



Update

ON COUNTRY LEVEL GAVI & VACCINE FUND RELATED ACTIVITIES

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

11 April 2005

REVIEW PROCESS

The next **Proposals Review** will be held from **26 May to 1 June 2005**. The deadline for receiving applications is **22 April 2005**.

The **Monitoring Review** will be held from **6-17 June 2005**. The deadline for receiving progress reports is **15 May 2005**.

GAVI SECRETARIAT

11/04/2005 from Abdallah Bchir, GAVI Secretariat: A consultation meeting is planned to be held in Geneva from 13-14 May 2005, prior to the World Health Assembly. Selected 20 countries representing the full range of early adopters to the latest countries to be approved will be invited to participate in this meeting (Armenia, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Comoros, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Georgia, Haiti, Mali, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Senegal, Yemen and Zambia). Directors of Medical Services and EPI Managers are invited for the two-day meeting. The objective of the meeting is to share lessons learned from current GAVI support and seek country input for the future. It is expected that the July 2005 Board meeting will make strategic decisions on new rules for future GAVI support starting in 2006. The country input from the May consultation will provide timely input into the Board decision-making process.

DATA QUALITY AUDIT

11/04/2005 from Olivier Ronveaux, WHO/HQ: The alliance issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to select one or more qualified companies to provide consultancy services to assist GAVI in implementing a DQA in 11 selected countries according to the WHO established methodology (two weeks in each country). Countries to be audited are Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Lao PDR, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nigeria and Yemen. The

public opening of the proposals were held on 5 April 2005. Audits are expected to take place between June and September 2005.

MEASLES

11/04/2005 from Hayatee Hasan, WHO/HQ: The **Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) - Consultation on Measles Control in AFRO** was held from 5-6 April 2005. The main objectives of the meeting were:

- To review the progress of measles control and measles surveillance in the African region;
- To provide guidance on:
 - The provision of a second opportunity for measles vaccination through routine EPI;
 - The periodicity of follow-up supplemental immunization activities;
 - The best approach to measles surveillance;
 - Issues related to the control of rubella and the congenital rubella syndrome.

The **Global Measles Management Meeting** is planned for 18 April 2005 in New Delhi, India. This will be an informal meeting to provide an opportunity for regional measles focal points and partners to get together to openly discuss progress and obstacles for sustainable reduction of measles deaths, eliminating measles and to encourage inter-regional collaboration.

The **Meeting of the Measles-Rubella Research Steering Committee** is planned for 19-21 April 2005 in New Delhi, India. The meeting is organized by the IVB Initiative for Vaccine Research, and co-hosted by the IVR, VAM and EPI teams in WHO. The main objectives of the meeting are to:

- Evaluate progress made in the following areas of measles research: control and elimination strategy, immunology, immunopathology, development of new biologicals and molecular epidemiology;

- Evaluate the current status of research in the area of rubella vaccine and vaccination including: burden of disease and field research, laboratory diagnosis and molecular epidemiology;
- Revise the research agenda on measles and rubella vaccine and vaccination, revision of the strategy and workplan for WHO activities;
- Strengthen collaboration with researchers working in the area of measles/rubella vaccines and vaccination, especially in the South and East Asia region.

TRAINING

11/04/2005 from Jhilmil Bahl, WHO/HQ: The Training Partnership meeting is planned for 1 June 2005, in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting brings together all partners from the private and public sector that are involved in immunization training. It provides a forum for exchange of information and discussion on issues of common interest. For more information (agenda and participation), please contact Jhilmil Bahl (bahlj@who.int).

11/04/2005 from Anais Colombini, AMP: The third EPIVAC session has begun tutorial activities, which consist of four supervisions every six weeks, distance learning by CD-ROM, distance counselling and assistance on Operational Research Memory. Every student has received a CD-ROM "Tutorat Mod' Emploi" which describes EPIVAC tutorial activities in detail and gives the tools that will be used.

The first supervision of this session has been done in the eight countries of the program (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Togo). The aim was to make an appraisal of the EPI and its management in districts and at the central level of the countries concerned. It also focused on problem solving in vaccines management. The second supervision will go on April-May 2005, and will focus on problem solving in immunization safety and on budgeting. Supervisions are done by two national supervisors in each country, one specialised in health program management, and the other one in vaccinologie. These supervisors are employed by Ministries of Health and are partly appointed to EPIVAC program.

The first distance learning CD-ROM has been delivered to trainees. It addresses EPI costing, cost effectiveness studies on health program, budgeting and epidemiology. Most of these courses are delivered by teachers from the two universities which deliver the diploma: Paris Dauphine and Cocody - Abidjan. Trainees will receive the second distance learning CD-ROM in April 2005. This CD-ROM focuses on human resource management, EPI equipment management, EPI diseases & AEFI control and surveillance.

Universities have validated the different topics of the Operational Research Memory and have chosen memory supervisors for each trainee. The URL for the EPIVAC website is www.epivac.org.

COUNTRY INFORMATION¹ BY REGION

EAST & SOUTH AFRICA

REGIONAL INFORMATION

11/04/2005 from AFRO E&S: The East African EPI Managers Meeting was held from 7-11 March 2005 in Zanzibar. Main recommendations arising from the meeting are as follows:

Routine Vaccination:

- The inclusion of immunization into Child Health Days should be used as an integral routine activity to improve coverage.
- All countries should develop/implement an EPI communication strategy at national level as part of multi-year plans and annual plans of actions as well as in district microplans.
- All countries are encouraged to fully implement and integrate the routine vaccination data module following the data management training in April 2005. ICP and AFRO are requested to provide adequate training and guidelines to in-country data managers and EPI Managers to enable this roll-out.

GAVI related issues:

- Several lessons can be learned from the implementation of the initial phase of GAVI by engaging the countries. GAVI Secretariat and partners should plan for sufficient time to conduct country consultations prior to finalizing the decisions on GAVI phase II and the bridging finances.
- GAVI should provide further clarity to countries regarding the transition period between phase I and II, with specific regard to the revised requirements for new applications and the timing of applications which may directly impact the type and level of support countries receive.

Accelerated Disease Control:

- All countries to update their polio-virus important response plans in light of the spread of virus to Eastern Africa.

¹ 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
 STOP = Stop Transmission of Polio

- Every six months, countries should conduct a risk assessment for wild polio circulation and importation based on data available. This should include risk assessment of large urban areas at risk of importation through international airports.
- Countries where less than 80% districts report one suspected measles case per year should conduct sub-national analyses to identify and address reporting issues.
- The feasibility of the vaccination of health workers with Hepatitis B vaccines should be investigated in each country and reports regarding constraints, feasibility and support required should be provided to the next EPI Managers meetings.

ANGOLA

11/04/2005 from AFRO E&S:

The **vaccine management assessment** will take place in May 2005.

The **safety and waste management assessments** will take place in October 2005.

The proposal for **new vaccines** has been presented to the ICC in February 2005, and the implementation plan is currently being drafted. The country is expected to submit this application in the next round.

BURUNDI

11/04/2005 from AFRO E&S: The first shipment of **pentavalent vaccine** is scheduled to arrive in Bujumbura on 7 April 2005. The official launch is expected on the same day, with the actual start of vaccination to follow.

COMOROS

11/04/2005 from AFRO E&S: The **tetravalent vaccine** has been received, however existing stocks of previously used products are being used, and tetravalent vaccine will be commenced after mid-April 2005.

MALAWI

11/04/2005 from AFRO E&S:

The **RED training** will commence in April/May 2005, and the **Mid-Level Managers** will follow.

The **measles campaign** is planned for August/September 2005, however the funding shortfall remains. DFID pledged their funding through Malawi SWAp, and the SWAp operational systems are not in place yet.

UGANDA

11/04/2005 from Fiona Braka-Makmot, WHO/Uganda: The country successfully conducted the first round of sub-national immunization days and accelerated routine immunization activities in 15 districts of northern

Uganda in February 2005. OPV coverage attained for children 0-59 months was 93%. The second round is scheduled for 7-9 May 2005, to coincide with national child health days.

WEST & CENTRAL AFRICA

BENIN

11/04/2005 from AFRO W&C:

An **EPI Review** is scheduled for mid-2005.

A workshop on the development of **multi-year plans** is also planned for 2005.

GAMBIA

11/04/2005 from AFRO W&C:

A plan of action for accelerating the use of **ISS** has been developed and will be reviewed by the ICC this month.

An assessment of factors responsible for **DTP drop-out** was funded by GAVI following the system barriers to immunization.

The **EPI review** and **multi-year plan** are due for the first semester of 2006.

GUINEA

11/04/2005 from AFRO W&C: An **EPI review** is planned for 2005.

LIBERIA

11/04/2005 from AFRO W&C:

The comprehensive **EPI review analysis** is scheduled for May 2005.

The **injection safety assessment** and proposal to GAVI are planned for the September 2005 round.

A **training** for country **cold chain** officers was conducted in February 2005.

Supportive supervision to countries and review of 2005 EPI activities with EPI Country supervisors are planned for June and September 2005.

MALI

11/04/2005 from AFRO W&C: An external **EPI Review** is scheduled for June 2005.

MAURITANIA

11/04/2005 from AFRO W&C: The official launching of the **hepatitis B vaccine** was done on 1 March 2005. There have been training and social mobilization activities since the end of 2004 in preparation for the launch.

NIGER

11/04/2005 from AFRO W&C:

The country is still interested in requesting support for **yellow fever vaccine**.

Technical assistance is needed for application for new vaccines **hepatitis B vaccine** for 2005.

SIERRA LEONE

11/04/2005 from AFRO W&C: An **EPI Review** is scheduled for June 2005. Following this, a **multi-year plan** will be prepared.

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

AFGHANISTAN

11/04/2005 from EMRO: Two consultants have been sent to the country to assist with the preparation of the application for **new vaccines** (tetravalent).

EMRO is planning to send a consultant to assist in revising the **multi-year plan**, and conduct a brief assessment of EPI.

DJIBOUTI

11/04/2005 from EMRO: A **RED training workshop** for health workers was conducted in February 2005.

PAKISTAN

11/04/2005 from EMRO:

The GAVI and Vaccine Fund support for **injection safety** will end in 2005. The government will purchase AD syringes from the National Budget for 2006.

The country is planning to switch to **tetravalent vaccine** in 2006.

SOMALIA

11/04/2005 from EMRO:

The **ISS funds** have been received by EMRO and UNICEF. A consultant has been recruited to assist with elaborating the country workplan to efficiently allocate the funds.

SUDAN

11/04/2005 from Salah Haithami, WHO/Sudan: The MoH, in collaboration with WHO and UNICEF, has concluded the Cross Border Coordination meeting in Khartoum (7-8 February 2005). The meeting was attended by seven countries bordering Sudan and representatives from WHO, UNICEF, USAID and Rotary International. The meeting came up with recommendations that are practical and will help bring quality work to eradicate polio from borders of Sudan and other bordering countries.

The participants from Sudan and bordering countries agreed on dates of the next immunization campaigns. The names of focal persons were shared among participants in order to facilitate the communication and exchange of information in relation to supplementary immunization activities and acute flaccid paralysis (AFP). International organizations (mainly WHO and UNICEF) pledged their commitment to facilitate this process.

The impact of this meeting and its recommendations will be seen through the increased immunity of children living in bordering areas, especially when countries will conduct synchronized immunization campaigns in February-May 2005. The spread of the poliovirus will be monitored closely with the assistance of local staff that are expected to share the information with their colleagues in the other side. It is known that laws and regulations do not stop polioviruses from crossing the borders, but the close coordination between staff at the local level in conducting joint immunization campaigns, strengthening routine EPI and sharing information of AFP cases can stop the spread of these viruses.

YEMEN

11/04/2005 from EMRO: The GAVI/Vaccine Fund support for **injection safety** ended in 2004, and the national budget has taken over the purchase of AD syringes.

EUROPEAN REGION

REGIONAL INFORMATION

11/04/2005 from EURO: The GAVI Regional Working Group Meeting will be held on 6 May 2005 in Copenhagen, Denmark. A draft agenda of the meeting is as follows:

- Status of support to GAVI-eligible countries;
- Update on the Phase II country support;
- Status of planning and implementation of national FSPs and future plans;
- Hib Initiative and support for rotavirus and pneumo decision-making

11/04/2005 from EURO: Workshops on strengthening national ICCs and Reaching Every District strategy were conducted in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 15-16 and 17-19 March 2005 respectively. National immunization programme managers from nine Russian-speaking countries receiving support from the GAVI/Vaccine Fund and members of national ICCs participated in these workshops. Recommendations made to GAVI can be found under the following link: www.euro.who.int/vaccine

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

11/04/2005 from EURO: Two WHO/EURO experts are visiting the country during the first half of April 2005 to provide technical support for finalization of proposals for **Hib** and **Injection Safety** support. They are also assisting with the preparation of the **Annual Progress Report**.

UZBEKISTAN

11/04/2005 from EURO:

A **WHO/UNICEF Effective Vaccine Store Management (EVSM) assessment** was carried

out from 28 February - 8 March 2005, with technical support from two WHO/EURO consultants. The purpose of this mission was to assist the Republican Sanitary Epidemiological Surveillance Center and the Ministry of Health in the assessment of their vaccine store management performance at the national level. The mission provided the country with a new tool for the self-assessment and model standards and guidelines for development, improvement and maintaining the current system. The assessment team made recommendations for improving the management to comply with the WHO's EVSM global standards. A **national workshop for pediatricians** on modern aspects of immunization was organized by the Research Institute of Pediatrics and held on March 31, with the participation of the CDC, UNICEF and WHO. New Material on measles, hepatitis B and HIV/AIDS were presented at the workshop. Issues related to strengthening the child immune system were also addressed. Special attention was given to measles elimination and upcoming SIA. A resolution on support of SIA was discussed and adopted.

SOUTH EAST ASIA REGION

REGIONAL INFORMATION

11/04/2005 from SEARO: A joint SEAR/WPR and CVP/PATH Meeting on Japanese Encephalitis (JE) was conducted in Bangkok, Thailand from 30-31 March 2005. This was followed by the South East Asian Regional Working Group Meeting on 1 April 2005.

BANGLADESH

11/04/2005 from SEARO:

The country is preparing for the **introduction of hepatitis B vaccine** in the remaining 32 districts. Introduction of the vaccine will be completed this year.

Country has recently completed a **district-wise 30 cluster coverage survey** to obtain district data for EPI coverage.

A study on **vaccine wastage** has been completed. Data entry is ongoing and the report will be available shortly.

DPR KOREA

11/04/2005 from SEARO: The **DQA** was carried out in December 2004, and the country successfully passed with a verification factor of 0.93.

MYANMAR

11/04/2005 from SEARO:

Hepatitis B vaccine introduction will be completed this year, after introduction in the nine remaining districts.

A study on the **impact of HepB birthdose** is being planned.

The country is also interested in conducting a **Hib RAT** this year.

NEPAL

11/04/2005 from SEARO:

The country has completed introduction of **HepB vaccine** in 43 districts, and the remaining 32 districts are planned for this year. Training for introduction in remaining districts started in February 2005, however has slowed down due to the political situation.

The country also plans to switch from HepB monovalent to DTP-HepB combination vaccine this year.

INDIA

11/04/2005 from SEARO: The government has recently sent a letter of intent to GAVI to expand **Hepatitis B vaccine** into the states with DTP3 coverage of greater than 75%.

SRI LANKA

11/04/2005 from SEARO:

The country has introduced **hepatitis B vaccine** in the last two remaining provinces in January 2005.

A prospective one-year surveillance for Hib in the city of Colombo was completed. The report will be available shortly.

TIMOR LESTE

11/04/2005 from SEARO: A **coverage survey** was carried out in December 2004.

END

Regional Meetings of Relevance to the GAVI Objectives: April 2005 - December 2005

Title of Meeting	Start	Finish	Location	Responsible Partner	Region
Apr-05					
GAVI South East Asian Regional Working Group Meeting	01-Apr	01-Apr	Bangkok, Thailand	SEARO	SEAR
Vaccination Week in the Americas	23-Apr	30-Apr	tbd	PAHO	Americas
AFRO Workshop for Peer Technical Review	25-Apr	29-Apr	Harare, Zimbabwe	AFRO	AFR
GAVI Board Meeting	28-Apr	29-Apr	Geneva	GAVI Secretariat	Global
May-05					
GAVI European Regional Working Group Meeting	06-May	06-May	Copenhagen, Denmark	EURO	EUR
GAVI East and South African Sub-Regional Working Group Meeting	May	May	Tanzania	AFRO E&S	AFR
GAVI Country Consultation Meeting	13-May	14-May	Geneva	GAVI Secretariat	Global
AFRO Inter-Country MLM course for Francophone Countries	23-May	03-Jun	Ouidah, Benin	AFRO	AFR
GAVI Working Group Meeting	26-May	27-May	Atlanta, USA	GAVI Secretariat	Global
Jun-05					
Central America Sub-Regional Meeting	Mid Jun	Mid Jun	Guatemala	PAHO	Americas
22nd National EPI Managers ICM and 18th RTAG Meeting	27-Jun	30-Jun	Lebanon	EMRO	EMR
Jul-05					
GAVI Board Meeting	19-Jul	20-Jul	Paris, France	GAVI Secretariat	Global
Aug-05					
AFRO Inter-Country MLM course for Anglophone Countries	01-Aug	12-Aug	Lusaka, Zambia	AFRO	AFR
Sep-05					
Andean Sub-Regional Meeting on EPI	Begin Sept	Begin Sept	Colombia	PAHO	Americas
GAVI Working Group Meeting	21-Sep	22-Sep	Amsterdam	GAVI Secretariat	Global
Oct-05					
Nov-05					
GAVI Working Group Meeting	02-Nov	03-Nov	Geneva	GAVI Secretariat	Global
CAREC Meeting on EPI	Mid Nov	Mid Nov	tbd	PAHO	Americas
GAVI Eastern Mediterranean Regional Working Group Meeting	20-Nov	22-Nov	Cairo, Egypt	EMRO	EMR
Dec-05					
GAVI Board Meeting	06-Dec	07-Dec	New Delhi, India	GAVI Secretariat	Global