

World Health Organization

Global Immunization News

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Technical Information

THE 8TH EPIVAC TRAINING SESSION

30/11/2009 from Marine Prado, AMP:

The 8th **EPIVAC** training program implemented by Agence de Médecine Préventive (AMP) started in November 2009 at the Regional Institute of Public Health in Ouidah (Benin).

EPIVAC was developed in 2002 in partnership with governments of African GAVI eligible countries, Cocody-Abidjan and Paris-Dauphine Universities, and in collaboration with WHO, UNICEF, GAVI and other partners working in Africa. In 2009-2010, 50 more health officers at district level will be trained to strengthen immunization performances in nine countries in West and Central Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Senegal and Togo. EPIVAC is a blended training which includes face-to-face training, a combination of off-line and on-line distance learning approaches, supportive supervision and field research for good practices in immunization service delivery and management. Up to now, nearly 350 health officers in charge of immunization programs at district level have been trained, in 11 Sub-Saharan African countries.

There is now an EPIVAC International network (EPI-Net or RIE in French) established to mobilize international and national efforts for improving immunization programs. For more information, please visit : www.aamp.org and www.epivac.org

MEASLES INITIATIVE WEBSITE RE-LAUNCHED

30/11/2009 from Athalia Christie, American Red Cross:

After more than a year's worth of work, the **Measles Initiative** has re-launched its [website](#). The new design features improved navigation, enhanced internal search engine capabilities, a comprehensive multimedia library and interactive map. A substantial amount of updated content has been added to better showcase this public health partnership's work around the world. You are encouraged to visit the site to learn how the Measles Initiative is helping reduce global measles deaths as well as to access journal articles, presentations and campaign reports.



“Protecting more people in a changing world”

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Technical Information

GLOBAL POLIO ERADICATION INITIATIVE

30/11/2009 from Sona Bari & Rod Curtis, WHO/HQ:



A young boy receiving polio vaccination near Alem Kitmama North East of Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia, Africa June 2002
WHO/P. Viroc

The Advisory Committee on Polio Eradication (ACPE), the global technical advisory body of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), held a **Special Consultation with spearheading partners of the GPEI, governments of endemic and polio-affected countries, and donors in Geneva on 18-19 November**.

Recommendations of the ACPE following the Special Consultation range from technical issues (such as the rapid use of new bivalent oral polio vaccine) to advocacy (the engagement of Heads of State to ensure accountability of local authorities for reaching every child during immunization activities) and programme planning (the development of a consultative process to develop a Programme of Work 2010-2012 for the GPEI). The full recommendations will be published in the WHO Weekly Epidemiological Record in January 2010.

The ACPE evaluated the impact of the 2009 Programme of Work, discussed the recommendations of the Independent Evaluation of Major Barriers to Interrupting Poliovirus Transmission, reviewed the outcomes of the clinical trials on the new bivalent oral polio vaccine (which demonstrated that it could prove a key tool in the armoury of the GPEI as early as December 2009), and looked closely at the epidemiological trends in the remaining four endemic countries, as well as the measures put in place to limit international spread of wild poliovirus. These discussions mark the start of a wide-ranging consultative process for the development of a new programme of work, which is expected to be continued at the upcoming Executive Board in January 2010, for anticipated finalization at the World Health Assembly in May 2010. [Documentation and presentations](#)

NEW CONTENT ON THE IMMUNIZATION FINANCING WEBSITE

30/11/2009 from Kaddar Miloud and Eliane Furrer, WHO/HQ:

Since the end of November 2009, the immunization financing website features a new section entitled "Debt Relief Initiatives and Immunization Financing". These pages present the findings of an assessment process which begun in 2006 as part of WHO and GAVI's efforts to explore innovative ways of raising and disbursing money for immunization and the health system.

Forty of the poorest countries are currently eligible to benefit from different debt relief initiatives. This has spurred hope that Governments might be able to increase public spending for priority areas in their fight against poverty. However, little was known about the actual allocations of debt relief savings to health or immunization activities, as well as about the mechanisms and procedures in place to deal with these funds at country level. Therefore, eleven country case studies had been undertaken to assess whether these initiatives provide a real opportunity to scale up health and immunization financing and how the respective authorities might be able to secure part of these funds for priority health interventions.

More information about the study and summary data sheets with key findings and suggestions for health and immunization authorities are [available here](#) for Burundi, Cameroon, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Senegal, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S CHILDREN REPORT

30/11/2009 from Marilia Di Noia, UNICEF:

On 20 November 1989, the United Nations adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child. To commemorate this landmark, UNICEF is dedicating a special edition of its flagship report, The State of the World's Children, to child rights. [The report](#) describes the timeless relevance of the Convention, its impact, and the challenges that remain. It includes special expert essays from public and private sector representatives, alongside examples of the child rights situation in a range of countries. A full version of the report can be down-loaded from the UNICEF [website](#)

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INVESTIGATION OF ADVERSE EVENTS FOLLOWING IMMUNIZATION WITH LIQUID PENTAVALENT VACCINE IN BHUTAN (2009)

30/11/2009 from Patrick Zuber, WHO/HQ:

In October 2009, the Bhutan Ministry of Health suspended the use of EasyFive®, a pentavalent (DTwP-HepB-Hib) vaccine, procured through UNICEF with GAVI support, as a precautionary measure following reports of serious adverse events following immunization (AEFIs). EasyFive® was introduced in Bhutan during September 2009. In October 2009, the national health authorities were notified about five serious AEFIs, including four deaths among infants hospitalized to Thimphu National Referral Hospital from 10 September to 23 October 2009. Based on this information, the Ministry of Health suspended use of the vaccine. An investigation team, dispatched by WHO SEARO and HQ, arrived in country on 29 October that joined in-country investigators. The team reviewed the clinical information about the cases, the vaccine management system, injection safety practices, background epidemiology of meningo-encephalitis in Bhutan and proposed subsequent steps for the investigation. The data collected were subsequently presented to two international vaccine safety experts in order to impute causality or propose additional investigations. To date, a few additional investigations are ongoing and final conclusions will be made after these data have become available and have been discussed with national authorities. In the meantime this vaccine batch remains suspended in Bhutan. As a precautionary measure only, use of the vaccine was also suspended in two other countries which had received the same batch. The investigations conducted so far did not reveal convincing evidence of a link between the use of the vaccine and the unfortunate deaths of the four infants. Additional review of the clinical information is currently ongoing in order to propose final classification of the cases. Similarly, the vaccine quality review will be completed. The eventual resumption of the use of this particular batch will be addressed after all investigations have been completed. EasyFive® remains on the list of WHO prequalified vaccines and WHO does not recommend a general withdrawal of the vaccine.

For further information, or to obtain the full briefing note, please contact:

Vaccine safety: [Dr Arun Thapa](#) and [Dr. Patrick Zuber](#).

Vaccine quality and prequalification: [Ms Carmen Rodriguez Hernandez](#)

Communication: [Mrs Alison Brunier](#).

HPV SURVEILLANCE AND MONITORING MEETING

30/11/2009 from Susan Wang, WHO/HQ:

A meeting was held on 16-17 November 2009 with immunization, cancer, STI, adolescent health, and laboratory experts from WHO, five WHO regions, IARC, CDC, PATH, and national and academic programs to delineate objectives and strategies for HPV vaccine impact monitoring, to identify an approach to HPV vaccine coverage monitoring, and to review HPV vaccine safety issues. Impact monitoring for HPV vaccine is complex and is not a precondition for vaccine introduction. The potential monitoring endpoints which were reviewed were prevalence of HPV infection, positive cervical cancer screening tests, CIN 2-3, cervical cancer, non-cervical cancers caused by HPV infection, and genital warts. Monitoring HPV prevalence among sexually active young women in one or two select settings was felt to provide an important early indication of HPV vaccine impact but requires considerable resource commitment for at least 10 years. All countries should consider establishing or improving reporting to cervical cancer registries to measure impact of HPV vaccine and impact of cervical cancer screening programmes. Laboratory needs for impact monitoring and for quality assurance of national reference laboratories which might be provided by a network such as HPV LabNet were identified. With regards to HPV vaccine coverage, it was agreed that monitoring HPV vaccine coverage by dose and by age was necessary and that a summary indicator of proportion of girls vaccinated with 3 doses by age 15 years was useful. With regards to HPV vaccine safety, specific technical support (e.g., compilation of background rates of adolescent illnesses, concise messaging to healthcare providers on WHO conclusions regarding vaccine safety, assistance on risk communication) were suggested.

“Introducing new vaccines and technologies”

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“Integrating Immunization, other linked health interventions and surveillance in the health systems context”

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10TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SAFE INJECTION GLOBAL NETWORK (SIGN)

30/11/2009 from Selma Khamassi, WHO/HQ:

The Injection Safety programme and the Secretariat of the Safe Injection Global Network (SIGN) in the WHO Department of Essential Health Technologies is organizing the **10th Annual Meeting of the Safe Injection Global Network which will be held from 30 November to 2 December 2009 at WHO/HQ, Geneva**. This meeting will run back to back with the Performance, Quality and Safety Consultative Meeting with the Industry organized by the Quality Safety and Standard Unit in the Department of Immunization Vaccines and Biologicals from 3-4 December 2009 at WHO/HQ. The members of this network meet annually to exchange information and review progress on ensuring the safe and appropriate use of injections worldwide and to decide on action points for the members of the alliance. SIGN is constituted by UN organizations (WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA), Ministries of Health, industry, US CDC, USAID, NGOs, research institutes, etc.

The objectives of this special 2009 SIGN Meeting are to:

1. Review progress of the various injection safety projects at global and country level over the last 10 years
2. Review global progress in infection prevention and control activities since SIGN started
3. Update and adapt WHO injection safety strategies based on the 4 plus 1 Primary Health Care Reforms to make them more country and patient centered
4. Identify countries' needs in terms of injection safety and related infection control.

[More information](#)

“Integrating Immunization, other linked health interventions and surveillance in the health systems context”

PERFORMANCE, QUALITY AND SAFETY CONSULTATIVE MEETING WITH THE INDUSTRY

30/11/2009 from Selma Khamassi, WHO/HQ:

The Performance, Quality and Safety Consultative Meeting with the Industry will be held from 3-4 December 2009 at WHO/HQ, Geneva. The "Performance Quality and Safety (PQS)" Secretariat hosted at the Quality Safety and Standard Unit has been engaged in improving its equipment and devices prequalification scheme for UN purchase. Performance specifications and verification protocols have been developed by category of equipment. A new interactive web based database will be launched soon and as the new scheme will be ready to be fully functional, there is a felt need to discuss and obtain feedback and consensus from partners including manufacturers.

The objectives of the meeting are:

1. Provide updates on the prequalification process of equipment and devices
2. Review the recent changes in performance specifications and verification protocols
3. Present the new PQS interactive web-based database
4. Discuss the future prequalification challenges of how to best respond to the need of introducing innovative technologies
5. Discuss the way prequalification of devices contributes to ensuring the safety of injections in immunization as well as in curative settings
6. Discuss and agree on a way forward to better prevent reuse and make injections safer

[More information](#)

GAVI related Information



Next GAVI Review Dates:

Information on 2010 GAVI submission and review dates to be confirmed.

Country Information by Region

AMERICAS:

30/11/2009 from Beatrice Carpano, WHO PAHO

26TH CARIBBEAN EPI MANAGERS' MEETING, ST. KITTS AND NEVIS

The **26th Caribbean EPI Managers' Meeting** was held in St. Kitts from 9-12 November 2009. It was attended by over 80 persons from 19 member countries of the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC), Canada, French Guiana, Martinique, and the United States, international agencies (US CDC and Canadian Public Health Agency), CAREC, PAHO Headquarters, Barbados and Suriname PAHO Representations, and WHO-Geneva.

The objectives of the meeting were to: (1) Discuss the situation and response to the pandemic and seasonal influenza and maintain heightened influenza and severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) surveillance in selected countries; (2) Analyze and evaluate the status of measles, rubella, and congenital rubella syndrome elimination in the countries; (3) Discuss the maintained eradication of wild poliovirus in each country and discuss poliovirus containment issues; (4) Analyze the EPI status in each country; (5) Discuss the introduction of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine and surveillance issues; (6) Discuss the introduction of vaccines such as pneumococcal and rotavirus into the national EPI, including surveillance system strengthening; (7) Discuss status/improvement of surveillance of events supposedly attributable to vaccines or immunization (ESAVI); (8) Update information on selective scientific topics of common interest in relation to immunization, service delivery, and surveillance of measles/rubella and other EPI diseases; and (9) Set the targets and objectives of each country with respect to immunization coverage and reduction of morbidity and mortality for the year 2010 and develop an action plan, with a specific budget for each activity for each country, to achieve the targets and objectives set for 2010.

"Immunizing in the context of global independence"

FIRST WORKSHOP ON PREPARING FOR THE DOCUMENTATION AND VERIFICATION OF MEASLES, RUBELLA, AND CRS ELIMINATION AND USING OF THE INTEGRATED SURVEILLANCE INFORMATION SYSTEM (ISIS)

The first workshop on preparing for the documentation and verification of measles, rubella, and congenital rubella syndrome (CRS) elimination and using the new Integrated Surveillance Information System for vaccine-preventable diseases (ISIS) was held in Managua, Nicaragua from 24-25 September 2009. Immunization surveillance coordinators, data entry staff, and information systems specialists from the Ministries of Health of Guatemala, Panama, and Nicaragua participated in this workshop. The objectives were to present the Regional Plan of Action for the documentation and verification of measles, rubella, and CRS elimination; to introduce the participants to ISIS as a tool for measles/rubella and CRS surveillance; to discuss surveillance indicators and how they are calculated in ISIS; and to develop national work plans for implementing the documentation and verification activities and start

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VACCINE SAFETY WORKSHOPS

Two workshops on vaccine safety were held in Nicaragua and Bolivia during the first and third week of November 2009, respectively. The objectives of the workshops were to strengthen the technical capacity of health workers on vaccine safety issues, particularly to enhance their knowledge and skills related to pandemic influenza A(H1N1), new vaccines such as rotavirus or HPV, and risk communication. Health workers, journalists and/or social communication specialists from Honduras and Paraguay also participated. Prior to both meetings, PAHO convened a panel of technical experts to start updating the vaccine safety modules developed in 2002. The new version of the modules will be released during 2010.

HSS= Health Systems Strengthening; **IST** = Inter Country Support Team; **ISS** = Immunization Services Support; **INS** = Injection Safety Support; **NVS** = New Vaccine Support; **DQA** = Data Quality Audit; **DQS** = Data Quality Self Assessment; **RED** = Reach Every District; **cMYP** = Fully costed multi-year plan; **NITAG** = National Immunization Technical Advisory Group; **NRA** = National Regulatory Authority

Country Information by Region



WESTERN PACIFIC REGION:

30/11/2009 from Manju Rani, WHO WPRO

ORGANIZATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY IMMUNIZATION ACTIVITY FOR MATERNAL AND NEONATAL TETANUS ELIMINATION

Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus (MNT) is expected to escalate in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, due to the high number of home deliveries without skilled birth attendance, wide spread harmful cord care practices and limited access to routine immunization services. The first of the three rounds of tetanus toxoid (TT) supplementary immunization activities (SIAs) for women of child bearing age (CBAW) was organized from 9-23 November 2009, along with the bi-annual Child Health Days (CHD) which provide vitamin A and mebendazole to children under 5 years. The second round TT SIAs will be conducted 21-30 January 2010 and the third round will again be integrated with CHD at the end of 2010. To maximize the effectiveness and attractiveness of combined service delivery, de-worming was also offered to CBAW in the first round in line with the national nutrition policy.

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INTRODUCTION OF JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS VACCINE IN CAMBODIA

Live attenuated JE vaccine was introduced in the phased manner in Cambodia as part of the national immunization programme in October 2009. In Phase I, the JE vaccine will be provided in three provinces (Kampong Cham, Svay Rieng, and Takeo Provinces). Through 2010, more than 100,000 infants will receive JE vaccine. The programme will be expanded nationwide in the future, protecting more than 400,000 children each year thereafter. Cambodia is also preparing to introduce pentavalent vaccine (DPT-HepB-Hib) early next year.

EXPERT CONSULTATION ON COMPREHENSIVE CERVICAL CANCER CONTROL, KUALA LUMPUR, 4-6 NOVEMBER, 2009

The Western Pacific Region organized an expert consultation on comprehensive cancer control in Kuala Lumpur from 4-6 November 2009 involving experts from reproductive health, cancer control, and immunization. The consultation invited many experts from different countries in the Region that have been extensively involved in cervical cancer control activities. The consultation led to development of a road map and directions for developing/strengthening cervical cancer control programmes in the Region.

“Integrating Immunization, other linked health interventions and surveillance in the health systems context”

Regional Meetings & Key Events Related to Immunization

Title of Meeting	Start	Finish	Location	Region
2009 Meetings				
Measles and Rubella Elimination and ISIS	26-Nov	30-Nov	Santa Cruz, Bolivia	PAHO
PAHO Regional Symposium of New Vaccines	01-Dec	03-Dec	Lima, Peru	PAHO
Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety (GACVS)	03-Dec	04-Dec	Geneva, Switzerland	Global
Workshop update and adoption of monitoring mechanisms of CHP in the countries of Central Africa	03-Dec	07-Dec	Kinshasa, DRC	AFRO
Global Vaccine Research Forum (GVRF)	06-Dec	10-Dec	Bamako, Mali	Global
Annual Regional Conference on Immunization, Harare, Zimbabwe	14-Dec	16-Dec	Harare, Zimbabwe	AFRO
Regional Meeting on Polio Laboratories	16-Dec	20-Dec	Santiago, Chile	PAHO
African Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Committee	17-Dec	17-Dec	Harare, Zimbabwe	AFRO
Expert Consultation on Mumps	TBD	TBD	Washington DC	PAHO
Data Management Workshop	TBD	TBD	Manila, Philippines	WPRO
2010 Meetings				
Global Immunization Meeting	01-Feb	03-Feb	CICG, Geneva	Global
First Annual Immunization Week in the Eastern Mediterranean Region	April	April	Regional	EMRO
Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) Meeting	13-Apr	15-Apr	Geneva, Switzerland	Global
Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety (GACVS)	16-Jun	17-Jun	Geneva, Switzerland	Global
Global Meeting on Implementing New and Under-utilized Vaccines	23-Jun	25-Jun	Switzerland	Global

Links Relevant to Immunization

Global Websites

[Department of Immunization, Vaccines & Biologicals, World Health Organization](#)

[WHO New Vaccines](#)

[Immunization Financing](#)

[Immunization Monitoring](#)

[Agence de Médecine Préventive](#)

[EPIVAC](#)

[GAVI Alliance Website](#)

[IMMUNIZATION basics \(JSI\)](#)

[International Vaccine Institute](#)

[PATH Vaccine Resource Library](#)

[Pediatric Dengue Vaccine Initiative](#)

[SABIN Sustainable Immunization Financing](#)

[SIVAC Program Website](#)

[UNICEF Supply Division Website](#)

[Hib Initiative Website](#)

[Japanese Encephalitis Resources](#)

[Malaria Vaccine Initiative](#)

[Measles Initiative](#)

[Meningitis Vaccine Project](#)

[Multinational Influenza Seasonal Mortality Study \(MISMS\)](#)

[RotaADIP](#)

[RHO Cervical Cancer \(HPV Vaccine\)](#)

[WHO/ICO Information Center on HPV and Cervical Cancer](#)

[SIGN Updates](#)

[Technet](#)

Regional Websites

[New Vaccines in AFRO](#)

[PAHO's website for Immunization](#)

[Vaccine Preventable Diseases in EURO](#)

[New Vaccines in SEARO](#)

Newsletters

[PAHO/Comprehensive Family Immunization Program-FCH: *Immunization Newsletter*](#)

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

