

**Collaborative mechanisms between the  
GAVI Board and the Vaccine Fund\* Board  
regarding disbursements of support to countries**

The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization ("GAVI") has established several mechanisms to help it meet its objectives. One important mechanism links two major steps in the GAVI process -- endorsement by the GAVI Board of programmes proposed by governments (on the one hand) and disbursement of funds to support the programmes endorsed by the GAVI Board (on the other). This note describes that mechanism in general terms.

That mechanism is established in the Relationship Agreement and Contribution Agreement between the Vaccine Fund and UNICEF (as custodian of the Vaccine Fund Trust Account At UNICEF), and in the Contribution Agreement between contributors to the fund and UNICEF (as custodian of the Vaccine Fund Trust Account At UNICEF).<sup>f</sup> As these documents indicate, contribution to support programmes to be endorsed by the GAVI Board can be transferred to the Vaccine Fund account or the Vaccine Fund Trust Account At UNICEF.

Two fundamental principles of the alliance are the centrality of the GAVI Board, and the rigour of the process of developing, reviewing, and endorsing programmes proposed by governments.

The GAVI Board is composed of representatives of the members of the alliance. It is the highest body of the alliance, and represents the allies' commitment to ensuring the success of this initiative. Its role is, *inter alia*, to consider the programmes that governments propose to the Board for endorsement. These programmes will have been developed by government in consultation with its national Inter-agency Coordinating Committee (ICC) or equivalent collaborative mechanism.

By the time they are formally referred to the GAVI Board by the GAVI Secretariat these programmes will have been subject to vigorous review by a panel of independent public health experts. The GAVI Board will consider programmes on a regular basis of at least twice a year. It is anticipated that most programmes that are formally presented to the Board following the review process will be endorsed. Endorsement by the Board constitutes endorsement by the alliance of the programme itself and of the projected budgets and statement of the necessary support (outlined in the government programme documents).

Once a programme, together with its budget and support statement, is endorsed by the alliance, the Secretariat will advise both the Vaccine Fund and UNICEF (as custodian of the Vaccine Fund Trust Account At UNICEF).

The Vaccine Fund is an integral part of the GAVI process. As its incorporating documents set forth, the Vaccine Fund was organized in response to the establishment of GAVI "to provide financial support for the purchase of newer and underutilized vaccines and the means to deliver such vaccines to the children of the world" and "to coordinate its charitable efforts with GAVI and intends to provide funds to purchase vaccines for programs that form part of the GAVI members' immunization initiatives". The Board of the Vaccine Fund will be composed of independent individuals with distinguished records who serve in their personal capacities; it is presently guided by an interim board. The members of the interim board are Mark Kane (Chair), Bill and Melinda Gates Children's Vaccine Program; Tore Godal, GAVI; Chip Lyons, U.S. Fund for UNICEF; Jacques-François Martin, the Vaccine Fund; Gordon Perkin, Bill & Melinda Gates

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\* Formerly the Global Fund for Children's Vaccines, or the "Global Fund"

Foundation. Decisions are being made by consensus, often by teleconference. In order to secure efficiency, the Board of the Vaccine Fund will delegate disbursement responsibilities to an executive committee.

The Board of the Vaccine Fund will take note of the programmes endorsed by the GAVI Board and make a determination about the Vaccine Fund's funding support for these programmes based on all relevant factors, including total availability of resources. It is expected that there will be close consultation between the GAVI Working Group and the Vaccine Fund, so as to ensure that factors that might be relevant in the determination by the Board of the Vaccine Fund are known to the GAVI Working Group. As a further sign of the collaboration between the GAVI mechanisms and the Vaccine Fund, the alliance has invited the President of the Vaccine Fund to become a member of the GAVI Working Group.

The Vaccine Fund's support will be made available through transfer into the Vaccine Fund Trust Account At UNICEF. Once the Vaccine Fund has transferred funds to the Vaccine Fund Trust Account At UNICEF to support a particular programme, UNICEF will draw on those funds and on the funds already deposited to the Vaccine Fund Trust Account At UNICEF, in order to provide the support for that programme. UNICEF will make disbursements from the Vaccine Fund Trust Account at UNICEF in accordance with budgets endorsed by the GAVI Board for programs and projects endorsed by the GAVI Boards.<sup>[1]</sup>

These mechanisms are designed to ensure that the goals of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization are achieved as quickly as possible, and in a sustainable way. They are developed conscious of the goodwill and commitment of all the members of the alliance, and of all those who are part of the GAVI process -- and confident that they will achieve all that they are designed to achieve, and more.

Current policies for disbursements:

- Countries with incomes of less than or equal to US\$1000 gross national product (GNP) per capita are eligible for support from the Vaccine Fund. Among these, special arrangements are being explored for the three largest countries – China, India and Indonesia.
- The three basic conditions for support are: a functioning Inter-agency Coordination Committee (ICC) or equivalent collaboration mechanism; a recent assessment of immunization services; and the existence of a multi-year plan for immunization. In addition, countries are expected to follow safe immunization procedures, and have plans to improve safety if there is room for improvement.
- The Vaccine Fund currently provides support for immunization services and procurement of new and under-used vaccines. A third sub-account for research is under consideration.
- Support from the immunization services sub-account will initially be eligible for countries with current DTP3 coverage of less than 80%. In order to provide contributions on a performance basis, the concept of “shares” has been developed, with each share representing the Fund’s contribution toward immunizing one additional child (currently US\$20). Shares are provided without conditions for the use of funds, but with strict requirements for

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<sup>[1]</sup>. In the event that the Board of the Vaccine Fund feels it is not in a position to support a programme or project endorsed by the GAVI Board, the two will confer in order to reach a resolution of any difference of opinion. It has been agreed that, recognizing the GAVI Board's overarching role as the highest body of the alliance, if the two have not reached agreement within two months, the funds already deposited to the Vaccine Fund Trust Account At UNICEF by all contributors will be disbursed in order to provide the support contemplated by the GAVI Board when endorsing the programme or project in question.

performance and a reliance upon governments and ICCs (or equivalent) to set goals and monitor progress.

- The sub-account for new and under-used vaccines will initially be used to purchase vaccines against hepatitis B (hepB), *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) and yellow fever, and associated safe injection materials for countries with national DTP3 coverage of more than 50%.

The development of these policies has been an integrated process, achieved through an overlapping of memberships between the two Boards and/or the GAVI Working Group. Thus it is anticipated that policy development, including eligibility criteria for fund disbursements, will continue as an integrated process, and that the GAVI Board will make its decisions in the presence of updated information on the financial resources of the Vaccine Fund.

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