



GLOBAL IMMUNIZATION NEWS

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

27 August 2008

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

POLIO

27/08/08 from Oliver Rosenbauer, WHO/HQ:

Polio eradication – new commitments evident in remaining four endemic countries, in response to recent increase in new cases

Recent developments in each of the remaining four polio-endemic countries – Nigeria, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan – underscore renewed commitments to polio eradication, to urgently address recent increases in the number of cases in some areas.

In Nigeria, in response to this year's type 1 polio outbreak affecting the north of the country, the Government of Nigeria is setting up mechanisms to urgently address the key operational challenges which continue to mar the quality of polio campaigns. The acting Minister of Health is taking a leadership role, having set up a high-level Task Force to hold state- and local government area (LGA) political leadership accountable to the success of polio eradication. More significantly, HE President Umaru Yar' Adua publicly stated his intention "to do everything humanly possible to ensure that polio is finally and totally eradicated from Nigeria." With intense transmission of the virus, the onset of the rainy season and large-scale population movements expected for the upcoming Hajj season, the risk for renewed international spread of the outbreak is high.

In India, the Government has launched an aggressive and appropriate emergency mop-up outbreak response strategy to recently-detected polio cases, particularly to the recent importations of type 1 polio into western Uttar Pradesh, as well as the re-infections of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Haryana and West Bengal states. All efforts must be undertaken to minimize the risk of further spread of type 1 polio, particularly into other areas of western Uttar Pradesh. The core, highest-risk districts of western Uttar Pradesh had previously been free of type 1 polio for more than 12 months. Large-scale mop-up campaigns with increased technical support are being held across these areas throughout August and September.

Pakistan has recently experienced an increase in new cases and spread of virus to previously polio-free areas (Islamabad and Punjab), underscoring the risk the ongoing indigenous polio circulation in the known transmission zones continues to pose to children across the country. In response, the Government of Pakistan is strengthening its capacity to urgently address this increase. Federal Minister for Health Sherry Rehman has called for closer involvement of provincial and district leadership - as well as cross-ministerial engagement. Provincial health ministries have now been directed to engage in stronger dialogue with district-level authorities, to more effectively coordinate polio campaigns across different ministries to more appropriately channel all administrative sections, and to hold district-level political leadership directly accountable for the performance of polio campaigns.

In Afghanistan, efforts ahead of the most-recent National Immunization Days (NIDs) conducted on 3-5 August focused on engaging all levels of civil society. In Nangarhar province for example, in the east of the country, more than 200 eminent religious leaders from all districts convened and agreed to disseminate messages in support of polio eradication to their communities. As a result of such efforts being undertaken across the country, a higher proportion of children were accessible during these latest NIDs than during previous rounds, including in parts of the Southern Region.

With the technical feasibility of polio eradication firmly established and renewed engagement by the international development community (see July issue of 'GIN' newsletter; 'G8 recommit to polio eradication'),

key to success is overcoming the remaining operational challenges through full engagement and ownership by the political leadership at all levels in the remaining polio-affected countries.

For further information on the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, please visit www.polioeradication.org.

SAFE INJECTION GLOBAL NETWORK (SIGN) ANNUAL MEETING

27/08/08 from Selma Khamassi, WHO/HQ:

The annual SIGN meeting is planned in Moscow, Russian Federation from 13-15 October 2008, supported by WHO/HQ/SIGN.

Background

Unsafe injection practices are increasingly recognized as a major source of infection with bloodborne pathogens not only in developing countries. Several cases of hepatitis C transmitted through reuse of injection equipment and mishandling of multidose vials were reported lately in some clinics in the United States. While it is the responsibility of all health care workers, their employers, the public, and national governments to ensure safe and appropriate use of injections, the prevention of bloodborne pathogen transmission and other adverse events associated with injections will require improved collaboration between organizations and individuals sharing a common interest in attaining this goal.

To achieve this collaboration, the "Safe Injection Global Network" (SIGN) has been established in 1999. SIGN is a voluntary coalition of stakeholders aiming to achieve safe and appropriate use of injections throughout the world. SIGN coalition is constituted by UN organizations (WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA), ministries of health, manufacturers EUCOMED and IASIT (International Association Safe Injection Technologies), Governments i.e. CDC, USAID, research institutes etc. The Essential Health Technologies (EHT) department of the World Health Organization (WHO) provides the secretariat for the network.

The annual SIGN meeting

The annual SIGN meeting provides opportunities to review common progress and to decide on action points for the members of the SIGN alliance.

It is a priority for the network to identify ways to implement recommendations, to get action at the lower levels of the health system, to achieve behavioural change, and most importantly to improve the practices of front line health workers.

The Internet is used to disseminate presentations to those who cannot attend and user-friendly reports summarize key issues in a format that is quick and easy to read.

The objectives of the SIGN annual meeting are:

- Exchange information regarding global progress towards the safe and appropriate use of injections worldwide;
- Review progress of the various injection safety country projects;
- Review progress of the health care worker protection including the three WHO needle-stick prevention projects;
- Review global progress in infection control activities.
- Make recommendations on priority issues to be addressed and agree on what activities should be done the following year

SIGN Meeting 2008:

This year the Meeting of the Safe Injection Global Network (SIGN) will be held on 13-15 October 2008 in Moscow, Russian Federation.

The specific objectives of the 2008 Meeting are to:

- review progress of the various injection safety projects at global and country level, including progress on infection prevention and control activities;
- provide updates on global policy documents and guidelines, developed by WHO, on best practices for injections and related procedures;
- discuss how ensuring rational and safe use of injections worldwide will help achieve the Millennium Development Goals;
- discuss best ways to integrate injection safety and related infection control activities into health systems in countries; and
- inform members on and discuss WHO recommended waste disposal options and health-care workers' protection.

More information about SIGN and the annual meeting can be found on the SIGN website at http://www.who.int/injection_safety/en/

GAVI-RELATED INFORMATION

REVIEW PROCESS

Next Review Dates:

PROPOSAL REVIEWS - ISS, INS, New Vaccines & Measles 2nd Dose:

Third Review: The deadline for receiving applications is **25 September 2008**. The applications will be reviewed from **23-31 October 2008**.

HSS REVIEWS

Second Review: The deadline for receiving applications is **12 September 2008**. The applications will be reviewed from **3-15 October 2008**.

MONITORING REVIEW

Annual progress reports to GAVI will be reviewed from **22-27 September 2008**.

COUNTRY INFORMATION¹ BY REGION

EUROPEAN REGION

REGIONAL INFORMATION

27/08/08 from EURO:

Side meeting on GAVI developments during 58th Regional Committee for Europe

During the fifty-eighth session of the Regional Committee for Europe (15-18 September 2008), a side meeting on GAVI developments will be organized to inform and involve GAVI eligible countries. The session will be held on 18 September and it will address the GAVI transparency and accountability policy (TAP); GAVI co-financing, including the default policy adopted at the July 2008 GAVI Board; refinement of health system strengthening support (HSS) monitoring; and other GAVI updates, including the adoption of a gender policy and progress on the vaccine investment strategy.

European Immunization Week nominated for a health award

WHO/EURO is proud to announce that European Immunization Week (EIW) has been nominated for the European Health Forum Award 2008. EIW is among the 8 initiatives that are nominated for the award that is given to public initiatives that have contributed in a significant way to meet health challenges and ameliorate disparities in health services provision in Europe. The award will be granted on 1 October 2008, during the opening ceremony of the 11th European Health Forum Gastein, in Bad Hofgastein, Austria.

EIW took place this year from 21-27 April, with a wide range of advocacy and targeted communication activities being executed across the European Region, to promote the importance of immunization. Ten thousands of posters, leaflets and other information and promotional materials were printed and distributed, and over ten countries carried out supplementary immunization activities, resulting in almost one million vaccinations administered during the Week.

While the regional evaluation of 2008 is in progress, the planning for the next EIW is starting up, and the dates for the fourth European Immunization Week are set for 20-26 April 2009.

¹ HSS= Health Systems Strengthening;
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;

ARMENIA

27/08/08 from EURO:

The Ministry of Health of Armenia decided to proceed with the implementation of two rounds of polio mop-up immunization activities in September and October 2008, to address susceptibility among children up to 3 years old due to suboptimal OPV vaccination coverage in the previous years.

In addition, MR supplementary immunization activities among women of childbearing age will be implemented from October 2008 to March 2009 as part of the national plan to achieve measles and rubella elimination. In 2007, Armenia successfully conducted a MR immunization campaign among individuals of age 6-26 with an estimated coverage over 97%.

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

27/08/08 from EURO:

The Ministries of Health in Bosnia and Herzegovina have shown strong political commitment to achieve measles and rubella elimination. According to the available surveillance data, Bosnia and Herzegovina will need to implement supplementary immunization activities addressing measles and rubella susceptibility to achieve the elimination goals. This has been tentatively scheduled for 2009. National expert groups have been appointed to gather and analyze the available data regarding vaccination coverage and diseases epidemiology, and to develop the appropriate SIA strategies by the end of 2008.

TAJIKISTAN

27/08/08 from EURO:

A joint CDC and WHO/EURO mission was held in July 2008 to look into appropriate strategies for rubella containing vaccine introduction and implementation in Tajikistan by January 2009. Seeking to attain the WHO/EURO measles and rubella elimination goal that is set for 2010, Tajikistan has opted to conduct measles and rubella (MR) supplementary immunization activities (SIA) among children, adolescents and women of childbearing age simultaneously, to ensure that the implemented routine programme does not create a shift in susceptibility to older ages.

WESTERN PACIFIC

REGIONAL INFORMATION

27/08/08 from WPRO:

Development of Regional Strategic Plan for Maintenance of Poliomyelitis Free status: 2008-2012

In view of the current multi-year time-frame until global polio eradication and certification WHO/WPRO has developed the "Regional Strategic Plan for the Maintenance of Poliomyelitis-free Status: 2008-2012" which summarizes technical requirements, estimates resource requirements and serves as a tool for advocacy and fund raising for countries and partners. The draft plan has undergone an extensive review by national immunization programmes (NIPs) and other key partners and had its general principles and key areas for action endorsed by the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Immunization and Vaccine Preventable Diseases in the Western Pacific Region during its 17th meeting last July.

Certification of hepatitis B goal in South Korea and Macao: Western Pacific Region adopted a regional hepatitis B control goal aiming at reduction of chronic hepatitis B infection rates to less than 2% among children at least five years old by 2012. Detailed certification guidelines and criteria have been developed to validate the achievement of this goal in each country by an independent certification panel. In 2008, South Korea and Macao (China) became the first countries to be certified for achieving the regional goal. South Korea and Macao(China) have reduce the chronic hepatitis B infection rates to less than 1% among birth cohorts born since 1992 and 1994, respectively from pre-vaccination levels of 6-12%.

CAMBODIA

27/08/08 from WPRO: Cambodia is planning to submit GAVI application for 'Immunization Services Support (ISS)' and introduction of Hib containing pentavalent vaccine in September 2008 round. WPRO/WHO is providing technical assistance for preparation of the application including cold chain analysis for preparedness to include pentavalent vaccine, costing and financial, and immunization coverage analysis as required for the application.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

27/08/08 from WPRO: Papua New Guinea started rotavirus sentinel surveillance for the first time in 2008 in Goroka hospital in May 2008. WPRO/WHO provided the technical assistance. For the month of May and June 2008, it reported 43.8% of diarrhoea admissions to be due to rotavirus infection. This is in line with the data reported from other countries.

VIET NAM

27/08/08 from WPRO: WPRO provided technical assistance to Viet Nam on developing their vaccine introduction plan and development of surveillance systems to assess the impact of vaccine once it is introduced. Viet Nam got approved by GAVI to introduce DPT-HepB-Hib vaccine in May 2008 round.

LIST OF MEETINGS & KEY EVENTS RELATED TO IMMUNIZATION

Regional Meetings & Key Events Related to Immunization: September 2008 onwards					
Title of Meeting	Start	Finish	Location	Responsible Partner	Region
Sep-08					
PAHO meeting for Sharing Experience and Lessons learned from Vaccination Campaigns to Eliminate Measles, Rubella and CRS	01-Sep	05-Sep	Rio de Janeiro	PAHO	PAHO
Regional Committee Meeting for Africa	01-Sep	05-Sep	Yaoundé, Cameroon	AFRO	AFR
SEARO Regional Committee Meeting	08-Sep	11-Sep	New Delhi, India	SEARO	SEAR
EURO Regional Committee Meeting	15-Sep	18-Sep	Tbilisi, Georgia	EURO	EUR
WPRO Regional Committee Meeting	22-Sep	26-Sep	Manila, Philippines	WPRO	WPR
Annual Measles Initiative Meeting	22-Sep	27-Sep	Washington, USA	Measles Initiative	Global
PAHO Regional Committee Meeting	29-Sep	03-Oct	Washington DC	PAHO	PAHO
Oct-08					
GAVI Regional Working Group Meeting for East & South Africa	01-Oct	02-Oct	Nairobi, Kenya	AFRO (E&S)	AFR
PAHO Workshop on ProVac	07-Oct	09-Oct	Asuncion, Paraguay	PAHO	PAHO
GAVI Independent Review Committee Meeting for HSS proposals (Submission Deadline: 12 September 2008)	03-Oct	15-Oct	Geneva	GAVI	Specific
WHO & UNICEF Meeting on Monitoring National Immunization Systems	15-Oct	17-Oct	Bangkok, Thailand	WHO/UNICEF	Global
PAHO Regional Meeting on Mumps	20-Oct	21-Oct	Washington DC	PAHO	PAHO
EMRO EPI Managers Meeting	20-Oct	22-Oct	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	EMRO	EMR
EMRO Regional Committee Meeting	20-Oct	23-Oct	Cairo, Egypt	EMRO	EMR
GAVI Independent Review Committee Meeting for ISS, INS, NVS and Measles 2nd Dose proposals (Submission Deadline: 25 September 2008)	23-Oct	31-Oct	Geneva	GAVI	Specific
EMRO 24th RTAG Meeting	29-Oct	29-Oct	Dubai, UAE	EMRO	EMR
Nov-08					
Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) meeting	04-Nov	06-Nov	Geneva	WHO/HQ	Global
EMRO Bacterial Meningitis and Pneumococcal Regional Surveillance Networks Follow-Up meeting	11-Nov	13-Nov	Casablanca, Morocco	EMRO	EMR
25th Meeting of the Caribbean Expanded Program on Immunization Managers	17-Nov	21-Nov	Bahamas	PAHO	PAHO
GAVI South East Asian Regional Working Group Meeting	20-Nov	21-Nov	Bhutan	SEARO	SEAR

GAVI Eastern Mediterranean Regional Working Group Meeting	18-Nov	20-Nov	Cairo, Egypt	EMRO	EMR
EMRO Measles Inter-Country Meeting for Priority Countries (GAVI Eligible, Iraq and Lebanon)	22-Nov	28-Nov	Dubai, UAE	EMRO	EMR
EMRO Measles Inter-Country Meeting for Remaining Countries	tbd	tbd	Dubai, UAE	EMRO	EMR
Dec-08					
14th Meeting of the Regional Commission for the Certification of Poliomyelitis Eradication in the Western Pacific Region (RCC)	09-Dec	10-Dec	Vientiane, Lao PDR	WPRO	WPR
EMRO Rotavirus Regional Surveillance Network Follow-Up Meeting	16-Dec	18-Dec	Amman, Jordan	EMRO	EMR
2009 Meetings					
PneumoADIP and Hib Initiative Surveillance Networks Investigators	1Q 2009	1Q 2009	tbd	WHO/HQ	Global
PAHO Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on Vaccine-Preventable Diseases	26-Jan	29-Jan	tbd	PAHO	PAHO
Global Immunization Meeting	24-Feb	26-Feb	New York	UNICEF/WHO	Global
Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) meeting	07-Apr	09-Apr	Geneva	WHO/HQ	Global
PAHO Sub-Regional Meeting of the Central American Region, Mexico and the Spanish Caribbean on Vaccine Preventable Diseases	08-Jun	11-Jun	tbd	PAHO	PAHO
PAHO Sub-Regional Meeting of the Andean and Southern Cone Regions on Vaccine Preventable Diseases	12-Aug	13-Aug	tbd	PAHO	PAHO
Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) meeting	27-Oct	29-Oct	Geneva	WHO/HQ	Global
26th Meeting of the Caribbean Expanded Program on Immunization Managers	16-Nov	20-Nov	tbd	PAHO	PAHO

LINKS RELEVANT TO IMMUNIZATION

GLOBAL WEBSITES

Department of Immunization, Vaccines & Biologicals, World Health Organization

<http://www.who.int/immunization/en/>

WHO New Vaccines Hib website

<http://www.who.int/nuvi/hib/>

GAVI Alliance Website

<http://www.gavialliance.org/>

IMMUNIZATIONbasics (JSI)

www.immunizationbasics.jsi.com

PATH Vaccine Resource Library

<http://www.path.org/vaccineresources>

UNICEF Supply Division Website

http://www.unicef.org/supply/index_immunization.html

UNICEF Supply Division Product Menu for GAVI Vaccines

http://www.unicef.org/supply/files/Product_Menu_2007.PDF

Hib Initiative Website

<http://www.hibaction.org/>

Japanese Encephalitis Resources

http://www.path.org/vaccineresources/japanese_encephalitis-resources.php

Malaria Vaccine Initiative

<http://www.malariavaccine.org>

Meningitis Vaccine Project

<http://www.meningvax.org/index.htm>

PneumoADIP

www.preventpneumo.org/

RotaADIP

<http://www.rotavirusvaccine.org/>

RHO Cervical Cancer (HPV Vaccine)

<http://www.rho.org>

WHO/ICO Information Center on HPV and Cervical Cancer

<http://www.who.int/hpvcentre/en/>

SIGN Updates

www.who.int/entity/injection_safety/sign/en/

Technet

<http://www.technet21.org/>

REGIONAL WEBSITES

New Vaccines in AFRO

<http://www.afro.who.int/newvaccines/>

PAHO's website for Immunization

<http://www.paho.org/english/ad/fch/im/Vaccines.htm>

Vaccine Preventable Diseases in EURO

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

New Vaccines in SEARO

<http://www.searo.who.int/en/section1226.asp>

Immunization in WPRO

http://www.wpro.who.int/health_topics/immunization/

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