



# GLOBAL IMMUNIZATION NEWS

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**29 February 2008**

## **TECHNICAL INFORMATION**

### **GLOBAL IMMUNIZATION MEETING**

**29/02/08 from Jhilmil Bahl, WHO/HQ:**

#### **Global immunization meeting: experts discuss progress and challenges**

Topics for discussion at the third annual Global Immunization Meeting on 19-21 February included examining the progress towards reaching the global immunization and mortality reduction goals and addressing the challenges ahead. Participants -- about 200 experts -- reviewed the information on the final stage of polio eradication and the preparations for the post-eradication era, the remarkable progress in global measles mortality reduction and the experiences from integrating immunization activities with other health interventions, in particular the success of child health days. This three-day meeting was jointly organized by WHO, UNICEF and the GAVI Alliance and took place in Geneva. Two CD-ROMs were prepared for the meeting, one containing updated Immunization publications and other containing GIM presentations.

To receive these CD-ROM please write to [epitraining@who.int](mailto:epitraining@who.int)

### **HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (HPV)**

**29/02/08 from Tiequn Zhou, WHO/HQ:**

#### **WHO Consultation on the Standardization of HPV Assays and the role of HPV Laboratory Network (LabNet) in supporting vaccine introduction**

WHO organized a consultation from 23-25 January 2008 in Geneva, Switzerland, by convening the HPV LabNet members, other leading experts from academia, regulators, industry and interested parties to review the progress in the HPV LabNet and standardization area, discuss the current status, identify the challenges and define the next workplan.

HPV testing is a critical element for policy-making both in pre-HPV vaccine introduction and post vaccination era (surveillance and vaccination impact monitoring). Standardized assays are essential to ensure generating consistent and comparable qualified data in HPV prevalence and vaccination impact. The role of the HPV LabNet and importance of standardization was highly recognized at the meeting. The complexity and variety in the HPV testing is a big challenge. The LabNet is anticipated to play a major role in promoting the standardization progress and contributing to HPV surveillance worldwide.

During 2008, the capacity of the HPV LabNet at the regional level should be reinforced. Prioritized activities for LabNet and standardization were agreed.

Recommendations were to inform national public health authorities of the opportunities afforded by the network; to designate network focal points in each of the WHO regional offices; to develop WHO recommendations on HPV surveillance and vaccination impact monitoring, to shape WHO strategic plan for the LabNet and to fundraise for network activities. The meeting was very useful for defining the next workplan and identifying major challenges for conducting HPV surveillance.

Launched in 2006, as part of a Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation funded project, the mission of the HPV LabNet is to contribute to the improvement of the quality of laboratory services for disease burden surveillance and monitoring of the impact of HPV vaccines.

For more information, see:

[http://www.who.int/biologicals/areas/human\\_papillomavirus/WHO HPV LabNet/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/biologicals/areas/human_papillomavirus/WHO HPV LabNet/en/index.html)

## **IMMUNIZATION FINANCING & SUSTAINABILITY**

**29/02/08 from Lidija Kamara, WHO/HQ:**

### **Update from the Immunization Financing & Sustainability (IF&S) Task Team**

The support of the GAVI Alliance to the poorest countries of the world to strengthen and expand their immunization programs is expected to contribute substantially towards attainment of MDG4 (child health). In GAVI Phase 1, support to countries for new and underused vaccines was provided free to countries for an initial period. In order to assist countries to move towards greater financial sustainability of their national programs, a new policy of country co-financing has been developed for Phase 2. Transition to this new policy will require more evidence-based decision-making and better planning and budgeting at country level to ensure timely and adequate financing. This transition will require additional GAVI Alliance partner effort at both country and global levels. For this reason, the IF&S Task Team was formed in April 2007 with the mandate of ensuring the GAVI Alliance is on the best path regarding vaccine co-financing and immunization program financial sustainability, and to oversee the implementation of the GAVI co-financing policy. The IF&S Task Team is co-chaired by WHO, the World Bank and UNICEF and includes representatives from the GATES Foundation, GAVI Secretariat, World Bank, UNICEF Supply Division, UNICEF Program Division, WHO Head office and Regions.

The IF&S Task Team held its third meeting since its inception in Geneva from 21-22 February 2008. The meeting was organized by the World Bank and hosted by the GAVI Secretariat. The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Review progress of the IF&S TT to date and workplan priorities for 2008
- Finalize the co-financing Default Policy, process and timelines for Board Decision
- Share proposed analytical work and agree on priorities analyses to be conducted in 2008
- Define co-financing monitoring and evaluation framework
- Review membership and mandate for the IF&S TT in view of pending GAVI governance decisions

With 2008 being the first year of implementation requiring a number of GAVI eligible countries to effect their co-financing commitments, much of the focus of the IF&S Task Team will be in supporting the implementation and monitoring of country co-financing commitments through the GAVI Alliance partners to ensure timely and successful implementation of the co-financing policy in countries.

Should you require further information from the meeting and/or on the co-financing policy, please send an email to [co-financingquestions@gavialliance.org](mailto:co-financingquestions@gavialliance.org)

## **NEW & UNDER-UTILIZED VACCINES**

**28/01/08 from Patrick Zuber, WHO/HQ:**

Prior to the Global Immunization Meeting held in Geneva recently, a satellite meeting on new vaccines was organized on 18 February 2008 to discuss critical issues related to introducing new vaccines. The meeting was well attended by participants from WHO and UNICEF headquarters, regional and country offices, as well as from the Ministries of Health of Angola, Bangladesh, China, DR Congo, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan and Thailand.

The meeting focussed on the specific country experiences regarding the following themes critical to introducing new vaccines:

- Country decision-making and the role of advocacy;
- Hib introduction and the management of vaccine products;
- Monitoring and surveillance of routine EPI and vaccine preventable diseases;
- Country co-financing for new vaccines;
- Cold chain and logistics requirements;
- Establishing regional and global goals for hepatitis B control and prevention.

There is an increasing appreciation for the value of financial planning in the preparation of new vaccines introduction. Co-financing is well understood by the country representatives with respect to national commitment and possible sources of financing. However, the actual mechanism for countries to make their co-financing payments and/or directly procure their co-financing portion of their vaccine supply requires additional clarification by GAVI.

Another area of concern that is clearly identified has to do with the availability of vaccine products that are well suited to the needs of the local programmes. The implication on cold chain space of several products and the preference for fully liquid, low-dose vial presentation vaccines were the main characteristics identified by the participants. The issue of vaccine safety monitoring was also raised, with a recognition that current systems are not sufficiently active, and that as the variety of vaccines and presentations being introduced into countries increases, this is an area that needs to be urgently strengthened.

Establishing a hepatitis B control goal in WPRO has helped to increase political and financial support for hepatitis B immunization activities in the region. For other regions, the approach towards hepatitis B control

goals varies with respect to the regional importance of the disease, as well as with the progress with other immunization priorities.

## **POLIO**

**28/01/08 from Oliver Rosenbauer, WHO/HQ:**

### **Polio eradication - WHO DG Margaret Chan in Nigeria and Angola to support countries' efforts to wipe out disease**

World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Dr Margaret Chan this week travelled to Nigeria and Angola to support these countries' polio eradication efforts and underscore the importance of rapidly completing the job.

In Nigeria, in high-level meetings with His Excellency Umaru Yar'Adua, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Hajia Turai Yar'Adua, First Lady of the Federal Republic and the Honourable Federal Minister of Health Professor Adenike Grange, Dr Chan commended Nigeria's intensified eradication efforts resulting in progress against the disease over the past 12 months. In 2007, the incidence of polio has declined overall by 75% compared with 2006, and prevalence of the most dangerous serotype of the virus (type 1) has been slashed by nearly 90%.

At the same time, however, Dr Chan cautioned against complacency and urged a further intensified effort, as upwards of 18% of children continue to be missed during polio Immunization Plus Days (IPDs) in key areas in the north of the country. She urged for the full application of new tools and tailored tactics for eradicating polio, and called for the vaccination gap to be closed through increased engagement of Local Government Area (LGA) leaders. Attending the official launch of the latest IPDs on 21 February in the company of His Eminence, the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji (Dr) Sa'ad Abubakar III, and First Lady Hajia Turai Yar'Adua, Dr Chan stated: "In every country, success against polio comes when local government leaders, community leaders and elders make the health of children a top priority. It is local ownership that solves the problems and ensures success."

In Angola, Dr Chan discussed polio eradication within the broader health context with His Excellency José Eduardo dos Santos, President of Angola, Prime Minister Mr Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos, and Minister of Health Dr Ruben Sicato. Angola is one of only two re-infected countries (along with Chad) not to have stopped its outbreak following re-infection in 2005, after having already eradicated the disease in 2001. With risk of further spread of virus to neighbouring countries deemed as high, outbreak response activities must be urgently and fully implemented to re-eradicate the disease in the country.

With her visit to Nigeria, Dr Chan has now visited each of the remaining four polio-endemic countries, with trips to Afghanistan, India and Pakistan in 2007. Since the launch of a 24-month intensified eradication effort at an urgent stakeholder consultation in Geneva in February 2007, the most dangerous serotype of polio (type 1) has been beaten back to its lowest-ever recorded levels. During her tour of polio-endemic and re-infected countries, Dr Chan has assured each head of state of WHO's ongoing support and assistance in their intensified efforts to eradicate polio. With the full application of new tools and tailored tactics, and with full ownership at local level, these countries now have a unique opportunity to consign polio to the history books once and for all.

For further information on the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, please visit [www.polioeradication.org](http://www.polioeradication.org).

## **ROTAVIRUS**

**29/02/08 from Robin Biellik, PATH:**

### **Workshop informs diarrhoeal disease control planning in Eastern Europe**

Child health experts and immunization program managers from Eastern Europe and Central Asia discussed new opportunities for controlling diarrhoeal disease at a two-day workshop in Tbilisi, Georgia, sponsored by PATH in partnership with the Republic of Georgia's Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs, and the Curatio International Foundation. Health officials from Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldova, Tajikistan, and Georgia discussed the burden of diarrhoeal disease in their own countries and summarized existing control strategies. Representatives from UNICEF, WHO, the GAVI Alliance and PATH presented regional morbidity and mortality data, along with evidence on zinc treatment, low-osmolarity oral rehydration solution, and rotavirus vaccines as critical tools for an integrated approach to enhance diarrhoeal disease control.

PATH is now working with the Georgian MoH to develop a national diarrhoeal disease control plan, and the workshop opened the door to future collaborations with other countries interested in developing or updating control plans, introducing rotavirus vaccines or accelerating update of other interventions.

## **TYPHOID**

**29/02/08 from Alison Brunier, WHO/HQ:**

A revised WHO position paper on typhoid vaccines was published in the WHO Weekly Epidemiological Record on 8 February <http://www.who.int/wer/2008/wer8306.pdf>. The paper is available in English and French. The text will appear in Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Spanish on <http://www.who.int/immunization/documents/positionpapers/en/index.html> in due course. The updated paper replaces that published in the Weekly Epidemiological record on 11 August 2000 (No 32, 2000, 75, 257-264). It reflects recent epidemiological data, scientific developments and accrued programmatic experience in the field of typhoid fever immunization, as well as recommendations made at the meeting of the WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization held on 6-9 November 2007.

WHO conservatively estimates the annual global incidence of typhoid fever to be 21 million cases, of which 1-4% result in death. It is estimated that 90% of these deaths occur in Asia.

Children aged 5-15 years are disproportionately affected. In some endemic areas, children under 5 years of age show incidence rates similar to, or exceeding those, of children of school age.

Increasing multidrug resistance of *S. Typhi* reduces the effective treatment options, increases treatment costs and results in higher rates of serious complications and deaths.

In the revised paper, WHO recommends replacement of the relatively reactogenic whole-cell typhoid vaccine by the safer second-generation Vi polysaccharide and Ty21a vaccines, the accessibility and affordability of which have greatly improved in recent years. The efficacy of both vaccines in children less than 2 years of age has not been demonstrated, however, and neither is licensed for use in this age group. Countries are encouraged to consider the programmatic use of typhoid vaccines for controlling endemic disease and outbreak control, taking into account data on subpopulations at particular risk and age-specific incidence rates, the sensitivity of the prevailing *S. Typhi* strains to relevant antimicrobial drugs, and cost-effectiveness. Vaccines may be offered to travellers to destinations where the risk of typhoid fever is high.

The updated position paper includes a limited number of key references. Additional references can be found at [http://www.who.int/immunization/Refs\\_Typhoid\\_Feb\\_9\\_2008.pdf](http://www.who.int/immunization/Refs_Typhoid_Feb_9_2008.pdf)

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **WHO PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS**

**29/02/08 from Mario Conde, WHO/HQ:**

#### **Aide-memoire for prevention of freeze damage to vaccines (WHO/IVB/07.09)**

Cold chain storage is necessary to prevent damage to vaccine due to heat exposure, but keeping vaccines too cold can be just as harmful as keeping them too warm - many vaccines are damaged by freezing. WHO guidelines recommend that many liquid vaccines should not be frozen. Freezing of these vaccines results in loss of potency which can never be restored. Use of the vaccine can result in decreased effectiveness in recipients. This aide-memoire summarizes WHO guidance on prevention of vaccine freezing in a concise 2-page document that can be used as a reminder of previously published material and is ideally suited as a communications tool, job-aid or learning resource.

[http://www.who.int/immunization/documents/WHO\\_IVB\\_07.09/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/immunization/documents/WHO_IVB_07.09/en/index.html)

#### **The Immunological Basis for Immunization Series: Module 9: Haemophilus influenzae type b (ISBN 978 92 4 159613 8)**

The main purpose of this document - part of the Immunological basis for immunization series- is to give vaccination professionals e.g. EPI managers, a brief and easy-to-understand overview of the scientific basis of vaccination regarding Haemophilus influenzae type b.

<http://www.who.int/immunization/documents/ISBN9789241596138/en/index.html>

## **GAVI-RELATED INFORMATION**

### **CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS**

**29/02/08 from the GAVI Alliance:** An estimated five new Civil Society Organization proposals are expected to be submitted in March 2008.

### **GAVI GENDER POLICY**

**29/02/08 from the GAVI Alliance:** The GAVI Alliance is in the process of developing a gender policy to enhance understanding of gender dimensions in supporting countries to strengthen immunization. Thoughts, experiences and suggestions can be directed to Sofia östmark ([sostmark@gavialliance.org](mailto:sostmark@gavialliance.org))

## HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING

**29/02/08 from the GAVI Alliance:** A proposal for more funding for HSS was made to the GAVI Board which will meet on 26 February 2008. A request for guidance from the Board on HSS monitoring issues will also be made during this meeting. An estimated 13 new proposals for HSS support are expected to be submitted in March 2008.

## HIB INITIATIVE

**29/02/08 from Judy Heck, Hib Initiative:**

### **New report on the progress of Hib vaccine introductions:**

Considerable progress has been made in the uptake of Hib vaccine in countries that most need it, according to reports released Thursday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and also from WHO in the WER (Weekly Epidemiological Record) of February 15, 2008. The reports briefly trace the history of the response of the GAVI Alliance, the largest donor of vaccine support, to the slow uptake of the vaccine prior to 2005. The report reviews the progress that has been made since 2000, including the progress made by the Hib Initiative, a consortium of partners brought together by the GAVI Alliance in 2005.

The report can be read in its entirety in the World Health Organization's WER (Weekly Epidemiological Record) of February 15, 2008, available online at <http://www.who.int/wer/2008/wer8307.pdf> and also available in the MMWR (Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5706a3.htm>.

**Update on Hib vaccine introductions and applications to GAVI Alliance for financial support:** Sri Lanka and Sudan launched the DTP-HepB/Hib pentavalent vaccine at the beginning of 2008. Uzbekistan submitted an application to the GAVI Alliance for financial support for purchase of pentavalent vaccine. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Mozambique and Nepal, had previously applied in 2007 and received a conditional approval on their application. They have resubmitted their applications to GAVI this February.

### **Advocacy workshop for childhood pneumonia prevention in Asia**

The Hib Initiative and PneumoADIP are hosting an Asia Regional Advocacy for Childhood Pneumonia Prevention Workshop in Indonesia, April 22-24, 2008. This workshop will gather together leading public health professionals committed to advancing child health and survival initiatives. Prominent child health experts from eight different Asian countries have been invited from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Pakistan, Nepal and Vietnam, united by a common interest in preventing childhood pneumonia. Participants will have the opportunity to actively participate and share ideas in group discussions and presentations working together to develop an advocacy action plan for their country to raise the profile of child pneumonia as an urgent healthcare need.

## PROPOSAL REVIEW

**29/02/08 from the GAVI Alliance:** The GAVI Independent Review Committee will review the applications received from eight countries for ISS, Measles 2<sup>nd</sup> Dose and New Vaccines support from 10-19 March 2008. The following is the list of applications that were received for this review:

| Country     | Type of Support Requested |     |      |     |      |      |
|-------------|---------------------------|-----|------|-----|------|------|
|             | ISS                       | MSD | HepB | Hib | PCV7 | Rota |
| Afghanistan |                           |     |      | X   |      |      |
| Bangladesh  |                           |     |      | X   |      |      |
| Bhutan      |                           |     |      | X   |      |      |
| Korea DPR   |                           | X   |      |     |      |      |
| Mozambique  |                           |     |      | X   |      |      |
| Nepal       |                           |     |      | X   |      |      |
| Rwanda      | X                         |     |      |     | X    |      |
| Uzbekistan  |                           |     |      | X   |      |      |

## REVIEW PROCESS

### **Next Review Dates:**

#### **PROPOSAL REVIEWS - ISS, INS, New Vaccines & Measles 2<sup>nd</sup> Dose:**

**First Review:** The deadline for receiving applications was **8 February 2008**. The applications will be reviewed from **10-19 March 2008**.

**Second Review:** The deadline for receiving applications is **2 May 2008**. The applications will be reviewed from **6-15 June 2008**.

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

#### **HSS REVIEWS**

**First Review:** The deadline for receiving applications is **7 March 2008**. The applications will be reviewed from **14-26 April 2008**.

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

#### **MONITORING REVIEW**

The deadline for receiving annual progress reports is **15 May 2008**. The annual progress reports will be reviewed from **16-30 June 2008**.

## ROTA & PNEUMO INTRODUCTION

**29/02/08 from the GAVI Alliance:** The GAVI Alliance is proceeding with partner consultations on accelerating pneumococcal and rotavirus vaccine introduction, now available for procurement support for GAVI-eligible countries. Thoughts, experiences and suggestions can be directed to Rosamund Lewis ([rlewis@gavialliance.org](mailto:rlewis@gavialliance.org))

## COUNTRY INFORMATION<sup>1</sup> BY REGION

### EUROPEAN REGION

#### REGIONAL INFORMATION

**29/02/08 from WHO/EURO:**

##### **WHO and ECDC co-organized meeting on communication and advocacy**

The WHO Regional Office for Europe and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) co-organized a meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria on 11-12 February 2008 on "Key topics on migrants' and hard-to-reach populations' health in central-eastern Europe: advocating and promoting immunization."

Representatives from nine countries as well as partner agencies and organizations including the Roma Center for Social Intervention and Studies, the EUVAC.NET and EpiSouth participated. The workshop included both presentations about how to reach migrant groups and other hard-to-reach groups regarding immunization, as well as hands-on training on how to advocate and promote immunization among these groups. The WHO presented its experiences with communication and advocacy related to the European Immunization Week, while the ECDC, representing the Vaccine Preventable Disease Project and Migrant Health Project - talked about its experiences with strengthening immunization among hard-to-reach groups ensuring, for example, that mobile populations are covered by the BCG vaccine. The EUVAC.NET presented

<sup>1</sup> 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;

an overview of measles outbreaks in the EU and the imported aspects of them. Country experiences from representatives from the Roma population in Romania were also shared. The training material used for the workshop will now be developed into a handbook that Member States will be provided and can use in their advocacy and communication work. The workshop evaluation shows that it was very well received among the participants, and close to 80 percent of responders indicated that the exercises had been useful for their future activities.

### **More countries introducing new and underutilized vaccines**

A major component of the work of the WHO/EURO is to assist Member States in introducing new and underutilized vaccines, and there is indeed a lot of activity in this area at the moment.

By the beginning of 2008, 37 of the 53 Member States in the European Region had introduced the Hib-containing vaccine, and two countries introduced Hib-containing vaccines in part of their territories. Out of a total eight countries eligible for GAVI support in Phase 2, two countries, Moldova and Tajikistan, have been successful in their application for GAVI Alliance funds for the introduction of Hib-containing vaccines in their national immunization schedules planned for 2008. Four other countries — Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan — are planning to apply in 2008 for funding support to introduce the Hib-containing vaccines. Two additional middle-income countries from the Region, Kazakhstan and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, have decided to introduce the Hib-containing vaccine in their national immunization schedules in 2008.

By 2008, 10 countries in the European Region have introduced pneumococcal vaccine in their national immunization schedules. Austria, Belgium and Luxembourg have introduced the rotavirus vaccine. Among the GAVI-eligible countries, Moldova plans to introduce the pneumococcal vaccine in 2009, and Uzbekistan plans to introduce the rotavirus vaccine in 2010.

## **MOLDOVA**

**29/02/08 from WHO/EURO**

### **WHO European Region and ECDC support fight against mumps outbreak**

WHO/EURO and ECDC have arranged a joint mission to Moldova from 11 February to 7 March to support national authorities in a mumps outbreak investigation and response.

Moldova is at the moment experiencing mumps epidemics that started in October 2007. As of late February, more than 10 000 cases have been reported, but no deaths or encephalitis had occurred. The hardest hit age group is 15-24 year-olds. A high attack rate (10-15%) was observed in affected schools and colleges. Most cases (66%) had a history of one or two doses of mumps vaccine; for 31% of cases data on vaccination is missing. Over 42% of the cases have been hospitalized.

The objectives of the WHO/ECDC mission are: First, to identify the extent of the mumps outbreak; Second, to define risk factors and populations at risk and, third, to provide recommendations on short- and medium-term interventions for mumps control as well as strengthening surveillance for vaccine-preventable diseases. Preliminary recommendations of the mission are: to sustain the routine two dose MMR vaccination programme; to limit hospitalization to clinical indications only, and to plan a supplemental MMR vaccination campaign for 15-24 year-olds (school and university-based). Further studies to obtain insight into the vaccine effectiveness and risk factors for vaccine failure will be conducted during the mission.

## **SOUTH EAST ASIAN REGION**

### **SRI LANKA**

**29/02/08 from Nihal Abeyasinghe, EPI Manager, Sri Lanka:** Sri Lanka successfully launched the Hib-containing pentavalent vaccine with GAVI support on 1 January 2008.

## LIST OF MEETINGS & KEY EVENTS RELATED TO IMMUNIZATION

| Regional Meetings & Key Events Related to Immunization: March 2008 onwards  |        |        |                            |                     |          |
|---|--------|--------|----------------------------|---------------------|----------|
| Title of Meeting  | Start  | Finish | Location                   | Responsible Partner | Region   |
| <b>Mar-08</b>   |        |        |                            |                     |          |
| Russian Federation Rubella Programme Meeting  | March  | March  | Moscow, Russian Federation | EURO                | EUR      |
| WHO Regional Meeting on HPV Vaccine: Towards Comprehensive Cancer Control: HPV Vaccine Policy and Planning Meeting for the Region of the Americas | 03-Mar | 07-Mar | Brazil                     | PAHO                | PAHO     |
| EPI Managers' Meeting for the West African Block  | 03-Mar | 07-Mar | Ouagadougou                | AFRO (W&C)          | AFR      |
| GAVI West & Central African Sub-Regional Working Group Meeting  | 08-Mar | 08-Mar | Ouagadougou                | AFRO (W&C)          | AFR      |
| GAVI Independent Review Committee Meeting for ISS, INS, NVS and Measles 2nd Dose proposals ( <b>Submission Deadline: 8 February 2008</b> )        | 10-Mar | 19-Mar | Geneva                     | GAVI                | Specific |
| EMRO MNT Elimination Inter-Country Meeting  | 11-Mar | 13-Mar | Sana'a, Yemen              | EMRO                | EMR      |
| EPI Managers' Meeting for the Central African Block   | 17-Mar | 21-Mar | Douala                     | AFRO (W&C)          | AFR      |
| GAVI East & South African Regional Working Group Meeting  | 17-Mar | 18-Mar | Maputo, Mozambique         | AFRO (E&S)          | AFR      |
| EMRO Meeting of Policy-Makers & Programme Managers on strengthening cervical cancer prevention through HPV vaccine reduction                      | 25-Mar | 27-Mar | Morocco                    | EMRO                | EMR      |
| <b>Apr-08</b>   |        |        |                            |                     |          |
| Pre-GAVI Application workshop for West & Central African countries  | 07-Apr | 11-Apr | Kinshasa, DR Congo         | AFRO (W&C)          | AFR      |
| Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) meeting  | 08-Apr | 10-Apr | Geneva                     | WHO/HQ              | Global   |
| GAVI Independent Review Committee Meeting for HSS proposals ( <b>Submission Deadline: 7 March 2008</b> )  | 14-Apr | 26-Apr | Geneva                     | GAVI                | Specific |
| GAVI Eastern Mediterranean Regional Working Group Core Meeting  | 15-Apr | 16-Apr | Cairo, Egypt               | EMRO                | EMR      |
| WPRO Training Course on New Vaccines  | 15-Apr | 18-Apr | Manila, Philippines        | WPRO                | WPR      |
| Immunization Week in the Americas   | 19-Apr | 26-Apr | Region-Wide                | PAHO                | PAHO     |
| GAVI European Regional Working Group Meeting  | 24-Apr | 24-Apr | Copenhagen, Denmark        | EURO                | EUR      |
| European Immunization Week  | 21-Apr | 27-Apr | Region-Wide                | EURO                | EUR      |

| <b>May-08</b>  |         |         |                      |        |          |
|--|---------|---------|----------------------|--------|----------|
| EMRO 23rd RTAG Meeting   | 04-May  | 08-May  | Riyadh, Saudi Arabia | EMRO   | EMR      |
| GAVI South East Asian Regional Working Group Meeting   | 12-May  | 12-May  | Katmandu             | SEARO  | SEAR     |
| SEAR EPI Program Manager and ITAG Meeting  | 12-May  | 15-May  | Katmandu             | SEARO  | SEAR     |
| <b>Jun-08</b>  |         |         |                      |        |          |
| GAVI Independent Review Committee Meeting for ISS, INS, NVS and Measles 2nd Dose proposals ( <b>Submission Deadline: 2 May 2008</b> )        | 06-Jun  | 15-Jun  | Geneva               | GAVI   | Specific |
| EMRO 25th Inter-Country EPI Managers Meeting   | 15-Jun  | 18-Jun  | Riyadh, Saudi Arabia | EMRO   | EMR      |
| GAVI Monitoring Review ( <b>Submission Deadline: 15 May 2008</b> )   | 16-Jun  | 30-Jun  | Geneva               | GAVI   | Specific |
| New and Under-Utilized Vaccines Implementation Meeting   | 23-Jun  | 25-Jun  | Montreux             | WHO    | Global   |
| WPRO Pacific Immunization Strengthening Meeting  | June    | June    | tbd                  | WPRO   | WPR      |
| Global Vaccine Research Forum 2008   | 29-Jun  | 02-Jul  | Paris                | WHO    | Global   |
| <b>Jul-08</b>  |         |         |                      |        |          |
| WPRO Regional Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting   | 07-Jul  | 11-Jul  | Manila, Philippines  | WPRO   | WPR      |
| <b>Aug-08</b>  |         |         |                      |        |          |
| PAHO Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on Vaccine-Preventable Diseases   | 18-Aug  | 21-Aug  | tbd                  | PAHO   | PAHO     |
| <b>Sep-08</b>  |         |         |                      |        |          |
| GAVI South East Asian Regional Working Group Meeting   | 22-Sep  | 23-Sep  | Bhutan               | SEARO  | SEAR     |
| <b>Oct-08</b>  |         |         |                      |        |          |
| PneumoADIP and Hib Initiative Surveillance Networks Investigators  | 4Q 2008 | 4Q 2008 | tbd                  | WHO/HQ | Global   |
| GAVI Independent Review Committee Meeting for HSS proposals ( <b>Submission Deadline: 12 September 2008</b> )                                | 03-Oct  | 15-Oct  | Geneva               | GAVI   | Specific |
| EMRO Measles Inter-Country Meeting for Priority Countries (GAVI Eligible, Iraq and Lebanon)  | 21-Oct  | 23-Oct  | Dubai, UAE           | EMRO   | EMR      |
| GAVI Independent Review Committee Meeting for ISS, INS, NVS and Measles 2nd Dose proposals ( <b>Submission Deadline: 25 September 2008</b> ) | 23-Oct  | 31-Oct  | Geneva               | GAVI   | Specific |
| EMRO Measles Inter-Country Meeting for Remaining Countries   | 26-Oct  | 28-Oct  | Dubai, UAE           | EMRO   | EMR      |
| EMRO 24th RTAG Meeting   | 29-Oct  | 29-Oct  | Dubai, UAE           | EMRO   | EMR      |
| <b>Nov-08</b>  |         |         |                      |        |          |
| 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    |
| GAVI Eastern Mediterranean Regional Working Group Meeting  | 18-Nov | 20-Nov | Cairo, Egypt        | EMRO   | EMR    |
| <b>Dec-08</b>  |        |        |                     |        |        |
| WPRO RCC Meeting   | 02-Dec | 03-Dec | tbd                 | WPRO   | WPR    |
| EMRO Rotavirus Regional Surveillance Network Follow-Up Meeting   | 16-Dec | 18-Dec | Amman, Jordan       | EMRO   | EMR    |
| <b>2009 Meetings</b>   |        |        |                     |        |        |
| 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                          | 10-Aug | 13-Aug | tbd                 | PAHO   | PAHO   |
| Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) meeting   | 27-Oct | 29-Oct | Geneva              | WHO/HQ | Global |
| 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](http://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](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](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](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/](http://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/](http://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/](http://www.wpro.who.int/health_topics/immunization/)

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