

any capacity in the immunization programs in countries under review are not present during the deliberations of the review committee, and do not participate in the decisions for those countries.

The IRC is subdivided into three teams, allowing for specialization in GAVI core program areas. To ensure consistency in all deliberations, some members serve on more than one team. These teams are as follows: the new proposals team is responsible for evaluating all country requests for vaccines, injection safety equipment, and cash support to strengthen immunization service delivery systems. The health systems team was formed in 2006 when GAVI created its new HSS window, as HSS support is used to address bottlenecks in a country's overall health system, not just its immunization delivery system. The monitoring team reviews all annual progress reports and determines whether GAVI should continue support for an approved program.

Process for Review

Proposals are reviewed by the IRC at the GAVI Secretariat in Geneva at set times throughout the year. The IRC reviews the proposals in accordance with the policies laid down by the GAVI Board, following the criteria for eligibility and assessment as expressed in the guidelines prepared by the Secretariat.

Each new proposal or annual progress report is pre-screened for accuracy and consistency by UNICEF, WHO, and the GAVI Secretariat Country Support team before being submitted to the IRC. Their feedback is provided in written form to the IRC for their use during deliberations on the proposals. IRC members on the relevant team read each proposal/report, and select two to three members to review it in depth. Once each proposal/report has been reviewed in detail, the IRC members responsible for in-depth review provide a presentation on its content to the rest of the team. Final recommendations are made during the team's final deliberation. The IRC makes one of four possible recommendations for each proposal or annual report submission:

Recommendations

Approval

The application meets all the criteria and is approved for GAVI support.

Approval with Clarification

The application lacks specific pieces of data, which must be provided (generally) within a month. The requested data must be received before the application is considered officially approved for GAVI support, but the proposal does not need to be reviewed again by the IRC.

Conditional Approval

The application does not fulfill specific or significant application requirements. Missing requirements must be provided in a subsequent proposal review round to complement the original application. Conditional approvals will be valid for 12 months. If the conditions are not met within one year of the first submission, resubmission of a new application is required.

Resubmission

The application is incomplete and a full application should be submitted in a subsequent proposal review round.

Deciding Factors for Each Recommendation

The IRC evaluates new country proposals against different criteria, depending on the type of support requested. For all proposals, the IRC evaluates whether the proposal was developed through an inclusive process with many stakeholders. For new and underused vaccines support (NVS) proposals, the IRC evaluates: epidemiological justification; whether the country's comprehensive multiyear plan for immunization incorporates activities to introduce the new vaccine(s); whether the multiyear plan provides a thorough analysis of cold-chain and logistics capacity; and the country's plan for financial sustainability.

When evaluating a proposal for ISS, the IRC evaluates whether the proposal was developed through an inclusive process with many stakeholders; if proposed future targets for children to be reached with DTP3 are realistic; how estimated ISS financing is factored into multiyear plan activities and budgets.

For injection safety support, the IRC evaluates the country's needs for safe injection equipment, as indicated by the multiyear plan.

For each proposal for HSS the IRC evaluates whether the proposal is aligned with the country's health system policies, plans, and management structures; if the proposal identifies key gaps that impede delivery of immunization and other health services and whether the proposed solutions will effectively address health systems gaps; whether budgets are robust and well sourced (e.g., are unit prices and other cost assumptions included); how the country will monitor progress and track funding flows; and whether the country can sustain progress once GAVI HSS support phases out.

The IRC team for monitoring reviews each Annual Progress Report against a number of criteria, including progress against targets set in the original proposal, quality of programmatic reporting, amount of funding used and budget left unspent, feasibility of reaching targets for future years, partner involvement in implementing/monitoring programs, involvement of the Interagency Coordinating Committee (ICC) in planning/coordinating program activities and reviewing reports.

The recommendations of the IRC are communicated to the GAVI Alliance and GAVI Fund Boards for final decision. Once the decisions are made, the GAVI Secretariat is responsible for communicating the decisions to the country ICCs, to partners at the regional and field levels, and to UNICEF Supply Division to trigger procurement of the necessary vaccines and supplies.

GAVI GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE

GAVI Alliance and Fund Boards

The GAVI Alliance Board governs policy development and implementation and monitors and oversees all program areas. The Board includes four renewable members: UNICEF, WHO, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the World Bank. In addition, there are 13 rotating seats: four for developing country governments, five for donor country governments, and one each for research and technical health institutes, industrialized country vaccine industry, developing country vaccine industry, and CSOs.

The GAVI Fund Board shapes the Alliance financial strategy to support implementation of the GAVI Strategic Plan as developed by the GAVI Alliance Board. In this capacity, the Fund Board monitors GAVI income received from multiple sources, validates budgets, certifies availability of funding, and determines funding sources for programs. In addition, the