



# How countries join the Global Platform

Information for WHO Member States interested in participating in the  
Global Platform for Access to Childhood Cancer Medicines

## 1. Scope

The purpose of this brief is to clarify how countries join the Global Platform for Access to Childhood Cancer Medicines. It describes the country eligibility criteria that countries must meet to be eligible for participation, and the prioritization criteria used to identify countries to participate in a certain cohort.

## 2. Country cohorts

Six countries are already participating in the pilot cohort of the Global Platform. The Global Platform is now accepting expressions of interest from WHO Member States wishing to be considered for the Global Platform's next or subsequent cohort of countries.

## 3. Country eligibility criteria

To be eligible for consideration, WHO Member States must meet **all** three country eligibility criteria:

1. **A country with demonstrated need whose government has expressed interest in participating in the Global Platform specifically**

This may be expressed through a voluntary letter of interest from the government, or other informal written communication shared with WHO and/or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

2. **A country with active participation and documented deliverables in Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer (as focus country or country with activity)**

Assessment of active participation and documented deliverables will include those as reported/captured in the **CureAll** progress dashboard.


3. **A country with a low, lower-middle, or upper-middle income economic classification**

This is based on the World Bank classification for the most recent year. In special circumstances, the Steering Committee may also consider countries that meet both the other two criteria but are unclassified or high-income.

## 4. Prioritization criteria for cohort selection

Interested Member States that meet all three of the eligibility criteria above will be reviewed using a comprehensive prioritization criteria matrix to help the Global Platform to prioritize eligible countries for the next cohort. The prioritization criteria span the following 4 core dimensions:

1. **Governance** dimension, e.g. track record of interest in non-communicable diseases, including cancer recognized by political prioritization or inclusion in national budget
2. **Clinical** dimension, e.g. existing paediatric oncology programme in place, acknowledged at a national level in coordination with the Ministry of Health

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3. **Procurement** dimension, e.g. previous arrangement for and/or demonstrated support of medicines procurement through WHO, the Pan American Health Organization Strategic Fund, UNICEF, or other United Nations agencies. This may not necessarily have involved childhood cancer medicines. This dimension Includes consideration of existing country agreements, irrespective of how prior arrangements may have been funded.
  4. **Responsiveness** dimension, e.g. agreement to abide by the Global Platform’s procurement processes, and acceptance of monitoring, accountability, and responsiveness requirements.

## 5. Required format and deadline

Expressions of interest may be informal: an email or letter from the Government to the WHO country office is sufficient via the specified mechanism. Letters expressing interest should be addressed to WHO (office of the WHO Representative) copying WHO as secretariat at [gpaccm@who.int](mailto:gpaccm@who.int) and St. Jude at [gpaccm@stjude.org](mailto:gpaccm@stjude.org) that together serve as the Global Platform Steering Committee. However, please note that expressions of interest must specifically refer to participation in the Global Platform; country letters of interest in reference to the WHO Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer (GICC) or for childhood cancer generally will be considered separately. Governments that have previously submitted letters of interest in participating in the Global Platform will be automatically considered and do not need to submit a new expression of interest.

As the Global Platform will be considering countries in rolling phases, there is no absolute deadline for expressions of interest. Governments will receive a response to their email or letters expressing interest, acknowledging receipt.

## 6. Supporting information

Member States may wish to provide supporting information in the form of a voluntary letter of interest commenting on their country’s demonstrated need and their government’s interest in the Global Platform. This may include, as appropriate, comments on existing country function across the four dimensions listed, specifically for childhood cancer.

It is important to note that this innovative Global Platform is not a donation program. As such, member states participating in the Platform have a vital leadership role in continuing to foster local ownership of interventions for children and adolescents with cancer (including and beyond medicines). Working together, Member States and partners have the opportunity to mobilize resources, and further embed childhood cancer in broader systems strengthening efforts and across intersectoral programs.

## 7. Where may I direct questions?

Please email [gpaccm@who.int](mailto:gpaccm@who.int), copying [gpaccm@stjude.org](mailto:gpaccm@stjude.org).