

# What is Gavi graduation?

Gavi assists the world's poorest countries to fund and implement their national immunisation programmes. Gavi support is intended to be:

- ✓ Time-limited; and
- ✓ Directly linked to governments' ability to pay for vaccines, as measured by the country's Gross National Income (GNI) per capita.

*Countries are eligible for Gavi support when their GNI per capita is below or equal to US\$ 1,580* (according to World Bank data for the latest available year). Once a country's per capita income crosses the threshold of US\$ 1,580 they are required to start a "graduation" process that will phase them out of Gavi support.

- ❑ Eligibility will not be considered for poorer states/provinces within higher income countries (i.e. *Gavi will not offer sub-national support* for countries that are not Gavi-eligible).

## Gavi's vision for country graduation

Gavi's vision is that "when countries transition out of Gavi support, they have successfully *expanded their national immunisation programmes* with vaccines of public health importance and *sustain these vaccines post-transition with high and equitable coverage* of target populations, while having robust systems and decision-making processes in place to *support the introduction of future vaccines.*"

## Steps in the Gavi graduation process

Gavi has just updated their eligibility and graduation policy. According to the policy, once a country's GNI has exceeded the Gavi eligibility threshold, Gavi informs the country that it has entered the graduation process and spells out in detail what this entails:

1. **Transition Assessment:** Gavi leads a multi-partner assessment of potential *bottlenecks* (programmatic, financial) that could jeopardize a successful transition, as well as *opportunities* for vaccine introductions with Gavi support.
2. **Transition Plan:** The Transition Assessment is used to create a *government-led* Transition Plan. The Transition Plan addresses key bottlenecks and leverages opportunities towards successful transition to make sure Gavi support is gradually and sustainably replaced by government support.

Note the following important exceptions:

- ❑ Subject to availability of funding, *Gavi will honour all existing Board-approved multi-year commitments* to countries in the graduation process for the duration of current multi-year plans.

- ❑ If subsequent to graduation a country's GNI per capita falls below the eligibility threshold, the country would *regain its Gavi-eligible status*.
- ❑ Countries entering the graduation process will have an *additional year to apply for new vaccine support* and can access time-limited catalytic investments to support their graduation plans.
- ❑ Graduating countries with DTP3 coverage below 90% (WHO/UNICEF estimates) are *entitled to apply for health system strengthening support* for the duration of their graduation period.

## Which countries are graduating?

There are 24 countries that are graduating in 2015. These countries are no longer eligible for Gavi support, because their GNI has crossed the Gavi threshold. They are now finishing up the remainder of their Gavi grants. Once those grants are finished, they will be independent of Gavi support.

The graduating countries are:

- |              |                |                    |
|--------------|----------------|--------------------|
| ✓ Angola     | ✓ <b>Ghana</b> | ✓ <b>Nigeria</b>   |
| ✓ Armenia    | ✓ Guyana       | ✓ Papua New Guinea |
| ✓ Azerbaijan | ✓ Honduras     | ✓ Solomon Islands  |
| ✓ Bhutan     | ✓ Indonesia    | ✓ Sri Lanka        |
| ✓ Bolivia    | ✓ Kiribati     | ✓ Timor Leste      |
| ✓ Congo Rep. | ✓ Moldova      | ✓ Ukraine          |
| ✓ Cuba       | ✓ Mongolia     | ✓ Uzbekistan       |
| ✓ Georgia    | ✓ Nicaragua    | ✓ Vietnam          |

## What is the role of civil society in Gavi graduation?

As countries enter the transition period, the World Health Organisation (WHO) will invite civil society organisation (CSO) representatives to attend an informational session on Gavi graduation. Following that session, CSOs may be involved as (1) stakeholders in the Transition Assessment; (2) implementing partners for the Transition Plan; and (3) an accountability mechanism to ensure governments honour their commitments.

### For more information

- ❑ [Gavi Eligibility and Transition Policy \(Version 2.0\)](#)
- ❑ [Overview of current and historical country eligibility for Gavi support](#)
- ❑ [Country co-financing for vaccine sustainability](#)