

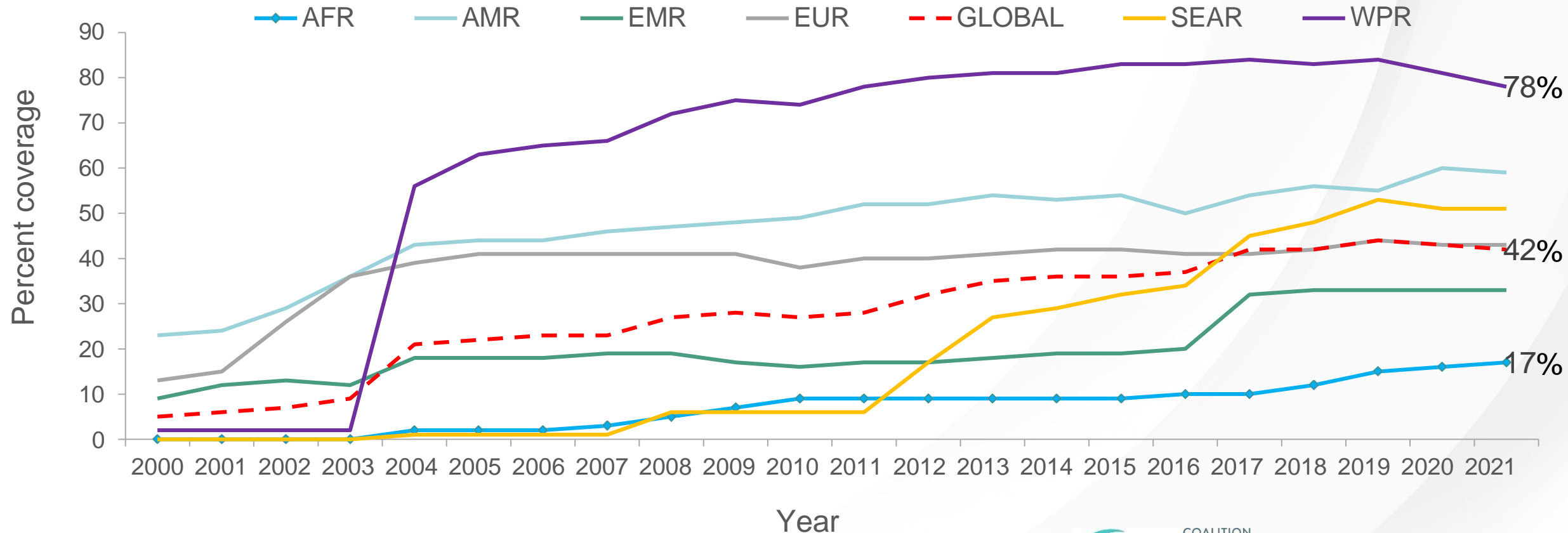


COALITION
FOR **GLOBAL**
HEPATITIS
ELIMINATION

CGHE Assistance for Introduction of HepB Birth Dose Vaccination in Africa

Africa has the lowest coverage of HepB-BD vaccine estimated at 17% in 2021

HepB-BD coverage by WHO region, 2000–2021



Only 15/47 African countries have introduced the HepB-BD vaccine

Country	Year HepB-BD introduced
1. Algeria	2001
2. Angola	2015
3. Benin	2020
4. Botswana	2000
5. Cabo Verde	2002
6. Cote d'Ivoire	2019
7. Equatorial Guinea	2019
8. Ethiopia**	2021
9. Gambia	1997
10. Mauritania	2013
11. Mauritius*	2000
12. Namibia	2014
13. Nigeria	2004
14. Sao Tome Principe	2003
15. Senegal	2016

*using a screening and targeted vaccination approach

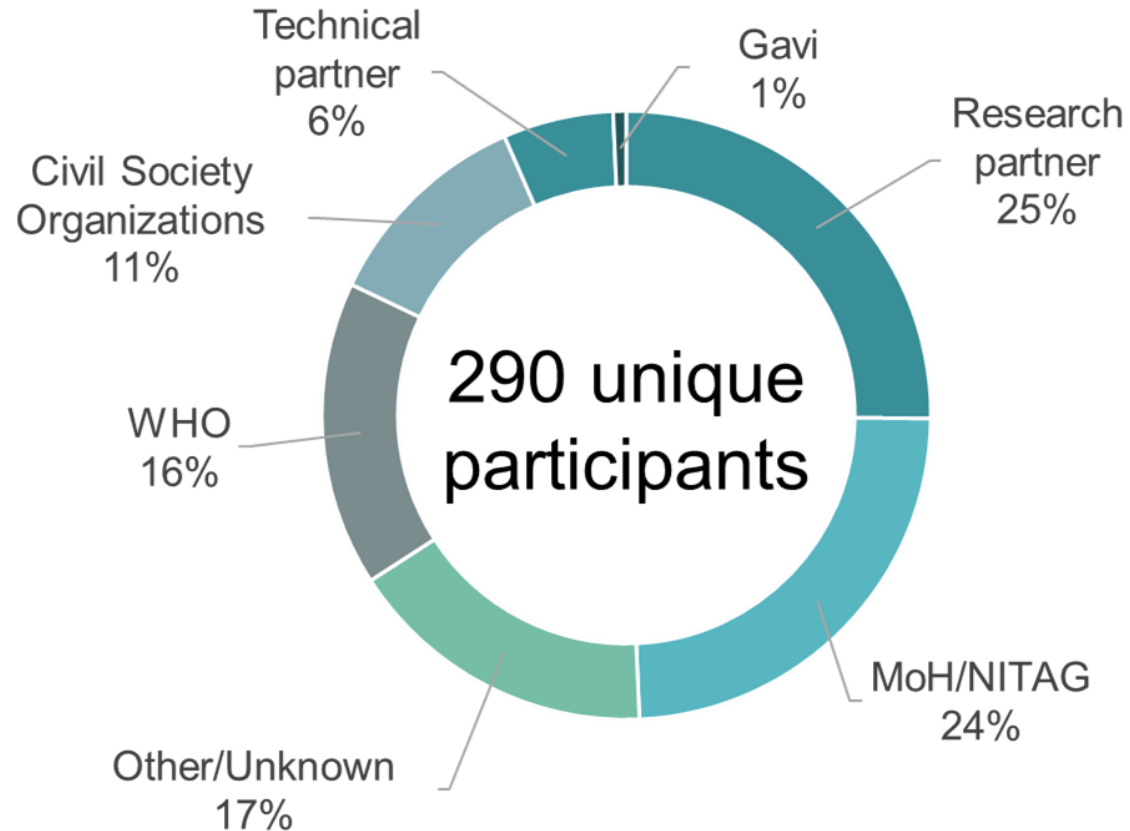
**personal communication from WHO

Uganda's NITAG (UNITAG) recently made a recommendation for HepB-BD introduction

CGHE Previous or Ongoing Activities

Community of Practice on HBV EMTCT in Africa

Participant affiliation



35

Countries in Africa represented



MoU with Africa CDC to support:

- Situation analysis on national viral hepatitis programs in AU member states
- Capacity building trainings for HCWs on viral hepatitis management
- Estimate HBV and HCV prevalence in 5 pilot countries
- Establish sentinel surveillance for HBV and HCV in 5 countries

Ongoing Research: IMPACT-B study

IMmunization to **P**rotect **A**African **C**hildren from **T**ransmission of Hepatitis **B**

Multi-centre: Senegal, The Gambia, Ethiopia

Duration: 30 months

- Overall study aims

- To furnish important data gaps in Africa on effectiveness of timely HepB-BD stratified by HBeAg/HBV viral load status.
- To allow better quantification of the impact of scaling up HepB-BD and therefore guide policies on HepB-BD introduction and scale-up in the region.



MRC Centre for
Global Infectious
Disease Analysis

Imperial College
London



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NITAG HepB-BD toolkit: A resource for developing policy recommendations for HepB-BD vaccination in Africa

Introduction of Hepatitis B Birth Dose Vaccination in Africa:

A Toolkit for National Immunization Technical Advisory Groups 2022

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Provides information in four key areas:

1. Overview of hepatitis B disease, including risk and burden in Africa
2. Details on the hepatitis B vaccine schedule, effectiveness, safety and administration
3. Elimination targets for mother-to-child transmission of hepatitis B and vaccination coverage requirements
4. Considerations for introducing HepB-BD in African countries, including economic considerations



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<https://www.globalhep.org>



THE TASK FORCE FOR
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Support Promotion of HepB BD Vaccination in Africa

Engaged 7 CSOs in 5 countries to advocate for HepB-BD introduction

Ghana

- Hepatitis Alliance-Ghana

Uganda

- Hepatitis Aid Organization
- Great Lakes Peace Center
- Africa Hepatitis Initiative

Tanzania

- Foundation for Liver and Gastrointestinal Research

Malawi

- Health and Rights Education Programme

Cameroon

- Care for Social Welfare International



Activities:

1. Develop education materials for communities
2. Trained birth attendants
3. Hold high level meetings with health officials

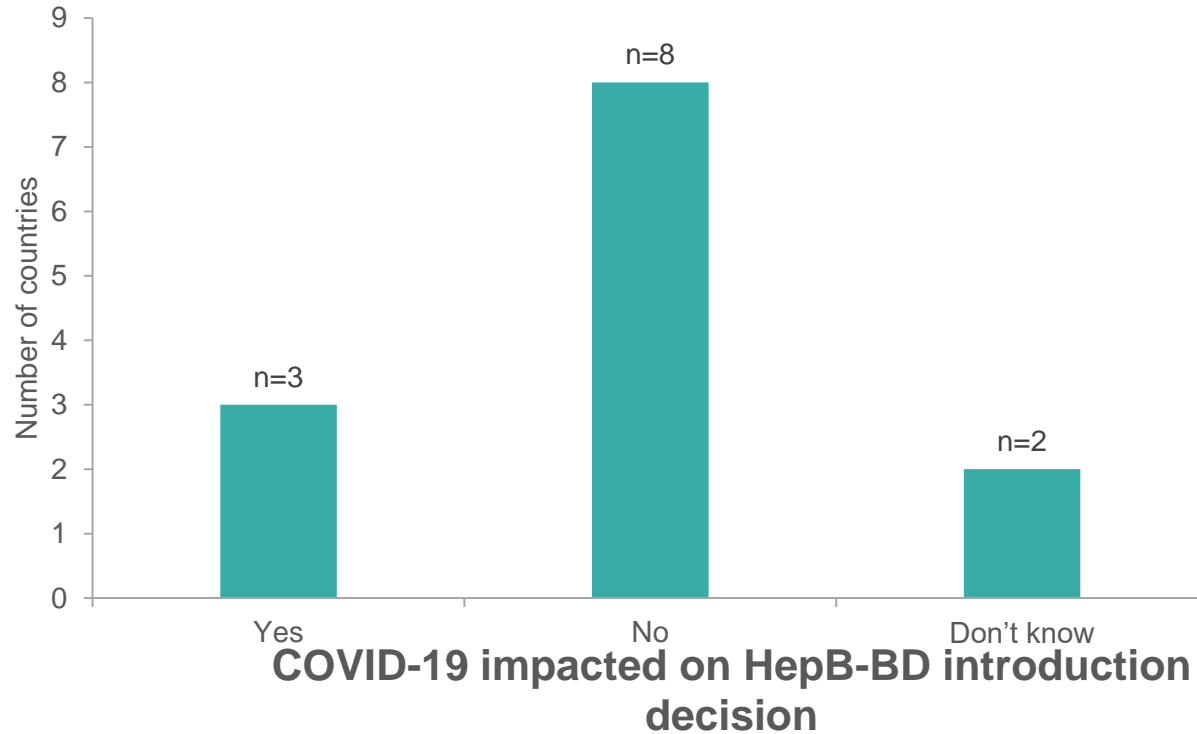
Tentative CDC support for activities in 2023-2024



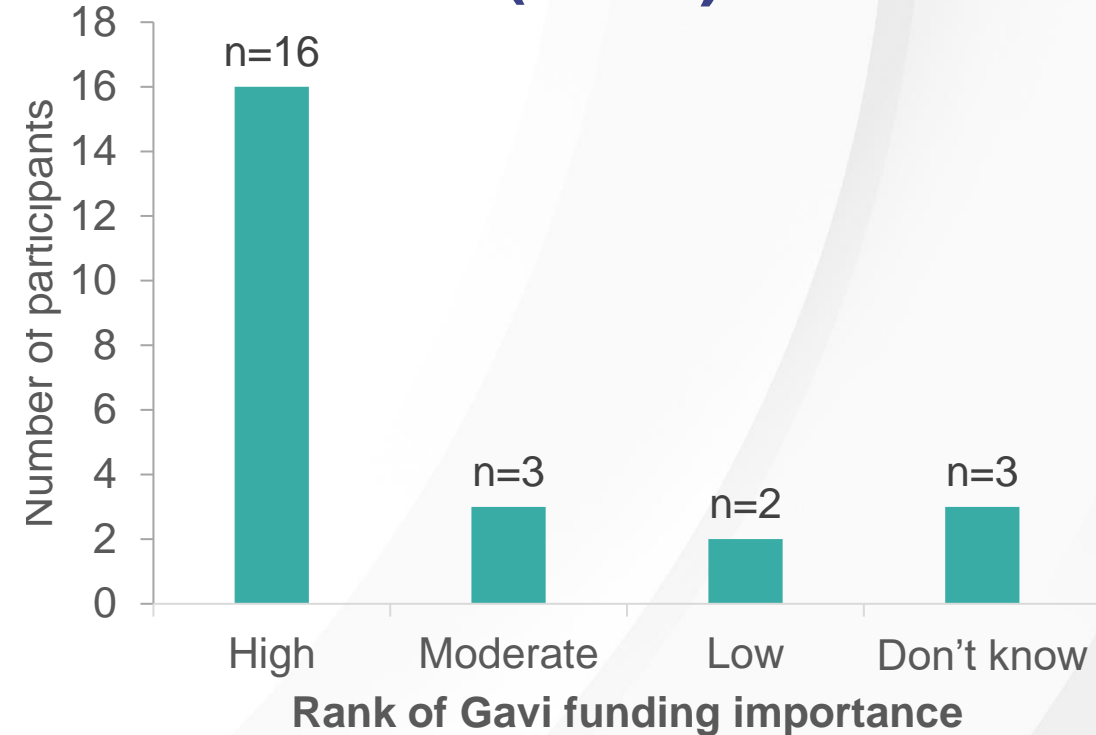
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Program Survey

Impact of COVID-19 Response and Gavi funding in Introduction /scale-up HepB-BD vaccine (n=24)

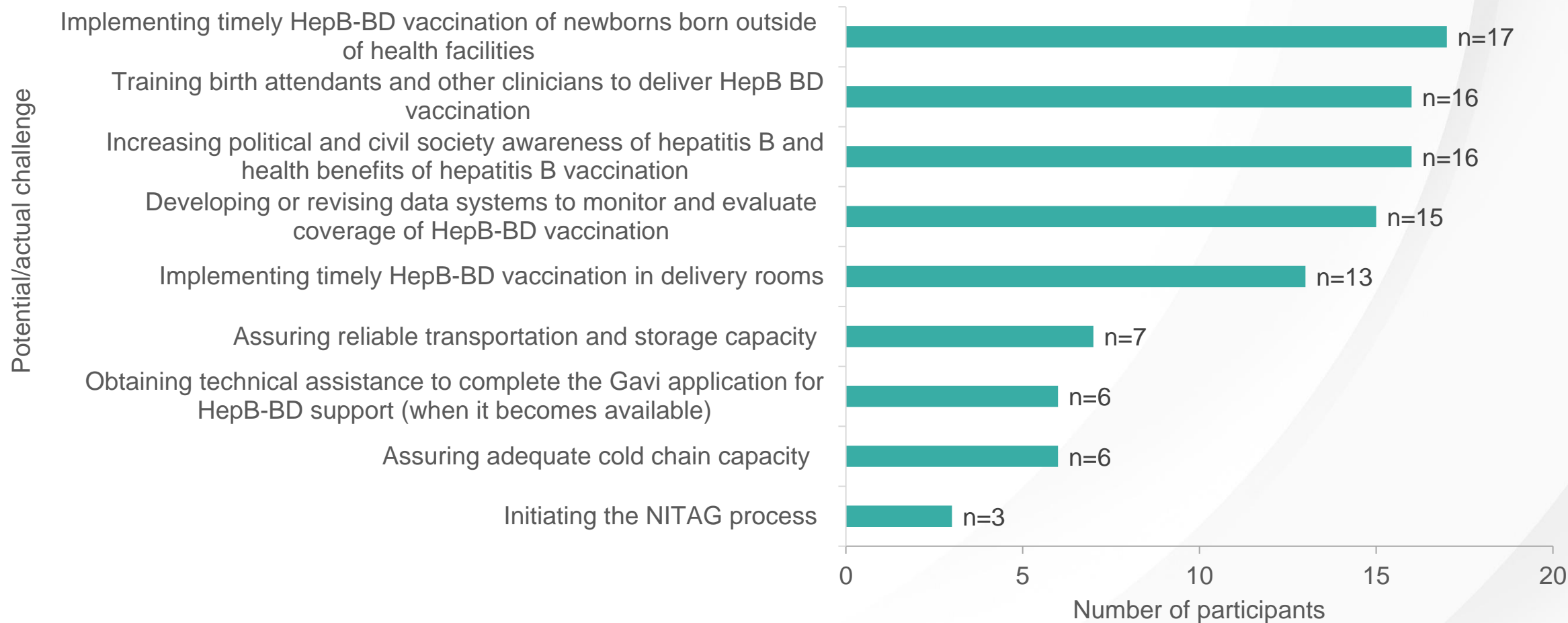


Only 3 participants reported COVID-19 impacted country's decision to introduce HepB-BD vaccination

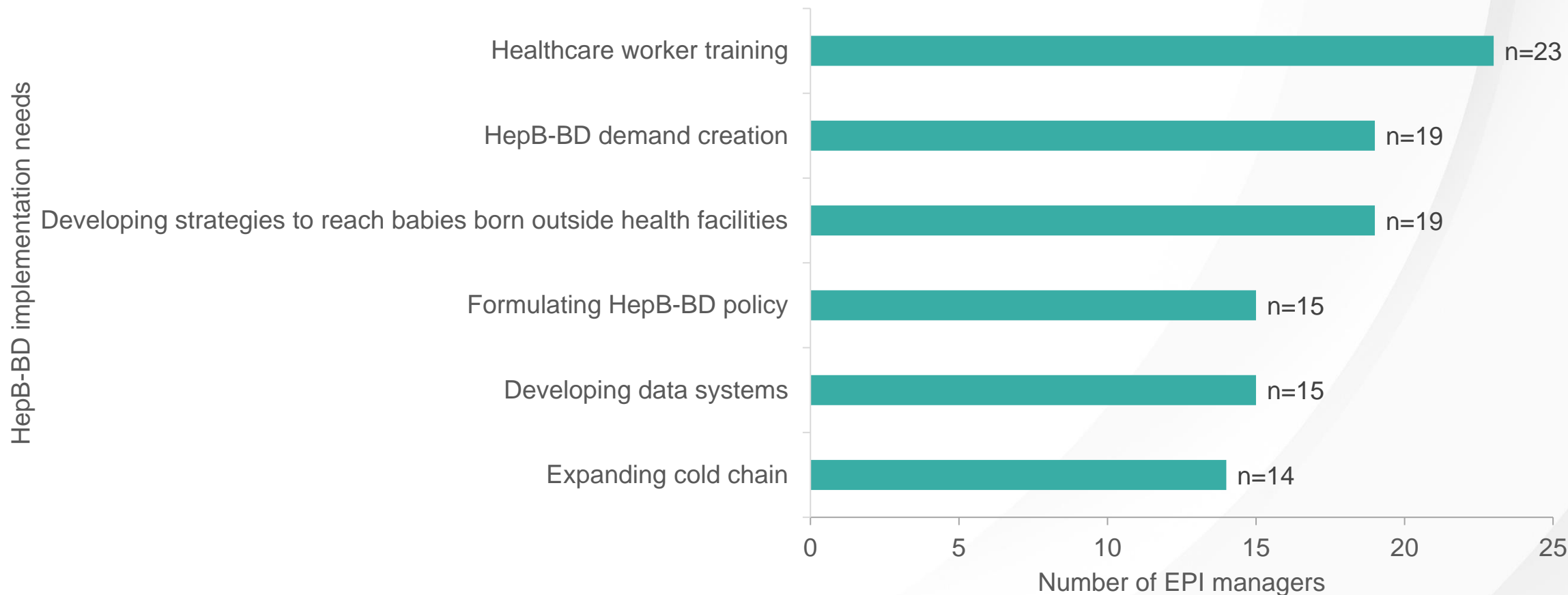


19 (79%) reported Gavi funding was of high or moderate importance and increased priority for HepB-BD introduction (75%)

Potential/actual challenges for HepB-BD introduction or scale-up (n=24)



Priorities for Gavi Support of HepB-BD implementation (n=24 participants)



Potential Areas of TA for Introduction of HepB BD Vaccination – Africa countries

- **Generate evidence** as appropriate
 - Disease serosurveys and disease progression and mortality
 - Economic/cost-benefit assessments
 - Feasibility and acceptability of vaccination
 - Compile data from credible international resources (e.g., global guidance, vaccine effectiveness and impact:
 - Support **NITAG** policy development
 - **Toolkit, access to data for evidence generation**
 - Assistance with analysis and presentation
- **Build political support and commitment**
 - Funding and mobilize community resources
 - Public understanding and support
- **Raise awareness of the benefits of hepatitis B BD among healthcare workers, public**
- Support with Applications for Gavi support (when available) and vaccine introduction

Potential areas of TA for Scale-up of HepB BD Vaccination – Africa countries

- **Assess barriers** to high coverage with timely HepB-BD
 - Identify strategies to address cultural challenges to timely HepB-BD
 - Address barriers to health facility deliveries
- Ensure **national and local policies** enable Timely HepB-BD and revise as needed
- Support **coordination** between immunization and maternal and child health programs
 - **Integration of services** benefits Hepb BD vaccination as well as maternal and child health (ANC, PNC, Vit K, BCG, OPV0)

Potential areas of TA for Scale-up of HepB BD Vaccination – Africa countries

- **Vaccination training of healthcare workers particularly skilled birth attendants**
 - Emphasize the importance of timeliness in disease prevention
- **Community Advocacy and awareness** (generate demand for the HepB-BD)
 - Education of pregnant women and their families
 - Role of Civil Society
- Improve timely HepB-BD coverage for **hospital births** (public and private)
 - Train maternity staff in immunization
 - Availability of HepB-BD in the delivery ward (vaccine stock management)
 - Integrate HepB-BD with essential newborn care
 - Availability of vaccine every day including weekends (Checklist to make sure the infant does not leave the hospital without HepB-BD)

Potential areas of TA for Scale-up of HepB BD Vaccination – Africa countries

- **Create plans to reach home births**
 - Role of community volunteers in linking mothers to health facilities
 - Include HepB-BD with delivery kits
 - Use single dose vials
 - Outreach vaccination plans during post natal care visits
 - Evaluate use of HepB-BD outside the cold chain in the African context
 - Assess the role of Uniject in areas that lack skilled HCWs
- **Support improvement in data management**
 - Track hospital and home births
 - Track timeliness of HepB-BD
 - Coordination in reporting between MCH and EPI

Gavi Will Begin to Support Implementation of HepB Birth Dose Vaccination

Executive Board, June 27, 2023 : approved re-starting the introduction of Hepatitis B birth dose vaccination (paused for COVID-19 response)

Gavi staff looking ahead to support for implementation

Details pending

