Immunization Week 2011 -- Summary as of 29 March

1. **African Vaccination Week (AVW)**
   - From 25 April to 1 May. Thirty-five countries have confirmed participation. The target is to get all 46 Member States to join this year.
   - Slogan: Vaccinated communities, Healthy community
   - Theme: Put mothers and children first; Vaccinate and stop polio now
   - The planning guidelines (adapted from the EURO tools), briefing note and FAQs have been developed and shared with countries in the region.
   - The regional launch is planned for 28 April in Kinshasa, DRC. It will coincide with the launch of the synchronized polio SIAs in all West and Central Africa countries. The AFRO RD and the DRC Head of State are expected to attend these two events (awaiting confirmation).
   - Most of the East & Southern Africa countries will combine the AVW with their planned Child Health Week activities in April/May 2011.
   - A press release from AFRO has been issued. Communications related to the 1st AVW commemoration have been sent to all the WHO/AFRO partners. [http://www.who.int/immunization/newsroom/press/first_african_vaccination_week_mar2011/en/index.htm](http://www.who.int/immunization/newsroom/press/first_african_vaccination_week_mar2011/en/index.htm)

2. **Vaccination Week in the Americas (VWA)**
   - 23-30 April, although some countries had to re-adjust dates due to proximity to Holy Week/Easter.
   - Theme: Vaccinate your family, protect your community
   - Participation from all 44 countries and territories in the region and have received country action plans from 85% of participating countries. Countries and territories are targeting to vaccinate an estimated 38.5 million during VWA.
   - Launch events will be held at border areas between Bolivia and Peru on 26 April and Manaus, Brazil on 30 April. Colleague from SEARO (Homero Hernandez) will be participating in the launch in Manaus. Other smaller scale events being planned throughout region
   - Developed and launched Facebook page [http://on.fb.me/VacunaVaccine](http://on.fb.me/VacunaVaccine)

3. **Vaccination Week in the Eastern Mediterranean (VWEM)**
   - 24-30 April
   - Theme: Partnership for immunization.
   - VWEM was first launched last year with participation from all 22 countries in the region. Unfortunately this year, due to the unstable political environment in the region, 17 countries have confirmed participation. Only four countries have not submitted action plans. More than half of them have submitted second and third drafts (improving the quality of the action plans)
   - Regional launching event will be held on 21 April at the Regional Office in Cairo, Egypt. Due to current circumstances in the country, the event will be low key and expected to have limited participation from external/international partners. Invitations and launch...
programme have been drafted. A video to be shown at the launching ceremony is also being developed. A roundtable discussion and Q&As will be part of the launch event.

- VWEM website (http://www.emro.who.int/vpi/vwem2011/advocacy.htm), Facebook and twitter are up and running and we are encouraging countries, especially the youth, to engage in these social media platform. Facebook link http://www.facebook.com/pages/World-Health-Organization-Eastern-Mediterranean-Regional-Office/167670323281794?sk=wall&closeTheater=1

Twitter: http://www.twitter.com Username: @who.emro

4. European Immunization Week (EIW)
   - 23-30 April 2011
   - Theme: Shared solutions to common threats -- focusing on the need for sub-regional collaboration to prevent and control vaccine-preventable outbreaks. The polio outbreak emphasized the importance of sharing information and working cooperatively. Sub-regional meetings and working groups during EIW will underscore this year’s theme, as countries meet to discuss common threats and shared solutions for the Region.
   - Currently 47 out of 53 Member States have confirmed participation. The target is to get all 53 countries in the region to participate.
   - The regional launch will take place in Brussels on 26 April, hosted by Crown Princess Mathilde of Belgium, followed by a luncheon. Live webcast of the launch event will be available. Participation from the RD together with heads of UNICEF Regional Office and ECDC. Six countries will engage in a technical forum discussing measles.
   - Polio vaccination campaigns will take place in 6 states in Central Asia before, during and after EIW. A sub-regional working group has been established for 10 countries focusing on immunization issues relating to migrant and Roma populations. The working group discussion will take place in Albania on 28-29 April.
   - Compiling information about country activities for EIW and working on releasing two podcasts during EIW focusing on the theme (Shared solutions to common threats) and measles outbreaks in the region.
   - Continuing to expand use of our EIW campaign site (i.e. social media platform); recently added features to encourage more interaction between EIW focal points and other stakeholders (http://eiw.euro.who.int)
   - Planning to produce two podcasts for release during EIW; currently collecting interviews and writing scripts

5. Vaccination Week in the Western Pacific
   - 25-30 April. The regional launch will be on 26 April at the Regional Office in Manila. Currently working on a video for the launch.
   - WPRO working with PAHO's in-house graphic design person (Gilles Collette) to create visual identity. Due to time constraints, no guidelines for national planning for VWWP was developed. And to give additional flexibility to countries, no themes were developed.
   - A press release on VWWP will be issued by the Regional Office and a press template will be developed for countries to adapt and use.
- Participation from 31 countries and areas (out of 37). Have received action plans from 26 out of the 31 participating countries. Working with private company on a website which will go live soon. The temporary web page is at: 
  http://www.wpro.who.int/sites/epi/vaccination/vaccination_week.htm

6. WHO HQ

- New Immunization Week website with videos of DG and RDs, links to regional immunization week websites and partners. More content will be posted in the coming days/weeks.