



GLOBAL IMMUNIZATION NEWS

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Please send inputs for inclusion to: nicolash@who.int*

25 APRIL 2007

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

CAPACITY BUILDING & TRAINING

25/04/07 from Raj Kumar, WHO/SEARO & Jhilmil Bahl, WHO/HQ: Representatives from nine different countries from the South East Asia Region attended a five-day regional immunization training meeting in Agra, India from 19-23 March 2007. The program comprised a blend of facilitator-led sessions, country group work, warm-up exercises and daily summaries. The objectives of the training workshop were to:

- Exchange experiences of the PNA and development of training materials and develop a strategy for immunization training for each country.
- Discuss the role of training institutes for immunization training.
- Strengthen the trainer capacities in using adult learning principles for training of mid-level managers.

Each country identified their main priorities for the next two to three years and the resources/additional support required achieving their respective priorities. Whereas the country priorities differed, the main focus was on the further development of basic health workers and mid-level managers.

The key recommendations that were made following this regional training meeting include:

- Provide support as appropriate with the implementation of country training plans.
- Provide technical support to countries seeking to conduct a PNA.
- Develop supportive supervision activities with specific countries.
- Launch the new MLM modules at a regional workshop at the end of 2007.
- Promote, develop and utilize distance learning modules for immunization training.

- Develop a position paper on the role of training institutions in countries with a large population.

MATERNAL & NEONATAL TETANUS

25/04/07 from Francois Gasse & Fouzia Shafique (UNICEF New York) and Jos Vandelaer (WHO/UNICEF Geneva): UNICEF and WHO have now received IFFIm funds for maternal and neonatal tetanus elimination. In total, IFFIm will make US\$62 million available over a three-year period. The funds are aimed at supporting countries in planning and implementing activities to achieve MNT elimination, mainly TT SIAs, providing technical support, and validating elimination status. Countries can apply for funds through the same mechanism that has been used in the past, such as through the submission of a budgeted plan of action to UNICEF. For countries with an existing and still valid plan of action, requests for the next phase of activities can be sent to UNICEF without the need for new plans. The vaccine will be provided through UNICEF Supply Division. WHO will continue to be responsible for the monitoring and validation of MNT elimination status.

PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINES

25/04/07 from Thomas Cherian, WHO/HQ: The annual meeting of the pneumococcal and Hib surveillance networks investigators was held from 28-30 March in Bangkok, Thailand. This meeting brought together more than 100 scientists and global partners from around the world to share data on these two diseases. Interesting data on the epidemiology of these diseases in different parts of the world was presented, including important differences in the prevalence of pneumococcal serotypes. The value of non-culture methods, specifically the Binax NOW® antigen detection test, for diagnosing pneumococcal disease was highlighted.

The Global Burden of Disease project for Hib and Pneumococcus is nearing completion. Country consultation is expected to begin in May 2007, with publication of the final revised estimates later this year.

POLIO

25/04/07 from Oliver Rosenbauer, WHO/HQ:

Tribute to polio ACPE member Aileen Plant –

It is with great sadness that the Global Polio Eradication Initiative bids farewell to Dr. Aileen Plant, who passed away tragically and suddenly on 27 March 2007. Dr. Plant, a world-renowned epidemiologist and public health leader, was a member of the Advisory Committee on Polio Eradication (ACPE), the technical oversight body of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. She will be missed personally and professionally.

Polio Eradication - Focus on India – India continues to conduct large-scale supplementary immunization activities (SIAs), in the two endemic states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Four mass campaigns have already been conducted in 2007 with monovalent oral polio vaccine type 1 (mOPV1), as part of the tailored new approaches to rapidly close the remaining immunity gap in children aged less than two years.

The latest campaign on 8 April 2007 was made possible in part thanks to a rapid, last-minute effort by polio partners Rotary and the National Polio Surveillance Project (NPSP). During the planning stages of the campaign, it transpired that a vaccine-shortfall of more than four million doses was going to affect 17 districts in Bihar. To ensure this shortfall was filled in time of the campaign, Rotary immediately arranged for special permission from Union Railway Minister Laloo Prasad Yadav, to transport 3.3 million doses of vaccine from Delhi, Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, on the high-speed Rajdhani Express. At the same time, a Rotary hired truck took 700,000 doses of vaccine from Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh to Patna, Bihar.

Such activities are indicative of the efforts currently being undertaken by all stakeholders in polio eradication in India. Strong progress continues to be achieved, particularly against type 1 polio. In the five traditional high-risk districts of Western Uttar Pradesh (Moradabad, JP Nagar, Bareilly, Rampur, Badaun), no type 1 polio cases have been reported in the past six months.

In other developments, on 12 April 2007, the *Lancet* published the results of a new study which showed mOPV1 to be three times more effective than trivalent OPV at protecting children against type 1 polio in Uttar Pradesh. The study highlighted that wide-scale use of mOPV1 substantially raises the population immunity levels with the same number of doses, relative to trivalent OPV, thereby improving the prospects of

more rapidly interrupting the remaining chains of endemic polio transmission. Key to rapid success in India is now to further increase the quality of large-scale campaigns to reach every child with OPV1.

Also published in the same issue of the *Lancet*, a new study by Kim Thompson et al from Harvard University demonstrated that effective control of polio (i.e.: maintaining low case numbers) would cost more in human suffering and dollars, in the long-term than finishing eradication. The study also suggests that eradication is more cost-effective than other, lower-control options (i.e.: higher numbers of cases); additional research is underway to model more fully these other options, including a reduction or halt to supplementary immunization activities (SIAs) and the attendant human and financial costs.

Further information is available at www.polioeradication.org

ROTAVIRUS

25/04/07 from Chris Nelson, Merck:

First Infant Enrolled in Africa/Asia Trial of RotaTeq –

Merck marked a milestone in March 2007 with the enrolment of the first child in a clinical trial of its rotavirus vaccine *RotaTeq* in Bangladesh. Enrolment will begin at sites in Ghana, Mali, Kenya and Vietnam during the next few weeks. The trial is being conducted in partnership with PATH to study the safety, immunogenicity and efficacy of *RotaTeq* in Africa and Asia, where the burden of rotavirus gastroenteritis in infants is the greatest. Merck began its collaboration with PATH's Rotavirus Vaccine Program in 2005.

Phase III clinical trials, including the Rotavirus Efficacy and Safety Trial (REST), one of the largest pre-licensure vaccine trials ever conducted, enrolled more than 71,000 infants and demonstrated the safety and efficacy of *RotaTeq* (NEJM 2006; 354: 23-33). In November 2005, WHO SAGE recommended additional clinical trials of new rotavirus vaccines in Asia and Africa (WER 2006; 81:1-12).

VACCINE MANAGEMENT

25/04/07 from Yves Chartier, WHO/HQ:

A meeting on **Health Care Waste** will be held from 20-22 June 2007 at WHO in Geneva, Switzerland. The main objectives of the meeting are to discuss health care waste activities worldwide and new developments, to define a funding strategy, as well as to explore areas of collaboration between key international players (funding mechanisms, research on equipment and expertise). The meeting is being supported by the Gates Foundation and WHO. For more information

about this meeting, please send email to chartiery@who.int

GAVI-RELATED INFORMATION

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

25/04/07 from Ariane Manset, GAVI Secretariat: The new CSO guidelines and application form should be ready by 30 April 2007.

CO-FINANCING

25/04/07 from Ariane Manset, GAVI Secretariat: The GAVI Secretariat sent letters to 28 countries asking whether they would like to continue receiving support for GAVI supported vaccines under the co-financing policies. The deadline was 31 March 2007. Responses were received from ten countries.

GAVI SECRETARIAT

25/04/07 from Ariane Manset, GAVI Secretariat: During the course of the World Health Assembly, the GAVI Secretariat will host lunchtime consultation sessions for Ministers of Health of GAVI-eligible countries from 14-18 May 2007. These sessions will allow Ministers of Health to meet with their representatives on the Alliance Board, discuss important issues (board decisions from 10-12 May Board Meeting, co-financing, health systems strengthening) and collaborate with their peers.

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING

25/04/07 from Ariane Manset, GAVI Secretariat: A HSS Task Team meeting will take place in Geneva from 26-27 April 2007, reviewing technical assistance issues (review of regional training workshops, performance based payments and future country inputs). A HSS monitoring & evaluation meeting will take place in Geneva on 25 April 2007 to review key areas of improving the HSS monitoring & evaluation.

HIB INITIATIVE

25/04/07 from Layla Lavasani, JHSPH: The Hib Initiative, along with WHO counterparts, supported Bhutan in finalizing the GAVI application for the 20 April 2007 deadline for receiving applications.

PNEUMOCOCCAL & ROTAVIRUS VACCINES INTRODUCTION

25/04/07 from Ariane Manset, GAVI Secretariat: The GAVI Secretariat has sent letters asking for expressions of interest for the

introduction of pneumococcal vaccine. A similar call for expressions of interest has been sent for rotavirus to GAVI-eligible countries in EURO and PAHO. The expressions of interest for pneumococcal and rotavirus vaccines are expected by **25 May 2007**. The gathering of these expressions of interest will help GAVI fine tune its supply and demand forecast, and assist partners to prepare to offer technical assistance.

REVIEW PROCESS

Next Review Dates:

SECOND REVIEW 2007: ISS, INS, New Vaccines & Measles 2nd Dose: The deadline for receiving applications was **20 April 2007**. The applications will be reviewed from **21-30 May 2007**.

SECOND REVIEW 2007: HSS Applications: The **deadline** to receive applications for HSS is **11 May 2007**. The applications will be reviewed from **1-11 June 2007**.

MONITORING REVIEW: The deadline for receiving **annual progress reports** is **15 May 2007**. The APRs will be reviewed from **18-29 June 2007**.

THIRD REVIEW 2007: ISS, INS, New Vaccines & Measles 2nd Dose: The deadline for receiving applications is **28 September 2007**. The applications will be reviewed from **24 October to 2 November 2007**.

THIRD REVIEW 2007: HSS Applications: The **deadline** to receive applications for HSS is **5 October 2007**. The applications will be reviewed from **26 October – 9 November 2007**.

COUNTRY INFORMATION¹ BY REGION

EUROPEAN REGION

REGIONAL INFORMATION

25/04/07 from EURO:

European Immunization Week – A Wealth of Activities: Twenty-five countries from across

¹ ICP = Inter Country Programme
ISS = Immunization Services Support
INS = Injection Safety Support
NVS = New Vaccine Support
DQA = Data Quality Audit
DQS = Data Quality Self Assessment
FSP = Financial Sustainability Plan
RED = Reach Every District
cMYP = Fully costed multi-year plan

the European Region this year joined European Immunization Week from 16-22 April 2007. Workshops, trainings, theatre plays, round table discussions, competitions, sports events, press activities, as well as immunization of high-risk groups took place in all corners of the Region. The aim was to boost awareness and increase the success of immunization programmes.

Every country has groups of hard-to-reach and vulnerable children who remain unprotected from infectious diseases. With the key message "immunization is vital for every child", the Immunization Week aimed to reach these groups through advocacy, information or supplementary immunization.

A wealth of activities marked the Week at national and local levels. A few examples: In Tajikistan, the Week was launched with a major public and press event, with three health workers receiving awards for outstanding effort. In Germany, high-level experts met at the Robert-Koch institute in Berlin to discuss ways to reach unimmunized adolescents; WHO measles expert Dr. John Spika contributed with a presentation. In the Russian Federation, the media attention was substantial, and immunization was a key debate issue throughout the country during the week. In

Turkey, open-air park shows, street parades and football matches highlighted the message that immunization is vital to protect children. In Azerbaijan, more than 50,000 children aged 2-3 years from 15 traditionally hard-to-reach districts were immunized against polio.

For more information about the many activities that took place in each country, please see:

<http://www.euro.who.int/vaccine/eiw/20050608>

[1](#)

WHO Programme Managers Meeting – Reaching the hard-to-reach: Immunization Programme Managers from across the European Region will gather in Dubrovnik, Croatia from 23-25 April 2007 to discuss immunization in the WHO European Region, together with immunization experts from WHO and a range of partners. Reaching the hard-to-reach population groups will be a main focus of the meeting. Other important topics will be the introduction of new and under-utilized antigens and the elimination target of measles, rubella and congenital rubella infections by year 2010. The immunization managers will also receive updates on the current status of global and regional immunization programmes, and they will discuss future priorities in the countries of the WHO European Region.

Produced by WHO, in collaboration with UNICEF and the GAVI Alliance:



LIST OF MEETINGS & KEY EVENTS RELATED TO IMMUNIZATION

Regional Meetings & Key Events Related to Immunization: May 2007 to 2009					
Title of Meeting	Start	Finish	Location	Responsible Partner	Region
May-07					
GAVI Quarterly Fund Executive Committee Meeting	11-May	11-May	Geneva	GAVI Secretariat	Specific
GAVI Joint Alliance & Fund Board Meetings	12-May	12-May	Geneva	GAVI Secretariat	Specific
GAVI Review for ISS, INS, NVS & Measles 2nd Dose Applications (Deadline: 20 April 2007)	21-May	30-May	Geneva	GAVI Secretariat	Specific
GAVI Eastern Mediterranean Regional Working Group Meeting	27-May	27-May	Tunis	EMRO	EMR
EMRO EPI Managers Meeting	28-May	31-May	Tunis	EMRO	EMR
EMRO RTAG Meeting	28-May	31-May	Tunis	EMRO	EMR
International Meeting on Strengthening of Cervical Cancer Prevention in Europe (HPV Vaccine)	29-May	31-May	Copenhagen, Denmark	EURO	EUR
Jun-07					
GAVI Review for HSS Proposals (Deadline: 11 May 2007)	01-Jun	11-Jun	Geneva	GAVI Secretariat	Specific
Central America and USMB Regional EPI Managers Meeting	05-Jun	08-Jun	tbd	PAHO	PAHO
Global Advisory Committee of Vaccine Safety (GACVS) Meeting	12-Jun	13-Jun	Geneva	WHO/HQ	Global
European Regional Certification Commission for Poliomyelitis Eradication	13-Jun	15-Jun	Copenhagen, Denmark	EURO	EUR
International Meeting on New Vaccines Introduction for the European Region	14-Jun	14-Jun	Ankara, Turkey	EURO	EUR
New and Under-Utilized Vaccines Implementation Meeting	18-Jun	20-Jun	Geneva	WHO/HQ	Global
GAVI Review of Annual Progress Reports (Deadline: 15 May 2007)	18-Jun	29-Jun	Geneva	GAVI Secretariat	Specific
WPRO EPI Managers Workshop	27-Jan	29-Jun	Manila, Philippines	WPRO	WPR
Jul-07					
16th Meeting of Virologists from SEARO Polio Laboratory Network	09-Jul	10-Jul	New Delhi	SEARO	SEAR
SEAR EPI Managers Meeting and 12th Meeting of Technical Consultative Group (TCG)	10-Jul	13-Jul	New Delhi	SEARO	SEAR
GAVI South East Asian Regional Working Group Meeting	14-Jul	14-Jul	New Delhi	SEARO	SEAR
Aug-07					

First Meeting of the Virologists of the regional JE Laboratory Network and Training in Laboratory procedures for diagnosis of Bacterial Pathogens causing Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES)	August	August	Bangalore, India	SEARO	SEAR
South America Regional EPI Managers Meeting	07-Aug	10-Aug	tbd	PAHO	PAHO
SEARO GTN Advanced Course on GMP Inspection	13-Aug	17-Aug	New Delhi	SEARO	SEAR
Sep-07					
EMRO Regional Working Group on Rotavirus Surveillance	10-Sep	12-Sep	Cairo, Egypt	EMRO	EMR
SEARO GTN Workshop on Vaccine Lot Release	10-Sep	14-Sep	Kasauli, India	SEARO	SEAR
GAVI Quarterly Fund Executive Committee Meeting	12-Sep	12-Sep	Washington DC	GAVI Secretariat	Specific
GAVI Review of Annual Progress Reports	24-Sep	28-Sep	Geneva	GAVI Secretariat	Specific
Ninth Meeting of International Certification Commission for Polio Eradication	27-Sep	29-Sep	New Delhi	SEARO	SEAR
Oct-07					
SEARO Regional WHO GTN Course on Vaccine Management	15-Oct	19-Oct	Khon Kaen, Thailand	SEARO	SEAR
GAVI Review for ISS, INS, NVS & Measles 2nd Dose Applications (Deadline: 28 September 2007)	24-Oct	02-Nov	Geneva	GAVI Secretariat	Specific
GAVI Review for HSS Proposals (Deadline: 5 October 2007)	26-Oct	09-Nov	Geneva	GAVI Secretariat	Specific
GAVI Eastern Mediterranean Regional Working Group Meeting	28-Oct	29-Oct	Tripoli, Libya	EMRO	EMR
EMRO ICM on Measles and Rubella	30-Oct	01-Nov	Tripoli, Libya	EMRO	EMR
HPV Planning Policy Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean	Late Oct	Early Nov	tbd	PAHO	PAHO
Nov-07					
EMRO RTAG Meeting	02-Nov	02-Nov	Tripoli, Libya	EMRO	EMR
Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) meeting	06-Nov	08-Nov	Geneva	WHO/HQ	Global
Caribbean EPI Managers Meeting	13-Nov	16-Nov	tbd	PAHO	PAHO
European GAVI Regional Working Group Meeting	14-Nov	14-Nov	tbd	EURO	EUR
GAVI South East Asian Regional Working Group Meeting	27-Nov	28-Nov	Thimphu	SEARO	SEAR
Joint GAVI Alliance & Fund Board Meetings	27-Nov	30-Nov	Cape Town	GAVI Secretariat	Specific
EURO TAG Meeting	tbd	tbd	tbd	EURO	EUR
Dec-07					
Sub-Regional Laboratory Network Meeting for Countries of Central and Eastern Europe	01-Dec	01-Dec	tbd	EURO	EUR
Global Advisory Committee of Vaccine Safety (GACVS)	12-Dec	13-Dec	CICG	WHO/HQ	Global

Meeting					
2008 Meetings					
Global Immunization Meeting	February	February	Geneva	WHO/HQ	Global
Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) meeting	08-Apr	10-Apr	Geneva	WHO/HQ	Global
Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) meeting	03-Nov	05-Nov	Geneva	WHO/HQ	Global
2009 Meetings					
Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) meeting	07-Apr	09-Apr	Geneva	WHO/HQ	Global
Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) meeting	27-Oct	29-Oct	Geneva	WHO/HQ	Global