In 1947 the Danish Red Cross launched a tuberculosis vaccination campaign in post-war Europe. A year later, under joint Scandinavian and UNICEF leadership, and with WHO support, it was extended to the 'developing world'. By 1951 the campaign had reached 22 countries, and vaccinated over 16 million people. It was transformed from a post-war European relief effort into an international public health programme. Today's presentation, focusing on India, examines the strains inherent in this transformation. What happened to the concept of 'mass vaccination' in such a populous country? How far were standards modified in order to adapt to conditions outside Europe? How were weak infrastructure and lack of medically qualified personnel handled? This presentation investigates the conditions under which an early venture in public health on a global scale had to operate.

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