National Immunization Technical Advisory Committee-Sri Lanka
(Advisory Committee on Communicable Diseases)

Population – 20.3M
Immunization coverage – 99.9%
IMR – 6.5 /1000 b
MMR - 0.32/1000

Dr. Palitha Mahipala
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STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION

CHAIRMAN – Director General of Health Services
SECRETARY – Chief Epidemiologist
ACADEMIC EXPERTS - Epidemiology
  - Pharmacology
  - Pharmacovigilance
  - Immunology
EXPERTS ON SPECIFIC DISEASES – Malaria
  - Filariasis
  - Dengue
  - Leprosy
  - HIV/AIDS
  - TB
UN Agencies - WHO and UNICEF
PROFESSIONAL BODIES - College of Pediatricians
  - College of Physicians
  - College of Microbiologist
  - College of General Practitioners
  - Sri Lanka Medical Association and College of Community Medicine
MANAGEMENT - National Medicinal Regulatory Authority
  - Medical Logistics
  - Quarantine Services
  - Health Administration DDG – PHS /DIRECTOR - MCH/ Director – Health Education)

ALTOGETHER 36 MEMBERS
RESPONSIBILITIES OF ACCD

1. REVIEWING THE STATUS OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES
   • VACCINE PREVENTABLE
   • OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

2. ALL POLICY DECISIONS RELATED TO NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION PROGRAMME

3. DEVELOPMENT OF NEW NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION POLICY

4. DRAFTING IMMUNIZATION ACT
   • ACCD IN SRI LANKA ACTS MORE THAN AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE, IT’S A DECISION MAKING BODY
PROCEDURES AND AREAS OF HANDLING

PROCEDURES
1. Quarterly Meetings
2. Emergency Meetings
3. Vaccine summit (annual meeting)

AREAS OF HANDLING
1. Approval of new vaccine introduction
2. Improvements of specific areas of immunization
   - Training
   - dealing with private sector
   - cold chain improvement
3. Changes in immunization strategies
4. Addressing immunization related safety issues and concerns
ASSESSMENT OF ACCD BEFORE NEW VACCINE INTRODUCTION

1. EVIDENCE ON DISEASE BURDEN
2. VACCINE SAFETY AND EFFECTIVENESS
3. FEASIBILITY
4. COST AND COST EFFECTIVENESS
5. IF ROUTINE DATA NOT AVAILABLE ACCD RECOMMENDS
   - disease burden studies
   - additional studies on vaccine safety
   - studies on immunology of Sri Lankan population

6. SPECIAL COMMITTEES APPOINTED ON EACH SUCH AREAS
   All scientific data to be submitted to annual vaccine summit for final recommendations
TOOLS USING FOR DECISION MAKING

- RESEARCH STUDY FINDINGS
- FIELD SUPERVISION REPORTS
- AEFI – INVESTIGATIONS
  - ex. AEFI AFTER PENTAVALENT, DEATH FOLLOWING RUBELLA VACCINATION
- DISEASE OUTBREAK REPORTS
  - ex MEASELS OUTBREAK
- TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS BY RELATED EXPERT
- EVIDENCE BASED SURVEILLANCE REPORTS
POLICY DECISIONS TAKEN BY ACCD

1. PIONEER IN ASIAN REGION IN INTRODUCING SEVERAL NEW VACCINES
   . JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS
   . RUBELLA
   . TETANUS- DIPHTHERIA FOR OLDER CHILDREN
   . HEPATITIS B
   . HAEMOPHILUS INFLUENZAE B (Hib)

2. IMPROVING QUALITY OF IMMUNIZATION SERVICES

3. STRENGTHENING VACCINE COLD CHAINS

4. INVESTIGATING ADVERSE EVENTS FOLLOWING
5. IMPROVING SURVEILLANCE OF VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASES

6. CHANGES IN IMMUNIZATION STRATEGIES
   - ADDING SUPPLEMENTARY IMMUNIZATION ACTIVITIES FOR PRIORITY VACCINES (CAMPAIGNS)
   - CHANGES TO VACCINATION SCHEDULE
   - STRATEGIES FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS (IDPs)

7. ADDRESSING IMMUNIZATION RELATED SAFETY ISSUES
   - ORDERING INVESTIGATIONS FOR SEVERE - AEFI
   - DECISIONS REGARDING SUSPENSION AND RE-INTRODUCTION OF VACCINES
   - INVESTIGATIONS OF DEATHS RELATED TO IMMUNIZATION
   - PROVIDING ADVICES TO NATIONAL DRUG REGULATORY AUTHORITY ON TOXICITY, STERILITY etc
SUSTAINABILITY AND CHALLENGES

• **SUSTAINABILITY**
  - STRUCTURE WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH
  - MORE THAN 50 YEARS EXPERIENCE
  - RECOGNIZE BY THE POLITICAL AUTHORITY
  - NEW POLICY AND ACT WILL ENSURE MORE AUTHORITY

• **CHALLENGES**
  • EXPANSION OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR
  • HUMAN RIGHT ISSUES AND EQUITY ISSUES – INDIVIDUAL VACCINATION BEYOND THE SCHEDULE
  • FREE ECONOMIC POLICIES
  • COST OF NEW VACCINES AND AFFORDABILITY
  • PRIVATE HEALTH SECTOR REGULATION
  • PUBLIC CONCERN ON QUALITY AND SAFETY
  • PRIORATIZATION –DIFFERENT OPINIONS AMONG EXPERTS
WAY FORWARD

ACCD SRILANKA COULD BE TAKEN AS A MODEL
AS IMMUNIZATION AND CDS ARE TAKEN TOGETHER MORE RECOGNITION BY THE GOVERNMENT
LEADERSHIP BY THE DGHS MAKE, ACCD DECISIONS TO POLICY DECISIONS
NETWORKING WITH REGIONAL AND EXTRA REGIONAL SUCH COMMITTEES ARE IMPORTANT TO SHARE GOOD PRACTICES.
INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION IS IMPORTANT FOR GENERATING SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE FOR DECISION MAKING
MORE INVOLVEMENT WITH PRIVATE SECTOR AND TRADE UNIONS MAY BE IMPORTANT.
THANK YOU