



# GLOBAL IMMUNIZATION NEWS

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**25 April 2008**

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## **TECHNICAL INFORMATION**

### **POLIO**

**25/04/08 from Oliver Rosenbauer, WHO/HQ:**

#### **Polio eradication - Most recent polio cases in Angola and Sudan demonstrate ongoing risk of importations**

A case of paralytic poliomyelitis (polio) due to wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1), with onset of paralysis on 2 March 2008, has been reported in the southern part of Sudan (Jonglei province) in an area bordering Ethiopia. It is the first polio case detected East of Chad since September 2007 (most recent cases in the Horn of Africa: Sudan, September 2007; Somalia, March 2007; Ethiopia, November 2006). This most recent WPV1 is genetically-related to virus originating in Northern Nigeria that spread across the region, and which caused outbreaks across the Horn of Africa. A combined Sudan/Ethiopia outbreak response is currently being planned. Two large-scale supplementary immunization activities (SIAs) covering the whole of Southern Sudan (target population: approximately 2.5 million children) and 52 woredas (districts) of South-Western Ethiopia bordering southern Sudan (target population: approximately 400,000 children) will be held in early May and again in early June, using monovalent oral polio vaccine type 1 (mOPV1). Key to success will be to reach every child, especially those living in remote, difficult-to-access areas, as well as those living in zones of conflict. Although current population immunity levels across the Horn of Africa are higher than in 2004-2005 when large outbreaks occurred in this region, the risk of further polio spread remains, compounded by frequent population movements. Plans for further SIAs in the second half of 2008, and longer-term plans for strengthening subnational surveillance across several countries in Central Africa, are currently being developed.

In Angola, confirmation of a polio case due to wild poliovirus type 3 (WPV3) has been received, with onset of paralysis on 19 March (from Luanda province). Angola is already fighting an outbreak of WPV1, and this is the first WPV3 reported from the country since 2000. Preliminary genetic data indicates this virus is of South Asian origin, and represents the third separate importation from South Asia into Angola since 2005 (at least two WPV1s and one WPV3). The situation in Angola poses a significant risk of onward spread of polio, as efforts had concentrated on stopping WPV1 transmission; population immunity levels to WPV3 must now be rapidly raised. Two National Immunization Days (NIDs) had already been planned with mOPV1 (on 16-18 May and on 20-22 June), and discussions are currently ongoing to ensure these NIDs are used also as a platform to raise immunity to WPV3.

These most recent polio cases in Angola and Sudan underscore the risk polio continues to pose to populations everywhere, as long as endemic transmission of the virus continues anywhere in the world. Four countries remain which have never interrupted endemic transmission: Nigeria, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Since the launch of the intensified eradication effort in February 2007, efforts are continuing in all four countries to rapidly interrupt disease transmission through the wide-scale application of tailored tools and eradication tactics. For further information on the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, please visit [www.polioeradication.org](http://www.polioeradication.org).

## VACCINATION WEEK

**25/04/08 from Hayatee Hasan, WHO/HQ:**

In 2008, the Americas and Europe are uniting to vaccinate millions of children, adults and seniors. More than 75 countries and territories are participating in vaccination weeks in the Americas (19-26 April) and Europe (21-27 April).

Vaccination campaigns against diseases such as influenza, measles, rotavirus, rubella and yellow fever are being combined with advocacy and social communication activities to increase awareness of the importance of immunization. These annual initiatives focus on improving low immunization coverage, immunizing hard-to-reach populations and promoting the use of new and existing vaccines.

A video message by Dr. Mirta Roses, Director of the Pan American Health Organization, Dr Marc Danzon, Regional Director of the World Health Organization for Europe and Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organization, discussing this unique initiative is now online. To view the video, click on: [http://www.paho.org/English/DD/PIN/vw2008\\_video.htm](http://www.paho.org/English/DD/PIN/vw2008_video.htm)

For more information on the vaccination weeks, visit:

Vaccination Weeks in the Americas 2008: <http://www.paho.org/English/DD/PIN/vw2008.htm>

European Immunization Week 2008: [http://www.euro.who.int/vaccine/eiw/20080319\\_1](http://www.euro.who.int/vaccine/eiw/20080319_1)

## PUBLICATIONS

### WHO PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS

**25/04/08 from Mario Conde, WHO/HQ:**

**The report of the meeting with International Partners on Influenza Vaccine technology Transfer to Developing Country Vaccine Manufacturers** (WHO/IVB/08.09)

This meeting report looks at the purpose of the meeting to raise funds for the Flu Grantees project bringing together grantees, potential donors and development agencies.

[http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2008/WHO\\_IVB\\_08.09\\_eng.pdf](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2008/WHO_IVB_08.09_eng.pdf)

**The report of the First meeting of the Global Action Plan (GAP) to Increase Supply of Pandemic Influenza Vaccines**

(WHO/IVB/08.10)

This meeting report looks at the progression of the GAP since May 2006 and prepares recommendations.

[http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2008/WHO\\_IVB\\_08.10\\_eng.pdf](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2008/WHO_IVB_08.10_eng.pdf)

## GAVI-RELATED INFORMATION

### HIB INITIATIVE

**25/04/08 from Judy Heck, The Hib Initiative:**

Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 4 and recent publications: the Countdown to 2015 meeting this April in Cape Town reminded country leaders from 68 priority countries that in addition to DTP3 and measles vaccines coverage, *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib3) vaccine is a health assessment indicator for a country's progress in reaching MDG4. The recent publication (April, *Tropical Medicine and International Health*) of a Uganda study on the powerful impact of Hib vaccine and the upcoming publication (May, *The Pediatric Infectious Diseases Journal*) of a cost-effectiveness study in Lombok, Indonesia showing the vaccine as a life-saving investment provides further evidence of immunization as an effective intervention towards achieving MDG4.

## REVIEW PROCESS

### **Next Review Dates:**

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

**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 was **7 March 2008**. The applications were 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**.

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

### **WEST & CENTRAL AFRICA**

#### **REGIONAL INFORMATION**

**25/04/08 from Gill Mayers, WHO/HQ:**

#### **GAVI Pre-application Workshop for West & Central African Countries**

A workshop was organized by WHO/AFRO to support 11 countries from the West and Central African sub-regions to peer-review the countries' comprehensive Multi-Year Plans (cMYPs), New Vaccines Introduction Plans and GAVI application forms in preparation for submission for the May 2008 round of GAVI applications. Ten cMYPs and nine applications were reviewed, three for pentavalent vaccines and six for the introduction of pneumococcal vaccines. The workshop took the form of a few key presentations on GAVI co-financing, cold chain requirements for new vaccines introduction, also included a presentation by GAVI on their new interactive application form. Resource people guided individual countries first in the peer-review of other countries' submissions, and subsequently integrating necessary amendments for completion of submission. At the end of the workshop, all countries had committed to AFRO to submit their final applications by 18 April for comments which will be fed back to countries by 23 April to allow countries to revise their applications as needed prior to final submission to GAVI.

### **SOUTH EAST ASIA**

#### **REGIONAL INFORMATION**

**25/04/08 from SEARO:**

#### **Workshop for National Committees for Immunization Practices**

A workshop was jointly organized by WHO and UNICEF in Jakarta, Indonesia from 25-28 March 2008. The workshop brought together the National Committees for Immunization Practices (NCIP) to discuss the roles of such advisory bodies in countries. Representatives from the US Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the South Korean ACIP facilitated the meeting. This is the first of such a workshop where the advisory bodies met together to discuss common issues to strengthen their individual functions at country level. In the South East Asia Region, almost all countries now have such official bodies in place and it is expected that by December 2008, all countries will have a functioning technical advisory group for immunization. The key topic deliberated by these advisory bodies is the lack of national policies for use of seasonal influenza vaccine in the South East Asian countries, the need to strengthen influenza surveillance and ways to stimulate global demand for seasonal influenza vaccine to prepare better for a possible pandemic in the future.

#### **Sub-Committee of National Technical Advisory Group for Immunization of India**

A sub-committee of National Technical Advisory Group for Immunization (NTAGI) of India, with support from WHO, the Hib Initiative, and the PneumoADIP met at the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) from 16-17 April 2008 to discuss the disease burden of *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) and pneumococcal disease in India, and the cost benefit issue around the use of Hib and pneumococcal vaccines. The

<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;

committee's key recommendations to the government were to strengthen the capacity of the immunization programme at all levels to boost routine programme to achieve high coverage with routine immunization services, and to introduce the pentavalent (DTP-HepB+Hib) to address the issues of Hib, to accelerate the introduction of hepatitis B vaccine into the national programme, and to prepare for introduction of pneumococcal conjugate vaccines by 2012 .

## **WESTERN PACIFIC**

### **REGIONAL INFORMATION**

#### ***25/04/08 from WPRO:***

**Joint UNICEF/WHO meeting on MNTE** - On 21-22 April 2008, an informal meeting was held at the UNICEF Regional Office for the East Asia Pacific (EAPR) in Bangkok to coordinate maternal and neonatal (MNT) elimination activities between WHO and UNICEF in the WHO Western Pacific Region (WPR) and EAPR. The meeting was attended by headquarter and regional office representatives from both organizations. For each of the priority countries, the current situation was analysed, and synchronized support activities for 2008 were identified. In the two regions, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Philippines and Timor Leste still have to achieve MNT elimination.

#### **PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

***25/04/08 from WPRO:*** PNG introduced tetravalent (DTP-Hib) vaccine into their national immunization program from April 2008. However, it intends to switch the presentation to pentavalent (DTP-HepB-Hib) from 2009. Technical assistance will be provided from 26 April - 2 may 208 to assist the country to submit their request on switching the vaccine presentation to GAVI.

## LIST OF MEETINGS & KEY EVENTS RELATED TO IMMUNIZATION

Regional Meetings & Key Events Related to Immunization: May 2008 onwards					
Title of Meeting	Start	Finish	Location	Responsible Partner	Region
<b>May-08</b>					
EMRO 23rd RTAG Meeting	04-May	08-May	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	EMRO	EMR
GAVI Joint Executive Committee Meeting	06-May	06-May	Washington DC	GAVI	Global
WHO Regional Meeting on HPV Vaccine: Towards Comprehensive Cancer Control: HPV Vaccine Policy and Planning Meeting for the Region of the Americas	12-May	14-May	Mexico City, Mexico	PAHO	PAHO
GAVI European Regional Working Group Meeting	May	May	tbd	EURO	EUR
<b>Jun-08</b>					
Eight International Rotavirus Symposium	03-Jun	04-Jun	Istanbul, Turkey	Sabin, RVP, CDC	Global
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
Logistics & Vaccine Management Meetings: Consultation on Vaccine Stock Management & Preparing Cold Chain for New Vaccines Introduction	16-Jun	19-Jun	Leysin, Switzerland	WHO	Global
New and Under-Utilized Vaccines Implementation Meeting	23-Jun	25-Jun	Montreux, Switzerland	WHO	Global
SEAR Regional Workshop for Master Trainers for the use of Mid Level Managers' MLM Modules for Training in Immunization	23-Jun	27-Jun	New Delhi, India	WHO/SEAR	SEAR
GAVI Board Meeting	25-Jun	26-Jun	Geneva, Switzerland	GAVI	Specific
European Technical Advisory Group of Experts	June/July	June/July	tbd	EURO	EUR
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
SEAR Immunization Technical Advisory Group meeting (SEAR ITAG)	14-Jul	15-Jul	Bangkok, Thailand	SEARO	SEAR

GAVI Regional Working Group Meeting for the Western Pacific	July	July	Manila, Philippines	WPRO	WPR
<b>Aug-08</b>					
SEAR EPI Program Manager and ITAG Meeting	20-Aug	22-Aug	Katmandu	SEARO	SEAR
PAHO Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on Vaccine-Preventable Diseases	25-Aug	29-Aug	Lima, Peru	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 Regional Working Group Meeting for East & South Africa	01-Oct	02-Oct	Nairobi, Kenya	AFRO (E&S)	AFR
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
Meeting of the Caribbean Expanded Program on Immunization Managers	17-Nov	21-Nov	tbd	PAHO	PAHO
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/)

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

