



# Health Systems Funding Platform Update for Countries on How to Apply

November 2011

## Introduction

This document is designed to provide GAVI-eligible countries with an overview of two new modalities of support available through the Health Systems Funding Platform (the Platform). The Platform aims to improve the way external funders support countries to strengthen their health systems, in alignment with national plans.

In coming months, GAVI will be working with countries to determine readiness to request funding through the Platform, according to local context and needs. Platform partners will plan for and contribute to the transition process for countries. Detailed application guidelines and forms were made available in August 2011. After the 30 December deadline for the submission of funding requests, country applications will be received on a rolling basis, i.e. countries can submit when they are ready.

## What is the Health Systems Funding Platform?

The Health Systems Funding Platform (the Platform) is a collaborative effort by the GAVI Alliance, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and the World Bank, with facilitation by the World Health Organization. It is aimed at simplifying countries' access to new and existing funds for health system strengthening (HSS). The Platform is evolving in consultation with countries and other key stakeholders, including civil society.

In line with principles of the [Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness](#), the Platform seeks to structure funding streams so that HSS support is more aligned to country systems, harmonised between funding agencies, and managed for national ownership and mutual accountability. All in-country stakeholders may be involved in the initiative, including civil society and the private sector.

## How will the Platform benefit GAVI-eligible countries?

Through the Platform, future support will be better aligned with national health plans, priorities, and fiscal cycles. Countries will have more flexibility and autonomy to programme GAVI support according to their needs and to maximise the impact of their HSS funding and activities.

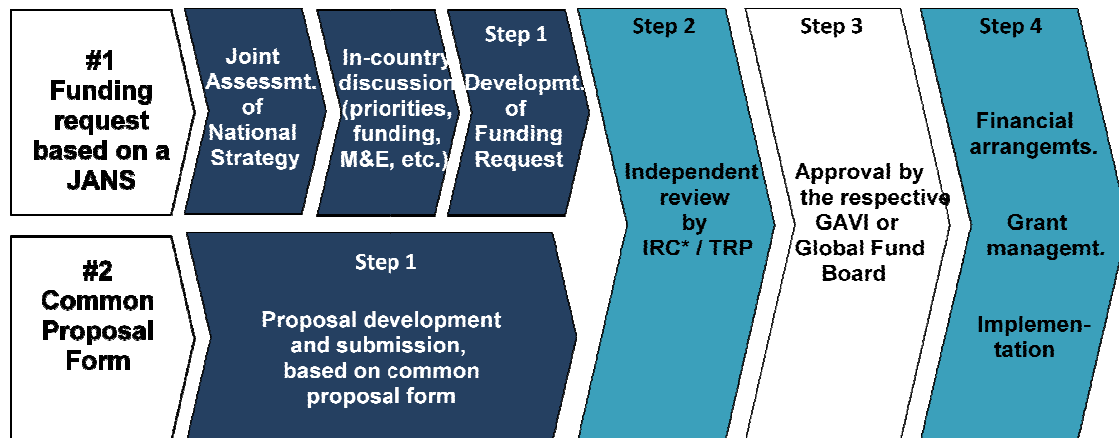
Harmonised procedures reduce transaction costs in the long term by reducing the number of grant applications and processes. Platform partners will use a common application process, and common frameworks for financial management, monitoring and evaluation, reporting and joint annual performance reviews. Opportunities for common in-country institutional assessments will reduce the number of separate country visits by donors.

## How do countries request new HSS funding?

In order to request new HSS funding through the Platform from either GAVI, the Global Fund, or both agencies, two funding modalities presently exist;

1. Common proposal form, or
2. Funding request based on a Jointly Assess National Health Strategy (JANS).

These modalities are summarised in Figure 1.



\*IRC = GAVI Independent Review Committee  
TRP = Global Fund Technical Review Panel

Figure 1: Summary of the process of accessing funding through the Platform.

## 1. Funding Requests Based on a Jointly Assessed National Health Strategy

Countries which have developed a national health strategy that has been assessed through a [jointly assessed national health strategy](#) (JANS) can apply to GAVI by using a **Funding Request** template. It should be submitted with a one-page cover letter (summarising the request), existing relevant documentation and the national health strategy itself.

The Funding Request is based on **existing national health strategy documents** (e.g. workplan, budget and monitoring framework). It should demonstrate how the proposed HSS activities, which shall be clearly visible in the national health strategy, link to immunisation outcomes in the context of integrated service delivery. Documents will be submitted to either GAVI, the Global Fund, or both agencies.

This new modality is the **long term preferred option** from the GAVI perspective. As it will be used in some countries by both agencies, the Funding Request only needs to be filled in once. However, the applicant needs to clearly delineate the specific request to each agency, programmatically and financially.

## 2. Common Proposal Form: Interim bridging mechanism to support countries

The Common Proposal Form serves as an **interim mechanism** to ensure that countries can access HSS support while transitioning to the longer term option of applying for direct support to their national health strategy based on a JANS process.

The common GAVI and Global Fund proposal form replaces the previous HSS form for GAVI and the previous HSS 4B and 5B forms for the Global Fund. The new common proposal form can be used for applying to either GAVI, the Global Fund, or both agencies.

A funding proposal to GAVI must clearly indicate how the proposed activities will improve health system performance in terms of **immunisation outcomes in the context of integrated service delivery**.



In the common proposal form, countries are also encouraged to clearly demonstrate:

- An emphasis on **alignment** with the national health strategy or other national plans
- A country-led, multi-stakeholder and **participatory** proposal development process that shows a contribution to reducing fragmentation in the health sector
- Use of **shared systems** at country level for financial management, monitoring, evaluation, reporting and joint annual reviews

### **When should I apply for new HSS support from GAVI and/or the Global Fund?**

The deadline for submissions to GAVI is 30 December. Countries who submit to GAVI prior to this deadline will have their submissions reviewed by GAVI in February 2012, with disbursement following final approval and fulfilment of GAVI Terms and Conditions.

Submissions to GAVI in 2012 will be reviewed on a rolling basis. HSFP applications submitted in the first quarter of 2012 will be reviewed in May 2012. Disbursement will follow final approval and fulfilment of GAVI Terms and Conditions.

Countries that wish to submit jointly to GAVI and the Global Fund will need to submit in accordance with the Global Fund Round 11 deadline. The Round 11 deadline has been postponed to at least March 2012, and final scheduling will be subject to a special Global Fund Board meeting on 1 December, 2012. Pending a decision at this meeting, it is likely that GAVI and the Global Fund will conduct a joint review with their respective committees in May 2012.

For further information on implications of the Round 11 deadline, please refer the document *"Information for countries who apply jointly to GAVI and the Global Fund"*.

### **How much HSS support can a country request from GAVI?**

The total amount of resources that are available to countries for cash based support through the Platform are determined using the resource allocation method approved by the GAVI Board in 2010. The country ceiling formula is based on population and gross national income (GNI). Ceilings are recalculated annually in July based on new GNI statistics from the World Bank. When a country indicates its intent to apply to the GAVI Secretariat, GAVI will communicate the country's HSS ceiling. Once funding is approved, the ceiling will remain unchanged, despite any subsequent change in GNI data.

### **What indicators will be used to evaluate health outcomes related to immunisation?**

The goal of GAVI HSS support is to strengthen the capacity of integrated health systems to deliver immunisation. This is achieved by contributing to resolve the major constraints to delivering immunisation, increasing equity in access to services (including gender equity), and strengthening civil society engagement in the health sector.

Specifically, the GAVI Alliance Strategy 2011-2015, endorsed by the GAVI Board, lists three indicators to contribute to strengthening the capacity of integrated health systems to deliver immunisation:

1. DTP3 coverage: Percentage of surviving infants receiving 3 doses of DTP vaccine.
2. Drop-out rate: Percentage point drop out between DTP1 and DTP3 coverage.
3. Equity in immunisation coverage: Percentage point difference between DTP3 coverage in the lowest wealth quintile DTP3 coverage in the highest wealth quintile.



## **How will countries' requests for new HSS funding be reviewed and approved?**

Requests for new funding to both GAVI and the Global Fund will be reviewed by a joint GAVI-Global Fund review panel; GAVI's Independent Review Committee (IRC) / Global Fund Technical Review Panel (TRP). Countries applying for GAVI funding only will be reviewed solely by the GAVI IRC. In both cases, final approval will take place independently from the respective GAVI and Global Fund Boards.

## **Important Dates**

Applicants who are submitting a proposal to the Global Fund in Round 11 should refer to the General Guidance on Global Fund Round 11 applications for more information: <http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/application/>.

**15 August 2011** > Launch of the Request Template, Common Form and both guidelines.

**30 December 2011** > Deadline for submission of the completed Template or Form.

**February 2012** > GAVI IRC to review requests that are submitted in 2011.

**March 2012** > Global Fund Round 11 deadline for submissions, pending Global Fund decision on 1 December 2011.

**May 2012** > Expected joint review by GAVI and Global Fund review committees.

After the 30 December deadline, country applications will be received on a rolling basis, where countries can submit when they are ready.

### **Questions? Comments? We value your feedback.**

To ensure that we are providing you information that best fits your needs, we welcome your questions or comments about this document. These may be addressed to your Country Representative Officer or to [HSFP@gavialliance.org](mailto:HSFP@gavialliance.org).