed the Secretariat may request the Board to adjust the targets.

## Decision 2: Disease Surveillance and Diagnostics (1/3)

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The Gavi Alliance Programme and Policy Committee **recommended** to the Gavi Alliance Board that it:

- a) **Approve** an amount of up to US\$ 5 million during 2022-2025 for costs related to the procurement and distribution of diagnostic test kits, reagents, supplies, and equipment for yellow fever in countries eligible for Gavi new vaccine support through a diagnostic procurement mechanism based on Gavi's existing application, review, and approval processes;
- b) **Approve**, the additional provision of up to US\$ 4 million in funds through the Partners' Engagement Framework (PEF) during 2022-2025, to support global and regional efforts on yellow fever diagnostic capacity strengthening;

## Decision 2: Disease Surveillance and Diagnostics (2/3)

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- c) **Note** the continued use of Health Systems Strengthening (HSS) and Targeted County Assistance (TCA) funds to support surveillance and laboratory capacity in the context of national plans that focus on achieving and maintaining high immunisation coverage and address underlying equity challenges;
- d) **Request** the Gavi Secretariat to report back to the PPC and Board on progress in 2024; and
- e) **Request** the Gavi Secretariat to come back to the PPC at a dedicated meeting on 12 November 2021 with an expanded paper for their consideration on a proposal related to the procurement and distribution of diagnostic test kits, reagents, supplies, and equipment for cholera, typhoid, meningococcus, measles, and rubella in countries eligible for Gavi new vaccine support, as well as support for global and regional efforts on diagnostic capacity strengthening, digital disease surveillance module development and disease surveillance coordination.



## Decision 3: Gavi 5.0: Civil Society and Community Engagement Approach

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The Gavi Alliance Programme and Policy Committee **recommended** to the Gavi Alliance Board that it:

**Approve** a requirement for all countries to allocate at least ten percent of their combined Health System Strengthening, Equity Accelerator Funding and Targeted Country Assistance ceilings for Civil Society Organisation (CSO) implementation in line with the new Civil Society and Community Engagement Approach, as approved by the Board at its meeting in June 2021, unless they can provide a robust rationale as to why this is not appropriate in their context.

## Decision 4: Malaria Vaccine Programme Investment Case (1/2)

The Gavi Alliance Programme and Policy Committee **recommended** to the Gavi Alliance Board that it:

- a) **Approve** support for a malaria vaccine programme, beginning in January 2022, noting that the additional financial implications for 2022-2025 are expected to be approximately US\$ 155.7 million, which includes approximately US\$ 23.2 million for Secretariat and Partners' Engagement Framework costs to adequately support technical assistance and learning activities.

## Decision 4: Malaria Vaccine Programme Investment Case (2/2)

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- b) **Request** the Secretariat and Alliance partners to closely coordinate with countries, the Global Fund and other malaria stakeholders on i) programme design, ii) implementation and iii) monitoring; including key considerations (such as eligibility, the optimal mix of malaria interventions, allocation of scarce supply, sustainability and country financing) and provide an update to the PPC in May 2022; and
- c) **Note** the need for additional work on market shaping in relation to malaria vaccines to support the development of a secure supply with innovative and cost-effective products.

## Decision 5: Strategic Partnership with India

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The Gavi Alliance Programme and Policy Committee **recommended** to the Gavi Alliance Board that it:

- a) **Approve** the strategic approach set forth in Annex A to Doc 09 to continue Gavi's strategic partnership with India for five years (2022-2026); and
- b) **Approve** the associated investment of US\$ 250 million for 2022-2026, of which US\$ 199 million will be implemented in Gavi 5.0 (2022-2025), pending confirmation of availability of funding by the Gavi Alliance Audit and Finance Committee (AFC) at its meeting on 19 October 2021.

## Decision 6: Private Sector Engagement

The Gavi Alliance Programme and Policy Committee is invited to **recommend** to the Gavi Alliance Board that it:

- a) **Approve** the principles of Gavi's private sector engagement strategy, namely that it is country driven, aligned to Gavi's zero dose agenda, vaccine delivery, and immunisation system strengthening.
- b) **Notes** that the strategy will comprise fundraising, leveraging expertise, and exploring innovations from the private sector which will align with the innovation strategy.

The Gavi Alliance Programme and Policy Committee **requests** that the Secretariat, in advance of the December 2021 Board meeting:

- a) **Elaborates** the strategy's operational plan, particularly in fragile and conflict settings; and
- b) **Provides** further detail on how the proposed governance and advisory mechanisms complement existing structures.



# REVIEW OF DECISIONS

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PROGRAMME AND POLICY COMMITTEE  
12 November 2021, Virtual Meeting

## Decision 1: COVAX: Key Strategic Issues (1/2)

The Gavi Alliance Programme and Policy Committee **recommended** to the Gavi Alliance Board that it:

- a) **Approve** the Gavi Alliance strategic direction for 2022 of supporting AMC91 countries toward achieving their individual COVID-19 vaccination coverage ambitions as set out in their national targets and ambitions, in view of the WHO Global Vaccination Target of 70% by mid-2022 and taking into account sources of supply beyond COVAX;
- b) **Approve**, subject to funding availability for the COVAX AMC, the COVAX Facility's approach to procurement of COVID-19 vaccine for 2022, focusing on supporting lower-income countries dependent upon the COVAX Facility for assurance of supply, and through the establishment of a Pandemic Vaccine Pool to manage risks given the significant uncertainties (e.g. variants, need for boosters, need for additional doses for primary series);



## Decision 1: COVAX: Key Strategic Issues (1/2)

- c) **Approve** the Alliance's role in the delivery of COVID-19 vaccines in 2022 as laid out in Section 5 to Doc 02;
- d) **Delegate** to the Secretariat the authority to allot the full US\$ 799 million of COVID-19 vaccine delivery funding as per Figure 4 to Doc 02 (page 10) with flexible application of the Programme Funding policy including waiving the requirement for independent review, utilising existing programmatic and fiduciary risk mitigation mechanisms such as those used in emergency and humanitarian contexts on a no regrets basis;
- e) **Request** the Secretariat and Alliance partners, coordinating through CRD (Country Readiness and Delivery), to work with existing and additional partners and countries on rapidly enhancing and accelerating vaccination throughput, including through mass vaccination and reaching hard-to-reach populations; and
- f) **Request** that the Secretariat update the PPC and Board before the end of June 2022.

## Decision 2: Disease Surveillance and Diagnostics in Gavi 5.0 (1/2)

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The Gavi Alliance Programme and Policy Committee **recommended** to the Gavi Alliance Board that it:

- a) **Approve** an amount of up to US\$ 27 million during 2022-2025 for costs related to the procurement and distribution of diagnostic test kits, reagents, supplies, and equipment for cholera, typhoid, meningococcus, measles, and rubella in countries eligible for Gavi new vaccine support through a diagnostic procurement mechanism based on Gavi's existing application, review, and approval processes;

## Decision 2: Disease Surveillance and Diagnostics in Gavi 5.0 (2/2)

- b) **Approve** the additional provision of up to US\$ 17 million in funds through the Partners' Engagement Framework (PEF) during 2022-2025, to support diagnostic test validation, guidance development, multi-country technical assistance, and quality assurance to support effective, efficient, and equitable use of Gavi supported vaccines in countries eligible for Gavi new vaccine support as well as up to US\$ 2 million for Gavi Secretariat coordination, monitoring, and operation of Gavi's application, review, and approval processes related to diagnostic tools procurement support during 2022-2025;
- c) **Note** the potential inclusion of assessments of disease-specific diagnostic needs in planning of future Gavi vaccine support proposals to the Board, and potential inclusion of recommendations on addressing disease-specific diagnostic needs in these funding proposals; and
- d) **Request** the Gavi Secretariat to report back to the PPC and Board on progress in 2024.

