



GLOBAL IMMUNIZATION NEWS

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

30 July 2008

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

CAPACITY BUILDING & TRAINING

30/07/08 from Jhilmil Bahl, WHO/HQ: Representatives from nine member countries of the South East Asia region attended a five-day "Regional Workshop for Master Trainers for the use of Mid Level Managers (MLM) Modules for Training in Immunization". A set of eight modules has been developed by WHO, covering all aspects of the immunization system. The training methodologies included lectures, group exercises, role plays, games, warm up activities, quizzes, as well as daily evaluation by the participants. Participants also presented progress in training activities in their respective countries, including major issues and future plans as well as additional support required to achieve their respective priorities.

HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS

30/07/08 from Katy Irwin, WHO/HQ: A brief WHO fact sheet on HPV vaccines is now available on the WHO website - please see <http://www.who.int/reproductive-health/publications/cancers.html> for more information.

IMMUNIZATION DATA

30/07/08 from Laure Dumolard & Marta Gacic Dobo, WHO/HQ:

Immunization Data Collection and Dissemination: In an effort to strengthen collaboration and minimize the reporting burden, WHO and UNICEF jointly collect information through a standard questionnaire (the Joint Reporting Form) sent to all Member States each year.

Information collected in the Joint Reporting Form include estimates of national immunization coverage, reported cases of vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs), immunization schedules, as well as indicators of immunization system performances.

167 (87%) of member states reported data on 2007 performance by 27 June 2008. This information is now available on the immunization website:

<http://www.who.int/vaccines/globalsummary/immunization/countryprofileselect.cfm>

Global and regional summary data will be published in September 2008.

POLIO

30/07/08 from Oliver Rosenbauer, WHO/HQ:

G8 recommit to polio eradication, as efforts to curb Nigerian outbreak are scaled up

Leaders of the G8 countries meeting on 7-9 July at the G8 Summit in Toyako, Japan, noted progress towards polio eradication and issued the statement: *"To maintain momentum towards the historical achievement of eradicating polio, we will meet our previous commitments to maintain or increase financial contributions to support the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, and encourage other public and private donors to do the same."* The G8 is historically the single most important donor base to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, having provided more than 52 percent of global funding since 1988.

As the G8 re-affirmed its support, all eyes were on Nigeria: in response to this year's new outbreak of type 1 polio (the most dangerous strain of the polio virus), the acting Federal Minister of Health has established a high-level task force to urgently address the operational challenges which mar the quality of polio immunization campaigns. In key high-risk areas in the north of the country, upwards of 20 percent of

children continue to be missed during campaigns. The outbreak has already spread to neighbouring Benin and the Burkina Faso-Niger border, and the risk of further international spread is increasing with the onset of the rainy season (associated with increased poliovirus transmission) and anticipated large-scale population movements for the Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia) in the second half of the year. Through the International Health Regulations (2005) mechanism, the World Health Organization has informed its Member States of the rising risk of international spread of polio due to this outbreak.

Nigeria continues to conduct emergency outbreak response campaigns, with the next activities planned throughout August. Preventive immunizations also continue in high-risk border areas of Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, and disease surveillance has been heightened in 'at-risk' countries throughout the region.

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

GAVI-RELATED INFORMATION

HIB INITIATIVE

30/07/08 from Judy Heck, Hib Initiative: Advocacy continues in South-East Asia with participants of the Hib Initiative-PneumoADIP advocacy workshop working towards creating awareness about life-threatening pneumonia for children under five years of age, and the interventions for pneumonia prevention and control. Two opinion editorials were recently published in the Cambodian Daily and the Jakarta Post about the threat of childhood pneumonia:

Pneumonia: Indonesia's forgotten child killer was authored by Sri Rezeki S. Hadinegoro, Professor of Paediatrics at the University of Indonesia in Jakarta and Chairperson of the Immunization Task Force of Indonesian Paediatric Society.

We Must Work to Protect Children From Infectious Diseases was co-authored by Dr. Niklas Danielsson, child health expert with WHO in Cambodia and two vaccines experts, Chan Theary, Country Director of Reproductive and Child Health Alliance-Cambodia and Dr. Hong Rathmoney, Vice President of the Ministry of Health's Department of Communicable Disease Control and Vice Chair of Cambodia's Child Survival Management Committee.

Both editorials are available at <http://www.hibaction.org/news.php#news>. For more information, please email Judy Heck at jheck@jhsph.edu

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

SOUTH EAST ASIA

MYANMAR

30/07/08 from Diana Chang Blanc, UNICEF/EAPRO: Cyclone Nargis hit on 2-3 May 2008, with Yangon and Ayerwaddy provinces declared by the Government as affected zones (47 townships and 2-4 million affected). Twenty-four townships in affected areas (17 in Yangon and 7 in Ayerwaddy) have been targeted to receive an integrated package of health interventions which includes immunization, vitamin A, iron/ vitamin B1, deworming, and antenatal care (ANC) - post-natal care (PNC) services. The programme commenced in 17 townships in early July 2008, with the duration of implementation varying between 5-10 days depending on geographic barriers and infrastructure conditions.

WESTERN PACIFIC

REGIONAL INFORMATION

30/07/08 from WPRO:

WPRO Technical Advisory Group Meeting

The 17th Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Immunization and Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPDs) in the Western Pacific Region was held in Manila from 7-11 July 2008. For the first three days, the meeting consisted of a concurrent Polio, Measles and Japanese Encephalitis Laboratory Network Meeting and Workshop in VPD Surveillance. The regular TAG meeting was held during the final two days. The Laboratory Network Meeting resulted in numerous recommendations to ensure quality and timeliness of laboratory procedures for diagnosis of polio, measles and Japanese encephalitis (JE) virus. The VPD Surveillance Workshop reviewed technical and operational aspects of surveillance for several VPDs, including diseases targeted by pneumococcal conjugate, Hib and JE vaccines. The workshop also addressed management and planning issues, with participants preparing preliminary plans of action on integrated VPD surveillance, but with particular emphasis on the need to strengthen case-based surveillance for measles and AFP.

The TAG reviewed the overall "Strategic Direction of Immunization in the Western Pacific Region: 2008-2012", as well as regional strategic plans for measles elimination, Hepatitis B control and certification, maintaining poliomyelitis free status, and new and underutilized vaccine introduction. The TAG recommended immediate action to address the financial shortfall for measles elimination activities, and encouraged countries to update their plans of actions and budgets. Recognizing the very large burden of rubella and potential for congenital rubella syndrome because of data emanating from the improved case based measles and rubella surveillance, the TAG recommended that the Regional Office draft a strategic plan for accelerated control of rubella and congenital rubella syndrome that includes guidelines for rubella vaccine introduction, and that some countries plan now to introduce rubella containing vaccines. While Hepatitis B control has made much progress, the TAG recommended further intensification of efforts by countries and the Regional Office alike, and for poor performing countries to focus in improving coverage with a timely birth dose of HepB 3. To prevent spread of potentially imported poliovirus, the TAG reminded countries of the need to maintain high immunization coverage and strengthen AFP surveillance while at the same time ensuring updated inventories of infectious and potentially infectious materials containing wild poliovirus, and continuously updating lists of biomedical laboratories in anticipation of the next phase of lab containment requirements. Countries that have yet to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus were encouraged to use local data to develop appropriate strategies to achieve this goal. The TAG also re-emphasized the need to strengthen integrated VPD surveillance and improve routine immunization programme monitoring according to the Global Framework of Immunization Monitoring and Surveillance (GFIMS), and to ensure that national regulatory authorities fulfil their appropriate functions. Finally, the TAG called on GAVI-eligible countries to avail opportunities provided by GAVI for new vaccine introduction, if consistent with their national health priorities.

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;

LAOS

30/07/08 from Diana Chang Blanc, UNICEF/EAPRO: Child Health Days which included immunization, vitamin A and mebendazole distribution were conducted nationally in June 2008 through local MCH committees.

MONGOLIA

30/07/08 from Diana Chang Blanc, UNICEF/EAPRO: Draft strategy and implementation guidelines have been developed on a RED strategy with a wider focus on essential health care services, adapted from the Health Sector Master Plan. The package will include specific health interventions such as immunization, IMCI, micro-nutrient distribution, prenatal care, hygiene/sanitation education, as well as social services and registration through local authorities. A four-day workshop was conducted in early June 2008 for central and district level managers in Byanzurkh District (Ulaanbaatar) on the RED strategy. The RED tools will be finalized and the methodology will be applied in additional districts over the course of the year.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

30/07/08 from Diana Chang Blanc, UNICEF/EAPRO: A neonatal survival package pilot launched in one district (East Sepik) to include health education and the use of HepB Uniject.

LIST OF MEETINGS & KEY EVENTS RELATED TO IMMUNIZATION

Regional Meetings & Key Events Related to Immunization: August 2008 onwards					
Title of Meeting	Start	Finish	Location	Responsible Partner	Region
Aug-08					
SEAR EPI Program Manager and ITAG Meeting	21-Nov	22-Aug	Katmandu	SEARO	SEAR
Sep-08					
Oct-08					
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 (Submission Deadline: 12 September 2008)	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 (Submission Deadline: 25 September 2008)	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
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
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
Dec-08					
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
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
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/

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

