

World Health Organization

Global Immunization News

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Technical Information

The information contained in this Newsletter depends upon your contributions

Please send inputs for inclusion to:

sparrowe@who.int

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GLOBAL TRAINING NETWORK (GTN)

30/09/2009 from Umit Kartoglu, WHO/HQ:

A GTN Training Skills Course is planned for 5-9 October 2009 in Bamako, Mali. This five-day training course is primarily offered through WHO/HQ to GTN Vaccine Quality trainers who teach in WHO courses to improve their teaching skills and ensure quality delivery in all GTN Vaccine Quality courses. The main objectives for the course are to:

- Describe the principles of competency based training;
- Create and sustain a positive learning climate before, during and after the course;
- Choose and use the

IMMUNIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEES

30/09/2009 from Marine Prado, AMP:

SIVAC Initiative - The SIVAC (Supporting National Independent Immunization and Advisory Committees) Initiative website is now online and the first SIVAC Initiative newsletter is available. SIVAC is an initiative led by AMP in

appropriate interactive training methods;

- Write the purpose and learning objectives of a training session;
- Use competency based assessment instruments;
- Effectively demonstrate a skill and coach trainees;
- Deliver an effective illustrated lecture.

This course has been previously delivered in Mpumalanga, South Africa (2003), Kos, Greece (2004), Lausanne, Switzerland (2005), Antalya, Turkey (twice in 2006, once in 2008 and once in 2009); and Johannesburg, South Africa (2007).



“Protecting more people in a changing world”

partnership with the International Vaccine Institute, which aims at supporting GAVI-eligible and middle-income countries to establish or strengthen national immunization technical advisory committees and decision-making processes. For more information, please visit their [website](#).



Technical Information



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

POLIO

30/09/2009 from Oliver Rosenbauer, WHO/HQ:
Polio eradication: 1.3 million children immunized in Afghanistan to mark International Peace Day

In Afghanistan on 13-15 September 2009, more than 1.3 million children under the age of five years were immunized against polio in high-risk districts of the country's Southern Region, during a special immunization campaign to mark International Peace Day 2009, marked this year by the theme 'What are you doing for peace?' The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) had called on all parties to 'silence their guns', as it spearheaded efforts to campaign for peace by

organizing and supporting events throughout the month of September across the country. International Peace Day (20 September) was created by a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly to mark a day of global ceasefire and non-violence.

In Afghanistan, polio is largely restricted to security-compromised areas of the Southern Region, where access to all children is hampered during vaccination activities. In 2009, innovations continue to allow safe passage of vaccination teams to reach children everywhere. NGOs in the Southern Region contracted to deliver the basic package of health services (BPHS) have been more systematically engaged in polio eradication. With close

engagement of communities and community leaders, any anticipated lull in conflict is now utilized to deliver an extra dose of monovalent oral polio vaccine to communities living in security-compromised areas, in between official large-scale nationwide immunization activities.

As a result of these efforts, and the courageous dedication of polio workers operating under extremely challenging and dangerous conditions, the proportion of 'missed' children in highest-risk areas of the Southern Region was for the first time reduced to 5% during the July immunization campaign (compared to nearly 20% at the start of the year). Such tremendous efforts must now continue to be sustained.

For more information [click here](#)

GAVI related Information

Next GAVI Review Dates:

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

9-23 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 September - 3 October 2009

15-30 June 2010 and 20-24 September 2010

Submission deadline: 14 May 2010 for both rounds.

GAVI PARTNERS'

FORUM

30/09/2009 from the GAVI Alliance:

Fourth GAVI Partners' Forum - Hanoi, Vietnam, 18-20 November 2009

GAVI's partners and stakeholders will gather in Hanoi, Vietnam from 18-20 November 2009 for the Alliance's Fourth Partners' Forum. The event will provide a forum to discuss the role of immunization in achieving the health Millennium

Development Goals, review lessons learned in the first 10 years of GAVI's existence and share best practices.

Participants will reflect on the challenges and opportunities ahead, and the way towards fulfilling GAVI's mission to save children's lives and protecting people's health by increasing access to immunization in poor countries. A draft agenda of the meeting can be found on the GAVI [website](#).

Country Information by Region



AFRICAN REGION

CENTRAL AFRICA

30/09/2009 from
Auguste Ambendet,
IST Central:

Workshop to adapt the revised RED guidelines and RED monitoring tools

WHO/AFRO and IST Central organized the above workshop in Kinshasa, DR Congo from 20-24 July 2009 to adapt the revised RED guidelines and monitoring tools. Angola, Cameroon, CAR, Chad, DR Congo, Gabon were the countries that were invited from the Central African Sub-Region for this workshop. These countries were selected due to their large numbers of unimmunized children. In addition, two of these countries had weak national vaccination programmes due to recent socio-political problems. The workshop was facilitated by UNICEF and WHO DR Congo, WHO IST Central, WHO/AFRO, the IVD focal point from Angola, and IMMUNIZATIONBasics USA and Angola.

SENEGAL

30/09/2009 from
Lahouari Belgharbi, WHO/HQ:

NRA functions and AEFI surveillance

WHO conducted a visit to review the status of the NRA functions before launching the formal assessment planned for December 2009. The visit had documented that the Government of Senegal is highly committed to monitoring the WHO recommendations and has assigned a team to follow up on the planning of the assessment. Major progress was noted in the testing of all yellow fever vaccines. Currently about 50% have been tested, and this is expected to reach 100% by early 2010. Additional staff and equipment, including vehicles, were provided to support the NRA for GMP inspection, quality system and licensing. A law on ethical research had been issued that clarifies the role of the Ethics Committee and Ministry of Health for the regulation of clinical trials. In addition, post-marketing surveillance including AEFI surveillance has gradually improved since training was launched in 2006, and routine training was conducted in all provinces/districts. The WHO team issued additional recommendations that will be followed-up during the next visit in October 2009 with the French NRA (AFSSAPS).

“Introducing new vaccines and technologies”

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

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

AMERICAS: REGIONAL INFORMATION

30/09/2009 from Beatrice Carpano & Carolina Danovaro, PAHO:

Meeting of UNASUR Health Ministers, Ecuador

Ministers of Health of the South American Health Council met on 8 August 2009 prior to the meeting of Heads of State of the Union of South American Countries (UNASUR). Ministers of Health of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, and Venezuela were in attendance. PAHO provided technical support regarding the status of the influenza A(H1N1) pandemic in the Americas, vaccine access, joint mechanisms for negotiating and purchasing the vaccine, means to ensure equitable access, regional production capacity, anti-virals, and diagnostic kits. The Ministers of Health agreed to implement joint actions so their countries can benefit from equitable access to the resources required to face the influenza pandemic and other major public health challenges in the Region.

Meeting of the Measles/Rubella Laboratory Network, San José, Costa Rica

On 23 August 2009, the Measles and Rubella Laboratory Network met to discuss

laboratory achievements and challenges in an elimination setting, and review the current laboratory surveillance guidelines to meet the needs of the elimination programme. The group proposed the use of more sensitive laboratory guidelines for measles and rubella case classification. The new laboratory guidelines include recommendations on quality control, laboratory testing for classification of sporadic cases, and molecular epidemiology. Documentation that elimination of measles and rubella has been achieved requires that each national laboratory produce the highest quality surveillance data possible. In countries approaching elimination, laboratory testing of sporadic cases can be challenging and often requires performing assays other than the standard IgM assays with a single serum specimen. Information from the laboratory will provide some of the data needed to support documentation of the interruption of endemic transmission of measles and rubella. However, it is important to emphasize that both public health authorities

and laboratory staff have their respective roles in ensuring optimum laboratory performance.

Meeting to Prepare for the Documentation and Verification of Measles, Rubella, and Congenital Rubella Syndrome (CRS) Elimination in the Americas, San José, Costa Rica

On 27 August 2009, a meeting was held to prepare for the documentation and verification of measles, rubella, and congenital rubella syndrome elimination in the Region of the Americas. This was the first meeting organized to familiarize regional immunization experts, epidemiologists, and data entry personnel on the following: (1) the regional Plan of Action to document and verify elimination, (2) surveillance indicators which support the documentation of required data elements to verify elimination, and (3) new measles, rubella, and CRS surveillance system, or the Integrated Surveillance Information System for Vaccine-preventable Diseases (ISIS). Subsequent meetings are scheduled for the fall 2009.

XVIII Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on Vaccine-preventable Diseases, San José, Costa Rica

From 24-26 August 2009, PAHO held its XVIII TAG Meeting on Vaccine-preventable Diseases. With over 200 experts from the Americas in attendance, the meeting focused on the challenges imposed by the current influenza A(H1N1) pandemic and the next steps to document and verify the elimination of measles, rubella and congenital rubella syndrome in the Region, while strengthening routine immunization. Participants urged countries to prepare to administer pandemic influenza vaccine. Since the vaccine is expected to be in limited supply during initial production, Member States will need to maintain good surveillance and identify risk groups that

should be vaccinated first, such as health workers. PAHO is studying ways to expand vaccine production to help ensure equity and access for all. As part of efforts to help its member countries confront the A(H1N1) pandemic, PAHO has also developed a Regional Vaccination Plan for Pandemic Vaccine.

Progress regarding the 2006 TAG recommendations was also reviewed and PAHO's commitment for implementing immunization activities within the framework of the Health Agenda for the Americas was reiterated. Referring to the theme of the meeting, Immunization: Prioritizing Vulnerable Populations, TAG members remarked that the Regional social and economic conditions must be taken into consideration and primary health care

strengthened.

At a special event to celebrate the launching of the books "Images that inspire", the "Compendium of Measles Articles" and the "Compendium of Rubella and Congenital Rubella Syndrome Articles", Dr. Oscar Arias, President of Costa Rica, highlighted the progress accomplished by the Region and remarked that if health activities need technical expertise, they also need political support and commitment from all countries. He emphasized that thanks to the EPI, the PAHO Revolving Fund for Vaccine Procurement, and TAG, the Americas have made considerable progress, within the framework of the right to health and that those three components are essential for the advancement of populations in this Region.

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Country Information by Region

EUROPE

REGIONAL INFORMATION

26/08/09 from Leo Weakland, WHO/EURO:

Regional Reference Rotavirus Lab and Fifth International Conference on Vaccines for Enteric Diseases - Malaga, Spain, 9-11 September 2009

EURO has recently nominated the laboratory of virology at the Belarus Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology in Minsk as a WHO Regional Reference Rotavirus Laboratory. A delegation from this Institute and the laboratory coordinator from EURO participated in the Malaga meeting. During the course of the meeting, participants discussed further steps in improving quality of rotavirus surveillance and also reached consensus on future assessment missions, training, procurement of laboratory supplies and other operational issues.

EURO Polio Laboratory Network, Regional Annual Meeting - Sochi, Russia, 23-25 September 2009

Polio virologists of the Russian Federation attending the annual WHO polio laboratory network meeting will share data on the detection of poliovirus in humans and environment and discuss future plans and strategies to maintain high quality surveillance for this pathogen. A virological characterization of sporadic enterovirus cases and outbreaks, as well as the future enterovirus research agenda of the Region will also be presented at the meeting.

Real-time PCR training workshop in the EURO Regional Polio Laboratory

The WHO laboratory in Moscow will soon employ real-time PCR technique to detect polioviruses quickly and reliably. EURO will donate a real-time PCR machine to this laboratory in October 2009. Related training is planned by EURO in November 2009. This technique employs a WHO approved protocol developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Atlanta, USA). It allows time-efficient detection and characterization of polio and other enteric viruses with a minimal danger of cross-contamination. This training is one in a series of measures EURO is taking to ensure prompt virological analysis in cases where timeliness of response is paramount. The training will conclude with a set of experiments using nucleic acid archival card - a technique which may facilitate specimen storage and transportation from the field. EURO has developed a protocol using such cards for the detection of Mycoplasma species in cell lines in 2005 as part of its regional quality control scheme and is now looking at the possibility to translate this experience into new areas.



Child immunization at the Malipur Maternity Home D-Block Delhi, India, Asia November 2002 WHO/P. Viro

“Immunizing in the context of global independence”

SOUTH EAST ASIA

INDONESIA

30/09/09 from Lahouari Belgharbi, WHO/HQ:

GMP Inspectors Workshop

A training workshop on the use of risk management approach for GMP inspections of vaccine manufacturers was organized in Bandung by WHO and the Indonesian NRA. This training was developed with several GMP regulatory experts from Canada, France, Iran, WHO/SEARO and WHO/HQ. The workshop was facilitated by four additional recourse persons from Egypt, India, Indonesia, and Thailand as observers for preparing a

similar workshop by the end of the year. The training was attended by 22 GMP inspectors and three representatives from Biofarma. The training included several mock inspections of Biofarma, and a plan was developed to implement the workshop recommendations and follow-up actions. The training method was very successful, and all participants gave positive feedback during the evaluation of the workshop.

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Regional Meetings & Key Events Related to Immunization

Title of Meeting	Start	Finish	Location	Region
2009 Meetings				
WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office	03-Oct	06-Oct	Cairo, Egypt	EMRO
Global Training Network Skills Course (French)	05-Oct	09-Oct	Bamako, Mali	AFRO
East & South African Sub-Regional Working Group Meeting	06-Oct	07-Oct	Lilongwe, Malawi	AFRO
Inter-country training workshop on surveillance of vaccine preventable diseases and monitoring & evaluation of national immunization programmes	07-Oct	09-Oct	Cairo, Egypt	EMRO
cMYP Assessment Workshop for 11 countries in the Central African Block	12-Oct	16-Oct	Kinshaasa, DR Congo	AFRO
DCD sub regional meeting for countries in South-West Asia (Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan)	18-Oct	20-Oct	Tehran, Iran	EMRO
Workshop to monitor the implementation of GIVS and cMYPs in West & Central Africa	20-Oct	30-Oct	Dakar, Senegal	AFRO
Sub-Regional training to prepare countries in Central America, Mexico and Spanish-speaking countries for the introduction of pandemic influenza vaccine	21-Oct	23-Oct	Panama	PAHO
Sub-Regional training to prepare countries in South America for the introduction of pandemic influenza vaccine	27-Oct	29-Oct	Paraguay	PAHO
Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) meeting	27-Oct	29-Oct	Geneva	HQ
WPRO Technical Consultation on Comprehensive Prevention and Control of Cervical Cancer	04-Nov	06-Nov	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	WPRO
Global Network for Post-marketing Surveillance for Newly Prequalified Vaccines	06-Nov	08-Nov	Rabat, Morocco	Global
West & Central African Sub-Regional Working Group Meeting	10-Nov	11-Nov	Bamako, Mali	AFRO
Sub-Regional training to prepare countries in the English-Speaking Caribbean for the introduction of pandemic influenza vaccine	12-Nov	14-Nov	St. Kitts & Nevis	PAHO
26th Meeting of the Caribbean Expanded Program on Immunization Managers	16-Nov	20-Nov	tbc	PAHO
GAVI Board Meeting	17-Nov	18-Nov	Hanoi, Vietnam	Global
GAVI Partners Meeting	18-Nov	20-Nov	Hanoi, 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)	03-Dec	04-Dec	Geneva	Global
Global Vaccine Research Forum (GVRF)	06-Dec	10-Dec	Bamako, Mali	Global
17th Task Force on Immunization Meeting & 16th Meeting of the African Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Committee	14-Dec	17-Dec	Harare, Zimbabwe	AFRO
EMRO Workshop on invasive bacterial diseases surveillance network	15-Dec	17-Dec	Cairo, Egypt	EMRO
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
First Annual Immunization Week in the Eastern Mediterranean Region	April	April	Regional	EMRO
Global Meeting on Implementing New and Under-utilized Vaccines	June	June	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 \(JSI\)](#)

[PATH Vaccine Resource Library](#)

[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:

