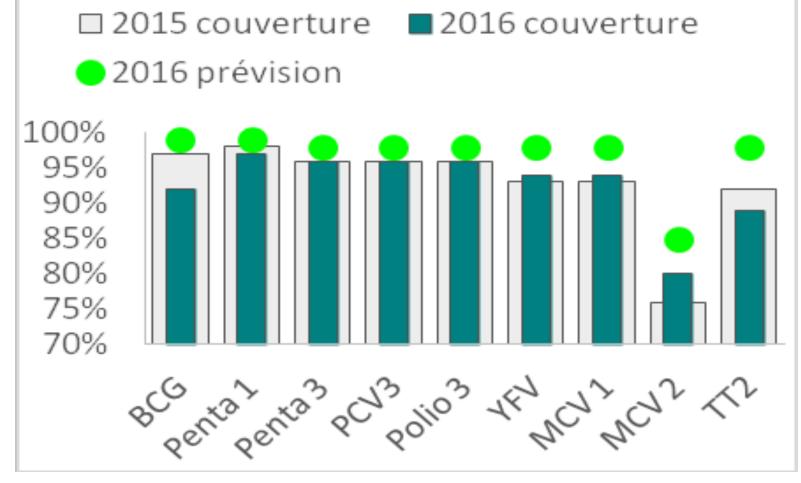




#### **1. Background Information** Figure 1. Coverage of 3rd dose pentavalent, São **Tomé e Príncipe, 2009-2016.** 99 98 97 96 95 94 93 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2009 2010 2011 The National Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) was established in 1977. The following vaccines have been introduced between 2003 and 2016 with Gavi support: • Hepatitis B Yellow Fever • Pentavalent (DPT-HepB-Hib) • PCV-13 2nd dose measles; In 2016-2017 the following vaccines were introduced: • Switch from MMR $\rightarrow$ MR (measles-rubella) • IPV Rotavirus • HPV No plans for introduction of additional vaccines in 2018-2020. Figure 2. Coverage of selected vaccines, São Tomé e Príncipe, 2015-2016.



## 2. Financing

- São Tomé is heavily dependent on external support for purchase of vaccines
- Traditional vaccines are fully funded by the São Tomé Government at 30,000USD/year
- Remaining vaccines are funded by Gavi. Currently no Gavi co-financing debts

# São Tomé e Príncipe Managing the Transition from Gavi Assistance Ana de Deus Guadalupe de Nazaré Botelho, Carlos Alberto Joaquim da Costa, Verdigal Gomes Mendonça, Ednilza Solange Vila Nova Correia Gomes de Barros

<ul> <li>Financing cont'd</li> <li>5 years of co-financing, with progressive reduction of external funding from 2018-2022</li> <li>By 2023 the EPI program and all its vaccines will be fully financed by the National Government</li> <li>Figure 3. Projections of vaccine costs, by vaccine considering traditional and new vaccines, São Tomé e Príncipe, 2017-2022.</li> <li> <sup>BCG</sup> vacine, 200 <sup>OPV</sup>, bivalent100 <sup>OPV</sup>, bivalent100</li></ul>	ncing, with progressive reduction of rom 2018-2022 program and all its vaccines will be he National Government of vaccine costs, by vaccine nal and new vaccines, São Tomé 2. raditiona vaccines ew vaccines US\$ 144,000 o-financed by avi US\$ 111,000 US\$ 78,000 US\$ 45,000
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## 3. Procurement

- Since 2016, all vaccines have been procured through UNICEF Supply Division.
- Delay in payment to UNICEF due to lack of funds in 2017
- Country currently working on subscription to the Vaccine Independence Initiative (VII).
  - Formal request sent by the Ministry of Health to UNICEF
  - Plan being elaborated

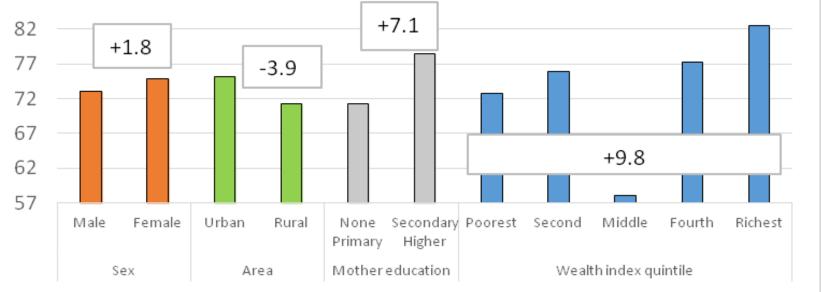
## 4. NITAG

**Establishment of the National Immunization Technical** Advisory Committee (NITAG) planned for 2018 Currently Immunization Inter Agency Committee (IIAC) meets periodically to discuss and advise on immunization issues

#### 5. Coverage and Equity

Fig. Coverage of fully vaccinated children by socioeconomic indicators, São Tomé e Príncipe, 2014

> % fully vaccinated children per socio-economic characteristics



Fully vaccinated children include those vaccinated with BCG, Polio3, Penta3, PCV3, Measles (MMR1) and YF

Mobile teams, home to home vaccination and other specific strategies to reach target groups

Fiduciary Agency for Fund Management (Agencia fudiciaria para gestão - AFAP) is the institution responsible for receiving and managing the grants until the Ministry of Health has its own management structure established.

One of the main challenges, in regards to management of funds for immunization, is to build capacity the Department of Finance (DAF) at the Ministry of Health.

Delays in availability of budget for vaccine purchase is a challenge for adequate budget execution

High dependency on external support for immunization funding

## 6. Transition Plan

Transition phase will be initiated in 2018. The Transition Plan was prepared in 2017 and validated with the Immunization Interagency Coordinating Committee in December, 2017.

#### **Centered in 4 objectives:**

Governance and Coordination of Health Sector; Vaccine financing Vaccine supply and availability Health Information System, Surveillance and Monitoring

and Evaluation;

#### **Expectations:**

Better engagement and political support

- Enhance capacity building on Needs Assessment and
- Planning and other key areas
- Increase funding for vaccine acquisition

 Need for more in country political engagement • Improve capacity of EPI team for better planning of immunization activities and vaccine forecasting • Need for capacity building in selected key areas



GATES foundation



#### 7. Graduation Grant

**Gavi graduation grant** USD 3,542,674

## 8. Main challenges

#### 9. Key Lessons