



GLOBAL IMMUNIZATION NEWS

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

27 July 2009

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

IMMUNIZATION DATA

27/07/09 from Marta Gacic Dobo, WHO/HQ:

National Immunization Coverage Data - WHO and UNICEF have reviewed data available on national immunization coverage and made country-specific estimates of immunization coverage for 1980-2008.

These estimates are based on data officially reported to WHO and UNICEF by Member States as well as data reported in the published and grey literature. Whenever possible, consultations have taken place with local experts - primarily national EPI managers and WHO regional office staff - for additional information regarding the performance of specific local immunization services. Based on the data available, consideration of potential biases, and contributions from local experts, WHO and UNICEF have attempted to determine the most accurate level of immunization coverage. Coverage data has been reviewed and the estimates updated annually.

The data is posted on the web in tabular format and excel file:

http://www.who.int/immunization_monitoring/en/globalsummary/timeseries/tswucoveredtp3.htm

The country profiles of coverage estimates are on:

http://www.who.int/immunization_monitoring/en/globalsummary/wucoveragecountrylist.cfm

INJECTION SAFETY

27/07/09 from Selma Khamassi, WHO/HQ:

Safe Injection Global Network (SIGN) Meeting - The dates and venue for the 2009 SIGN Annual Meeting coincides with SIGN's 10th anniversary. This year's meeting will be held where SIGN was started ten years ago, at the WHO headquarters in Geneva, from 30 November - 2 December 2009. This meeting will run back-to-back with a Performance Quality and Safety (PQS) consultative meeting with partners, including injection devices manufacturers on 3-4 December 2009.

This opportunity will also be used to review SIGN's achievements since its launch in the area of injection safety and related infection control.

More information will follow soon in the SIGN Post and SIGN website:

http://www.who.int/injection_safety/sign/en/

Please direct any enquiries to sign@who.int with a copy to matovuj@who.int

POLIO

27/07/09 from Oliver Rosenbauer, WHO/HQ:

Polio eradication: India technical body concludes country is 'on the right track' for eradication - *Only one lineage of type 1 polio surviving; new recommendations to maximize operations*

The India Expert Advisory Group on Polio Eradication (IEAG), convening in Delhi, India on 24-25 June 2009, reviewed the epidemiologic, virologic, genetic, operational and technical evidence, and concluded that India is firmly on the right track to complete the job of polio eradication. In particular, the group

noted that genetic biodiversity is at an all-time low, with only one lineage of type 1 polio surviving in 2009.

The IEAG put forward a number of new recommendations, including the incorporation of the new bivalent oral polio vaccine (bivalent OPV - see June issue of GIN) into the country's accelerated supplementary immunization activities (SIA) schedule as of November. Other strategies include the evaluation of novel ways to further overcome compromised OPV efficacy in Uttar Pradesh state, by exploring the role of additional vaccine solutions (i.e. inactivated polio vaccine) and at the same time addressing the underlying risk factors which may lead to compromised efficacy in the first place (i.e. administration of zinc supplements, which has been shown to be associated with a reduction in diarrhoeal disease).

Critically, the group highlighted the need to optimize operations in the Kosi river basin, Bihar. For this hard-to-reach area prone to extreme flooding and where type 1 polio circulation is continuing, the group endorsed a set of further refined tactics to maximize the impact of outreach activities.

The IEAG was attended by the new Government of India Joint Secretary of Health (with responsibility for polio eradication), Amit Mohan Prasad, who expressed his commitment to polio eradication and announced his intention to personally discuss the new eradication strategies with the state health sectors in both Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

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

MATERNAL AND NEONATAL TETANUS (MNT)

27/07/09 from Fouzia Shafique, Kate Bai, Francois Gasse, (UNICEF HQ), Jos Vandelaer (WHO/UNICEF Geneva) and Susan Byrne (WHO/HQ):

In June 2009, TT-SIAs were conducted in 117 high risk districts (HRDs) of four countries targeting more than 4.6 million women of reproductive age (WRA):

In **Angola**, the first round of the second phase of activities was conducted from 14-28 June 2009 in 83 HRDs targeting more than 1.5 million WRA. The country is expected to complete all TT-SIAs in 2010 with validation scheduled for 2011.

In **Ethiopia**, the second round in a series of two corrective rounds in six zones targeting 1.6 million WRA was conducted from 8-12 June 2009. All needed TT-SIAs in Ethiopia are expected to be completed by mid 2010 with validation re-scheduled to 2011.

In **Tanzania**, the first round of TT SIAs was conducted from 13-15 June 2009, targeting 1.27 million WRA in 15 high risk districts. The next two rounds are scheduled for July and December 2009. Validation of MNT Elimination is scheduled in 2010. A report on the status of MNT in Tanzania in 2007, prior to these SIAs and based on a lot-quality assurance cluster survey (LQA), has just been published in the WER, No. 29, 2009, 84:289 - 300: <http://www.who.int/wer/2009/wer8429.pdf>

In **Timor Leste**, the third TT SIA round targeting 222,500 WRA was conducted in all 13 districts of the country in June 2009 integrated with measles vaccination and Vitamin A supplementation of children and & iron/folate supplementation for women. A review will be conducted in late 2009 to assess the need for additional localized TT SIAs, or readiness for validation. MNT validation is currently scheduled for 2010.

Important decisions related to validation of MNT Elimination were made in two countries:

A data review in **Comoros** in June 2009, concluded that Comoros is ready for validation. A nation-wide LQA is scheduled for early November 2009.

Another district-data review in **Madagascar** in June 2009 identified the Region of Betsiboka as likely having the highest risk of NT. An LQA is scheduled for end September/early October 2009 for this Region, to demonstrate whether MNT has been eliminated.

PNEUMOCOCCAL CONJUGATE VACCINES

27/07/09 from Maria Baca-Estrada, WHO/HQ:

WHO Consultation Meeting on Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine - This meeting was convened to discuss the revisions to the pneumococcal conjugate vaccines recommendations TRS 927 (Technical Report Series), in London from 23-24 June 2009.

New pneumococcal conjugate vaccines with wider serotype coverage than the current 7-valent formulation have been recently approved in some countries or are in different stages of development.

Prior to the implementation in national immunization programmes, vaccines need to be licensed by the regulatory agencies of each country or, if provided by UN agencies, they need to be pre-qualified by WHO. Many regulatory agencies and manufacturers have indicated that further guidance regarding the criteria for evaluating and licensing new pneumococcal conjugate vaccines was needed. Therefore, WHO initiated the revisions to the current WHO recommendations to assure the quality, safety and efficacy of pneumococcal conjugate vaccines. The changes were prepared based on the outcomes of a previous

consultation meeting held in 2008. More information can be found under: (<http://www.who.int/biologicals/publications/meetings/areas/vaccines/pneumococcal/en/index.html>). The objectives of the meeting in London (June 23-24, 2009) were to review and discuss the revised document with representatives from manufacturers, national regulatory authorities and academia. Participants provided excellent comments and consensus was reached on many of the critical issues. The demonstration of immunological non-inferiority to the licensed vaccine continues to be the recommended approach to the evaluation of new pneumococcal conjugate vaccines. The revisions aimed to clarify the serological criteria for assessing the efficacy of new conjugate vaccines against invasive pneumococcal disease. In particular, it is emphasized that all relevant immunological data should be taken into account when comparing new pneumococcal conjugate vaccines with the licensed vaccine. It is expected that the revised document will be submitted this fall to the Expert Committee on Biological Standardization.

GAVI-RELATED INFORMATION

Next GAVI Review Dates:

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

19-30 October 2009. Submission deadline: 4 September 2009.

6-16 April 2010. Submission deadline: 4 March 2010.

25 October - 5 November 2010. Submission deadline: 27 September 2010.

MONITORING IRC

21-25 September 2009

Submission deadline: 15 May 2009

15-30 June 2010 and 20-24 September 2010

Submission deadline: 14 May 2010 for both rounds.

COUNTRY INFORMATION¹ BY REGION

AMERICAS

REGIONAL INFORMATION

27/07/09 from Beatrice Carpano & Carolina Danovaro, PAHO:

Meetings held in the Region of the Americas:

An international meeting was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 1-3 June 2009 to consolidate and assess adverse events associated with administration of the yellow fever vaccine. This meeting was organized by the Clinical Advisory Services of Brazilian vaccine manufacturer Bio-Manguinhos/Fiocruz and the Secretariat of Health Surveillance of the Brazilian Ministry of Health. Staff members from WHO and PAHO were among the participants in this meeting.

The high-level meeting on *Influenza A (H1N1): Lessons Learned and Preparing for the Future* was held in Cancún, Mexico from 1-3 July 2009. The objectives of the meeting were to discuss and agree upon technical and methodological tools to prevent, contain, and mitigate influenza A(H1N1) in the upcoming months, as well as to share different country experiences in the management of the virus. This

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;
NRA = National Regulatory Authority

meeting was organized jointly between the governments of Mexico, Canada, and the United States, with support from the World Health Organization and the Pan American Health Organization.

Release of three publications:

During the XVIII TAG Meeting, PAHO's FCH/IM will release three innovative publications documenting the history of measles, rubella, and congenital rubella syndrome (CRS) elimination in the Region of the Americas. *Compendium of Measles Articles* and *Compendium of Rubella and Congenital Rubella Syndrome Articles* compile all the articles published on these diseases in the *EPI Newsletter/Immunization Newsletter*. The objective of the publications is to share national and local experiences on how to implement disease elimination initiatives, lessons learned, and best practices.

Images that Inspire: the Mobilization of the Americas to Eliminate Measles and Rubella, is a collection of posters used by PAHO Member States in their efforts to ensure that the Region is free from measles and rubella. The posters sketch the visual and iconographic system that was developed to report, persuade, recognize, and motivate the peoples of the Americas to remain true to their commitment to eliminate both diseases.

All three publications pay a graphic and written tribute to the legion of men and women—health workers and volunteers—who have contributed to measles, rubella, and CRS elimination. PAHO recognizes that without their persistence, dedication, and unwavering determination, these initiatives could not have moved forward.

EUROPEAN REGION

REGIONAL INFORMATION

27/07/09 from Liudmila Mosina, WHO/EURO:

Workshops on the deployment of pandemic influenza vaccine - A series of workshops on the deployment of pandemic influenza vaccine is being organized in the European Region. The overall objective of the workshops is to improve the planning capacity of the Member States for the timely and effective deployment of A(H1N1) vaccines, as well as the sharing of existing country plans. The first workshop will be conducted in Copenhagen from 17-20 August 2009, with the participation of 32 countries and representatives from partner institutions. Main discussion points for this workshop are expected to be i) vaccination strategies according to recent SAGE guidance ii) operations, structures and resources required for effective vaccine deployment in Western European country settings iii) post-marketing surveillance of A(H1N1) vaccines iv) information and communications management.'

Training on Health Care Waste Management - A comprehensive training set on health care waste management has been developed in collaboration with ETLog, Germany, an expert institution on waste management. The training material consists of modules and practical tools for a three-day training of health care waste management focal points at country level. A pilot training will be conducted in Uzbekistan, from 24-28 August 2009 to test the modules and to receive feedback for finalization.

Measles & Rubella Surveillance Module - A measles and rubella surveillance module for data collection and analysis will be piloted in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan in collaboration with US CDC. Trainings on the module followed by implementation will be conducted in August and September 2009.

GEORGIA

27/07/09 from Liudmila Mosina, WHO/EURO:

WHO EURO together with the WHO country office for Georgia is conducting a Regional Workshop on Strengthening Bacterial Meningitis Surveillance to be held on 15-17 September 2009 in Tbilisi, Georgia. Epidemiologists and clinicians from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan will participate in the workshop. The main aim of the workshop is to assist the countries in improving early detection, investigation and reporting of bacterial meningitis. The main objectives of the training are to improve understanding of the key principles of bacterial meningitis surveillance and to develop practical skills in completing the case report forms, interpreting clinical and laboratory results, data management, and coordinating a bacterial meningitis surveillance system.

TAJIKISTAN

27/07/09 from Liudmila Mosina, WHO/EURO:

A **mass measles and rubella immunization campaign** among persons aged 1 – 14 years will be held in Tajikistan from 28 September - 12 October 2009. The target population to be covered is approximately 2,340,000. Tajikistan is the only country in the WHO European Region with no rubella immunization programme to date. This campaign is an important part of the overall measles and rubella elimination strategy in the country, which also includes introduction of the rubella vaccine into the routine

childhood immunization programme starting in November 2009. The measles and rubella SIA will provide an opportunity to strengthen the routine immunization programme and, therefore, requires very careful planning with particular attention to logistics and immunization safety. WHO EURO works closely with UNICEF and the other Measles Initiative partners to facilitate campaign planning and implementation.

SOUTH EAST ASIA

REGIONAL INFORMATION

27/07/09 from Nihal Abeysinghe, WHO/SEARO:

A regional consultation on establishing a measles elimination goal in South East Asia

WHO SEARO will be organizing a regional consultation on establishing a measles elimination goal in South East Asia. The meeting will be held in New Delhi from 25-27 August 2009. This consultation will bring together the country participants and experts to review the progress made in the region for the control of measles until now and identify the key steps necessary in immunization and surveillance to reach the measles elimination standards. It will review the issues on funding, vaccine supply and security, injection safety and other related issues. It is expected that this would help the region to outline a road map to reach measles elimination.

A workshop on planning for the deployment of pandemic influenza vaccine

A workshop on planning for the deployment of pandemic influenza vaccine will be held in New Delhi, India from 14-18 September 2009. The objective of the workshop is to prepare the member states of the South-East Asia region on the deployment of pandemic influenza vaccine. It will specifically aim at agreeing for a framework for developing detailed procedures to deploy a pandemic influenza vaccine and sharing information on how to plan and establish surge capacity to deploy vaccine and ancillary items in seven days. It will also describe and discuss core-management activities such as logistics, waste disposal, human resources and communications. The guidance on how to conduct a simulation exercise to test the execution capacity of the deployment plan will also be provided.

INDIA

27/07/09 from Renu Paruthi, WHO/India:

Performance Assessment of Health Workers Training in Routine Immunization in India

WHO-NPSP (National Polio Surveillance Project), in collaboration with National Institute of Health and Family Welfare started a study to assess the performance of trained health workers (HWs) in India. Around 120,000 HWs (out of total 200,000) have been trained during 2007-08 for two days with the Immunization Handbook for Health Workers and the Facilitators' guide developed by the Government of India with Partners' support in 2006. The training material was developed after a baseline Performance Needs Assessment (PNA) study of Health Workers was conducted in 40 districts in eight states in 2005. The study is being conducted in two phases during June and July 2009 in 40 districts across seven states (same states as of PNA study) of the country. One study team (each with two members) visits one district for a period of 4-5 days. They collect information based on the study tools from the district trainers, medical officers of the PHCs, trained health workers and the beneficiaries/care givers through interviews as well as through observation of the training facilities and the trained health workers in providing the immunization services.

It is expected that the study will highlight important issues related to training as well as the immunization programme and provide recommendations for improving the performance of health workers.

27/07/09 from Balwinder Singh, WHO/India:

Training on AEFI Monitoring and Causality Assessment

Following a request from the Government of India, training on AEFI Monitoring and Causality Assessment is to be conducted by WHO in New Delhi, India from 3-7 August 2009. The objective of this training is to build the capacity of the National/Sub-National AEFI committee members to conduct a high quality investigation and causality assessment of AEFI.

The topics to be discussed will include the importance of AEFI monitoring and causality assessment, global initiatives to support AEFI monitoring and causality assessment, investigation of AEFI, analysis of vaccine safety data, terms of reference and standard procedures for the National Causality Assessment Committee, outcomes of AEFI monitoring and causality assessment and how to prepare safety related messages. The safety profiles of vaccines used in the EPI, developing an investigational framework for AEFI clusters are also included as topics.

REGIONAL INFORMATION

29/06/09 from Shafiqul Hossain, WHO/WPRO:

MNTE activities in WPR - New momentum has been gained towards elimination of maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT) in the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) and the Philippines. Joint WHO/UNICEF missions were conducted in July 2009 to support district level risk assessments and development of activity plans towards the elimination goal. In the Lao PDR, approximately 806,000 child bearing age women (CBAW) in 99 districts in all 17 provinces will be targeted with three rounds of tetanus toxoid (TT) supplementary immunization activities (SIAs), probably beginning in November 2009. One round will also offer deworming. When possible, activities will be held in conjunction with the regular Child Health Days which offer vitamin A and mebendazol to children under 5 years of age twice a year. Additionally, vaccinating CBAW in factories in Vientiane City and other major cities is also being explored. In the Philippines, nine high risk provinces and cities, mainly in Mindanao, will conduct three rounds of TT SIAs for approximately 922,000 CBAW. For 23 provinces classified as medium risk, lot quality assurance cluster surveys (LQA-CS) will be conducted to determine if TT SIAs would be required or strengthening routine immunization be the appropriate approach to ensure MNT elimination. Some small scale pilot TT SIAs are planned first to identify specific campaign requirements, particularly in terms of social mobilization; to avoid resurgence of TT controversies experienced in the past.

Pandemic Vaccine Deployment Training - A training for pandemic vaccine deployment is being planned for non-Pacific Island Countries from 31 August - 4 September 2009 at the WHO WPRO office in Manila, Philippines. The objectives of the workshop are to:

- Introduce operational frameworks and guidelines for rapid vaccine deployment; and
- Prepare draft outlines of the Influenza A(H1N1) vaccine deployment plan and timeframe for their finalization by each participating Member State as part of the national Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Plan.

PHILIPPINES

29/06/09 from Shafiqul Hossain, WHO/WPRO:

A **vaccine procurement assessment** is being planned in the Philippines from 3-6 November 2009.

LIST OF MEETINGS & KEY EVENTS RELATED TO IMMUNIZATION

Regional Meetings & Key Events Related to Immunization				
Title of Meeting	Start	Finish	Location	Region
2009 Meetings				
PAHO Measles/Rubella Laboratory Network Meeting	23-Aug	23-Aug	Costa Rica	PAHO
XVII Meeting of the PAHO Technical Advisory Group on Vaccine-Preventable Diseases	24-Aug	26-Aug	Costa Rica	PAHO
AFRO West & Central African New Vaccines Peer Review Workshop for GAVI Applications	24-Aug	28-Aug	Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire	AFRO
Regional Consultation on Establishing a Measles Elimination Goal in South East Asia	25-Aug	27-Aug	New Delhi, India	SEARO
Meeting to Prepare for the Verification of Measles/Rubella-free Status of the Americas	27-Aug	27-Aug	Costa Rica	PAHO
Regional EPI Lab Network Meeting	Sept	Sept	Manila, Philippines	WPRO
16th Meeting of the GAVI Eastern Mediterranean Regional Working Group	06-Sep	07-Sep	El Gouna, Egypt	EMRO
15th WPRO Regional Committee Meeting	21-Sep	25-Sep	Hong Kong	WPRO
WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office	03-Oct	06-Oct	Cairo, Egypt	EMRO
Inter-country training workshop on surveillance of vaccine preventable diseases and monitoring & evaluation of national immunization programmes	07-Oct	09-Oct	Cairo, Egypt	EMRO
DCD sub regional meeting for countries in South-West Asia (Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan)	18-Oct	20-Oct	Tehran, Iran	EMRO
Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) meeting	27-Oct	29-Oct	Geneva	HQ
26th Meeting of the Caribbean Expanded Program on Immunization Managers	16-Nov	20-Nov	tbc	PAHO
GAVI Board Meeting	17-Nov	18-Nov	tbc	Global
GAVI Partners Meeting	18-Nov	20-Nov	Vietnam	Global
DCD sub regional meeting for countries in the Horn of Africa	23-Nov	25-Nov	Djibouti	EMRO
Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety (GACVS)	02-Dec	03-Dec	Geneva	Global
Global Vaccine Research Forum (GVRF)	06-Dec	10-Dec	Bamako	Global
EMRO Workshop on invasive bacterial diseases surveillance network	15-Dec	17-Dec	Cairo, Egypt	EMRO
PAHO ProVac Meeting on Cervical Cancer Costing	TBD	TBD	Jamaica	PAHO
Expert Consultation on Mumps	TBD	TBD	Washington DC	PAHO
Data Management Workshop	TBD	TBD	Manila, Philippines	WPRO
2010 Meetings				
Global Immunization Meeting (2010)	01-Feb	03-Feb	CICG, Geneva	Global

LINKS RELEVANT TO IMMUNIZATION

GLOBAL WEBSITES

Department of Immunization, Vaccines & Biologicals, World Health Organization

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

WHO New Vaccines

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

Immunization Financing

http://www.who.int/immunization_financing/en/

Agence de Médecine Préventive

www.aamp.org

EPIVAC

www.epivac.org

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

Hib Initiative Website

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

Japanese Encephalitis Resources

<http://www.path.org/vaccineresources/japanese-encephalitis.php>

Malaria Vaccine Initiative

<http://www.malariavaccine.org>

Measles Initiative

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

Meningitis Vaccine Project

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

Multinational Influenza Seasonal Mortality Study (MISMS)

<http://origem.info/misms/index.php>

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

http://www.who.int/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/

NEWSLETTERS

PAHO/Comprehensive Family Immunization Program-FCH: *Immunization Newsletter*

http://www.paho.org/english/ad/fch/im/Epi_newsletter.htm

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

