

Ask Gavi Session 1: Q&A on Post-Transition Country Support

1. **How did Angola and Congo justify the catalytic aspect of this [post-transition] grant?**
 - a. Joanna Wisniewska: Angola and Congo are not covered by this type of support envelope. There's a separate envelope strategy that's being applied to Angola and Congo, as they're high-risk countries. You could reach out to Gavi colleagues, SCMs, Juliette, to give you more background in terms of the catalytic aspect and sustainability. There's a group of transitioning countries, such as Congo, Angola, and Nigeria that are benefitting from a separate, more-tailored approach [as these countries] needs are much higher, the Gavi board decided to treat these countries with a separate strategy. [This post-transition support is for] countries who mainly have good performance with some gaps.
 2. **Some of the issues are beyond immunization, for example, very serious public financial management issues. How is this fund going to help in less than two years?**
 - a. JW: These challenges and risks are being looked at currently by Gavi and partners. Through different strategies, there are sustainable investment areas that are tackling more global challenges [such as public financial management] affecting immunization progress and some of our partners or countries participating in this webinar should be aware there are investments being made, for instance, the national health accounts, by Gavi on a global level to address these risks.
 3. **How do the commitments of the governments to sustain financing materialize? Many governments commit systematically over many responsibilities; however, reality is different. Could you share best practices?**
 - a. JW: I can understand that it might be difficult for many countries to demonstrate and to apply this sustainability angle. We had examples in 'good proposals' where the governments would quantify their own contributions in terms of staff that is going to be made available to implement the proposal. Or, in terms of infrastructure or cold chain equipment, facilities or financing resources from the budget how it's going to be catalytic. So, we had this in our proposals that we received. We also had in some cases, quite clear, a view on how the government is going to put a budget line for a specific activity covered by this support and after this support ends, the government was committing to making a separate budget line available.
 4. **What type of information do you require from countries to demonstrate that they can sustain these new investments, beyond Gavi post-transition support?**
 - a. JW: Right now, we are looking at the decisions [for the proposals] and are looking for this aspect of how the government would demonstrate what type of documents or commitments they would present to Gavi. [Gavi] will be better able to answer this question in the coming two weeks as this is experimentation and we [just] received the first support request and we're still looking at them, and also looking at them from the operational, practical angle. We're going to inform the countries about the requirements and the way forward.
 5. **Could you please elaborate more on NITAG strengthening activities that you suggested and how you see NITAG functioning after the Gavi funding [ends]? Do you have a specific EPI program budget for NITAG functions?**
 - a. Alexei Ceban: We [Moldova] do not have any specific funding for the NITAG from the national immunization program, but we have to keep in mind that this is one of the most
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powerful bodies for immunization programs. Included activities in the post-transition support were sharing annual NITAG meetings from regional partners, include NITAG in trainings for high-level instruction or workshops for immunization, and keeping in touch and including the NITAG in different support at the national-level. The NITAG in Moldova, there's a Ministry of Health (MoH) order where it specifies the composition of NITAGs and how the NITAG should work and it specifies that it's an independent body from the MoH and it gives a lot of inputs and activities for how a NITAG should work.

- 6. Who are you partners in-country and what expertise was most useful for you during this [support request] exercise?**
 - a. AC: UNICEF was the first partner in developing the assessment for communication needs and demand generation. We included them from the beginning and a national-level communication strategy was developed with UNICEF jointly and the detailed risk assessment was also done jointly with [UNICEF] and the cold-chain procurement is done through UNICEF Supply Division. We had some expertise from officers [at UNICEF]. Also, World Health Organization helped us a lot in the cold chain assessment and it was an assessment of the current situation [completed within] a few days and we received some expertise from them. Also, we received expertise from a local NGO for communication that's helping us with communications and adolescents.
- 7. What is the average size of post-transition support per country?**
 - a. JW: The envelope [is] \$30 million for all these countries. We do not have country allocations, so there is no specification and there was also no guidance from the board or partners or engagement framework management team that gave us guidance on the distribution of the support. We are rather looking at these requests as where the highest needs and risks are and what makes sense.
- 8. Is there a panel at Gavi Secretariat to review applications and [if so] who is included in this panel?**
 - a. JW: There is a panel of managing directors of all departments that are overseeing that areas of the support. So, country program managing directors, vaccines & sustainability, immunization financing & sustainability, and health system strengthening. This panel of directors collaborates to look at these proposals. Also, knowing the overall needs in the region and globally and knowing what types of challenges and risks are being addressed at the global level so that we have complementary between the support given at the global and regional levels and for the country support for post-transition [is complementary].
- 9. The last column [of the post-transition support request template], talks about budget then travel, consulting, workshop, and training. What exactly is expected to fill out in this area?**
 - a. JW: If there's any questions regarding the process or the template or the best way to go forward with the proposal, I would recommend to all countries and also partners to get in touch with the [Gavi] senior country managers to get their guidance and clarifications.