

## Financial Sustainability Diagnostic Tool (FSDT) - The Vaccine Alliance (Gavi)

### Objective and features

#### 1. Objective

The FSDT tool aims to:

- assess the current level of financial sustainability of countries to monitor progress toward financial sustainability and better management of national immunization programs within health sector development, using simple qualitative indicators;
- assess the country's capacity to formulate and implement a financial sustainability plan using the framework and guidelines provided by the Guidelines for Financial Sustainability Plan Preparation developed by the Gavi Financing Task Force (FTF);
- help identify the strengths of countries' current immunization programs and highlight areas for further improvement in achieving financial sustainability, prior to submission of financial sustainability plans; and
- provide guidance and information on technical assistance and training needed to support and develop current immunization financing systems, structures, staffing, and strategies.

#### 2. Institutional coverage

National governments.

#### 3. Technical coverage

FSDT looks at the budgeting for the health sector, specifically immunization programs.

#### 4. Application method

Custodian, self-assessment, or any external entity.

### Methodology

#### 5. Methodology

There are 67 questions focused on the following aspects:

- Impact of country and health system context on immunization program costs, financing, and financial management (21 questions);
- Program characteristics, objectives, and strategies (6 questions);
- Pre-vaccine fund and vaccine fund year program costs and financing (8 questions);
- Future resource requirements and program financing/gap analysis (13 questions);
- Sustainable financing strategy, actions, and indicators (11 questions);
- Consistency of the financial sustainability plan (8 questions).

The questionnaire also includes guiding criteria and possible sources of information. All questions lead to Yes or No answers, thus limiting the subjectivity of the assessment. Following the completion of FSDT, conclusions and recommendations are drawn, summarizing the country's strengths and the areas that need improvement and indicating possible needs for capacity building and/or technical assistance where required.

#### 6. Benchmarking system

Narrative evaluation.

#### 7. Linkage to PEFA framework

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#### 8. Complementarity with PEFA framework

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### Development and use

#### 9. Development and coordination

To address the question of financial sustainability, Gavi mandated all countries receiving Gavi Fund grants indicate in their applications how they plan to finance the added recurrent cost burden in the future, and commit to preparing a detailed financial sustainability plan (FSP). FSDT was developed to help countries in preparing these FSPs. First publication dates from 2003.

#### 10. Assessment management

FSDT is completed through a series of interviews with all relevant stakeholders at national, subnational, and operational level. These stakeholders include, among others, Ministry of Health (national immunization staff, planning department within the Ministry of Health), Ministry of Finance (departments responsible for planning, budgeting, expense control, etc.), Ministry of Planning, Interagency Coordinating Committee (ICC), and other partners. The answers should be validated where possible. Sources of validation could be the national budget, public expenditure reviews (Ao7), immunization costing, and financing studies.

#### 11. Uses by the government and members of the PFM community

FSDT is a qualitative tool that allows for a rapid qualitative assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of a National Immunization Program in terms of the requirements for developing and implementing a viable FSP. From the results of the assessment, countries can identify (1) the strengths of the current financing of immunization programs (and highlight areas for further improvement); and (2) what type of capacity building is required to prepare, implement, and monitor FSPs.

#### 12. Sequencing with other tools

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#### 13. PFM capacity building

Recommendations may include capacity-building measures.

#### 14. Tracking of changes and frequency of assessments

Assessments are program-specific and used at the end of the second year in the program to prepare an FSP.

#### 15. Resource requirements

A maximum of one week should be estimated to complete the FSDT, including the drawing up of conclusions, recommendations, and a work plan for developing the financial sustainability plan.

### Transparency

#### 16. Access to methodology

Explanation of the framework is [available](#).

#### 17. Access to assessment results

Reports are not published. It is up to the discretion of the governments to share the reports with any partner agencies.