

  Global Platform for Access to Childhood Cancer Medicines	COUNTRY ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION POLICY	
	Prepared by: Policies Working Group	Version: 1.0
	Approved by: Steering Committee	Effective Date: 20 March 2026

Country Eligibility and Selection Policy

1. Objectives of Policy

- 1.1 This policy sets out the country eligibility and selection criteria and procedures that determine how countries are selected for participation in, and for receiving support from, the Global Platform for Access to Childhood Cancer Medicines (Global Platform).
- 1.2 The objective is to ensure that the Global Platform aligns with its goal of increasing the proportion of children who complete treatment and securing access to safe, effective, quality-assured, and affordable childhood cancer medicines for all, thereby contributing to the WHO Global Initiative on Childhood Cancer (GICC) target of raising global survival to at least 60% by 2030 and improving children's quality of life.
- 1.3 This policy is established in alignment with the Global Platform's financial sustainability policy to ensure consistency across country engagement. In particular, it reflects the overarching principles of prioritizing long-term sustainability of country impact, increasing equity in medicines access, creating predictability for countries regarding Global Platform support, and working collaboratively with other partners to ensure complementarity. These principles serve as the foundation for both eligibility and long-term program viability.

2. Country Eligibility Criteria

- 2.1 To be eligible, at the time of application a country must be classified as a low- or middle-income country based on the World Bank income-classification¹ at the date the relevant call for applications closes.
- 2.2 The Global Platform will also consider the country context to determine eligibility. In particular, presence of protracted crises such as widespread conflict or disaster, which inhibits the proper functioning of government and therefore the ability for the Global Platform to operate in-country, will be considered as part of the eligibility screening.

3. Eligibility Verification

- 3.1 The Global Platform will verify country eligibility upon application submission. Countries that submit an application but do not meet eligibility criteria will be notified of non-eligibility and will not progress through the selection process.
- 3.2 Eligibility will be evaluated at the national level (i.e., the Global Platform will not offer sub-national support for states/provinces based on alignment with eligibility criteria, if the country does not meet the criteria as a whole).
- 3.3 Eligibility to participate in the Global Platform does not guarantee selection for participation and support.

¹ World Bank [country income classification](#). The World Bank updates its country classification on 1 July each year. Therefore, the information on this page may change between the date the call for applications opens and the date that it closes.

4. Exceptions to Eligibility Criteria

- 4.1 The Global Platform will assess countries without a published World Bank income classification on a case-by-case basis. In each case, it will inform the Steering Committee, which will then make the decision on eligibility.

5. Country Selection Process

- 5.1 The Global Platform will select countries in cohorts. Selection timelines and dates will be communicated in the call for applications (see section 7).
- 5.2 The number of countries selected per cohort will depend on the total available and forecasted resources of the Global Platform, results from country prioritization (see section 6), and expected financial implications of supporting children across the countries under consideration.
- 5.3 The Global Platform will only assess countries that have submitted a complete application, as outlined in Section 7.
- 5.4 The Global Platform will select countries using the criteria set out in Section 6.
- 5.5 The Global Platform will conduct prioritization through a consultative process with its partners, leveraging a combination of publicly available data, information provided in the country application, and qualitative input from partners.

6. Country Selection Criteria

- 6.1 Countries will be prioritized for selection based on equity considerations, country context, country preparedness to receive, distribute and safely administer medicines provided by the Global Platform, and countries' burden of disease.
- 6.1.1 Equity will be considered, factoring in childhood cancer survival rates, ability to pay as defined by income-level, and financial protection indicators (e.g., proportion of population pushed or pushed further by out-of-pocket health care expenditure below the societal poverty line²).
- 6.1.2 Country context will also be considered, including whether a country is a fragile or conflict affected³, a small island developing state⁴, or presents other regional specificities, to maintain a diversified, global country portfolio.
- 6.1.3 Preparedness considerations will be made across six core dimensions:

² World Bank. [Health Equity and Financial Protection Indicators \(HEFPI\)](#). 2022

³ World Bank. [Classification of Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations](#). 2025

⁴ United Nations. [List of SIDS](#). N.D.

Dimensions of preparedness:

Dimension	Definition	Example considerations* (non-exhaustive)
1. Governance	Ability to partner with government to implement programme and presence of political will and established governance mechanisms for cancer care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated ability of government to collaborate with WHO and other international partners • Active participation in GICC and/or St. Jude Global national projects. These might include projects such as the National Cancer Control Planning integrating Children, Adolescents & Young Adults (NCCP iCAYA) program. • Presence of dedicated national cancer programme or active technical working group for paediatric oncology
2. Clinical Aspects	Presence of clinical protocols and support for cancer, and in particular paediatric cancer, in country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of standardized treatment protocols for paediatric cancer diagnoses
3. Supply Management	Proven ability to coordinate product procurement through international organization(s) and distribute medications through domestic logistics networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience procuring and receiving health products through international organization(s) (e.g., UNICEF or PAHO) • Evidence of supply chain capacity to forecast, order, receive, and manage additional medicine inventory • Adequate central storage capacity and distribution arrangements to supply participating treatment centres in a timely manner • Availability of systems to track, monitor, and report on medicine stock levels and consumption across the supply chain
4. Regulatory	Outlined regulatory pathway for importing Global Platform-supported medicines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expected ability to use accelerated registration procedures or regulatory waivers to import medicines into country (if not already registered) • Expected ability to use streamlined pathway for shipments greenlight and custom clearance processes
5. Monitoring and Evaluation	Systems in place for progress reporting, monitoring and evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of hospital-based paediatric cancer registry • Presence of logistics management information systems or other systems to track medicines through the supply chain • Existing national reporting of oncology-specific indicators
6. Financing	Ability to transition to self-financing of medicines supplied over time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity and commitment to progressively mobilize domestic financing for cancer medicines, in line with the Global Platform's Country Financial Sustainability Policy.

**Example considerations reflect factors the Global Platform may consider when prioritizing countries for selection; they are not strict selection criteria.*

- 6.2 Patient burden will also be considered to ensure the mix of countries selected support the Global Platform's initial goal of reaching 120,000 children.
- 6.3 Considering the above criteria, the Global Platform will decide the final set of countries to support per cohort using a consultative process, considering multiple qualitative and quantitative inputs, and taking into consideration the available and forecasted financial resources of the Global Platform. Throughout this process, perspectives from the regional and country offices of Global Platform partners will be incorporated to ensure assessments reflect country context, experience, and needs.

7. Country Application Process

- 7.1 To be considered, countries must submit the application by the deadline published on the Global Platform webpage on St. Jude and WHO websites.
- 7.2 The application template, which the Global Platform will publish on St. Jude and WHO websites when the application window opens, will collect information across the criteria outlined above.
- 7.3 Countries should submit applications in the format published on the Global Platform webpage on St. Jude and WHO websites.
- 7.4 To be considered, an application must be endorsed by the country's Minister of Health or a senior government official such as a Permanent Secretary or Director-General.
- 7.5 Completed applications can be submitted by a country representative to gpaccm@who.int and gpaccm@stjude.org copying the respective WHO Country Office representative.
- 7.6 If a selected country is not actively engaged in GICC at the time of application, they would commit to do so as part of their onboarding to the Global Platform.
- 7.7 A country that is not selected for a given cohort can be considered again for future cohorts by resubmitting its application for a subsequent cohort.
- 7.8 Deadline for application submissions will be posted on the Global Platform webpage on St. Jude and WHO websites when the application window opens.

8. Implementation and Monitoring

- 8.1 This policy has been approved by the Global Platform Steering Committee. It replaces any preceding guidance provided to countries on eligibility and selection.
- 8.2 This policy will be reviewed and updated as and when required. Any amendments to this policy are subject to Global Platform Steering Committee approval.