



Update

ON COUNTRY LEVEL GAVI & VACCINE FUND RELATED ACTIVITIES

*The information contained in this Update depends upon your contributions
Please send inputs for inclusion to: dassanayakehe@who.int*

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REVIEW PROCESS

The **Proposals Review** was held from **18 - 22 October 2004**. There were seven applications received from six countries for this review:

- Four for Injection Safety Support
- Three for New Vaccines Support

Details of applications are highlighted under specific country listings. Final results will be available in December 2004.

POLIO

01/11/04 from Oliver Rosenbauer, WHO/HQ:

On 8 October 2004, more than one million polio vaccinators in 25 African countries embarked on the continent's single-largest immunization campaign in history, to immunize 80 million children across sub-Saharan Africa against polio. This massive effort was a direct response to an ongoing polio epidemic in the region, which risks paralysing thousands of children for life. Tens of thousands of traditional and religious leaders, school teachers, parents and Rotary club members joined nurses and a vast array of other volunteers and health workers to systematically go house-to-house and village-to-village, to hand-deliver the vaccine to every child under the age of five years.

Smaller-scale activities held in 2000 and 2001 had previously stopped polio in all countries in the region, except Nigeria and Niger. In these two countries, immunization activities need to improve if polio is to be stopped in Africa by end-2005. The campaigns had been given a significant political boost on 2 October 2004 at an official presidential launch. H.E. Mr Olusegun Obasanjo, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Chairperson of the African Union, Professor Alpha Oumar Konaré, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, and Jonathan Majiyagbe, past President of Rotary International and long-time resident of Kano, added their support at a launching celebration in Kano, Nigeria. As part of

the proceedings, President Obasanjo personally immunized the daughter of the Governor of Kano. An additional US\$ 200 million is required to implement similar cross-border polio immunization campaigns on 18 November 2004 and throughout 2005.

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative is spearheaded by the World Health Organization (WHO), Rotary International, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and UNICEF.

For further information on the synchronized immunization campaigns, please visit www.polioeradication.org

The 25 countries participating in the polio campaign are: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo-Brazzaville, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Niger, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo and Sudan.

TRAINING

01/11/04 from Modibo Dicko, WHO/AFRO and Jhilmil Bahl, WHO/HQ: The AFRO inter-country Mid-Level Management (MLM) training was held in Capetown, South Africa from 11-22 October 2004.

The course was organized jointly by WHO, UNICEF and NESI, for professors of medical schools and EPI focal points in English speaking African countries.

A total of 75 participants attended the Anglophone MLM course from 16 countries: Eritrea (2), Ethiopia (5), Gambia (2), Ghana (3), Kenya (7), Liberia (2), Malawi (3), Namibia (3), Seychelles (2), South Africa (10), Somalia (2), Swaziland (3), Tanzania (4), Uganda (5), Zambia (6) and Zimbabwe (14). The participants also included a representative from WHO Headquarters, CVP-PATH and NESI. The participants included National and Provincial EPI Managers and staff (18), Professors and other teaching staff (37),

WHO/UNICEF/NESI/PATH EPI focal points at global, regional and country levels (20).

A similar course for the same target group in Portuguese speaking countries was organized in Maputo, Mozambique in September 2004.

Another MLM course is planned in Dakar, Senegal in November 2004. This one will be for the same target group for francophone countries.

COUNTRY INFORMATION¹ BY REGION

AMERICAS

NICARAGUA

01/11/04 from GAVI Secretariat: Submitted application for Injection Safety for October 2004 review.

EAST & SOUTH AFRICA

REGIONAL INFORMATION

01/11/04 from Patrick Zuber, WHO/HQ:

A workshop on the Introduction of New Vaccines into EPI in Southern Africa was held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 13 - 15 October 2004.

The workshop included participants from 18 Eastern and Southern African countries, with a breakdown of approximately 60% from academia and 40% from government services.

There were sessions on health economics, vaccine introduction, future vaccines, measles, HIV and immunization, as well as training needs of EPI programmes.

The workshop was organized by NESI (network for education and support in immunization) based at the University of Antwerp. The meeting was attended by Dr Patrick Zuber and Ms Jhilmil Bahl (WHO/HQ) and several colleagues from WHO/AFRO regional office.

ANGOLA

01/11/04 from AFRO E&S: The RED assessment was conducted from 29 September to 8 October 2004.

BURUNDI

01/11/04 from AFRO E&S: There is a visit planned by Dr. Rudi Eggers (ICP Kenya) in

November 2004, to discuss the switch from new vaccines DTP-Hib and HepB monovalent to pentavalent vaccine.

ERITREA

01/11/04 from AFRO E&S: A mission by Dr Humphrey Karamagi (East Africa ICP) took place in October 2004 to complete the draft of the **FSP**. Local technical assistance is hired by WHO to support the team incorporate changes from partners and Ministry of National Development.

KENYA

01/11/04 from AFRO E&S: A **Hib country visit** is underway with assistance from LATH and EcoHealth.

LESOTHO

01/11/04 from AFRO E&S: The country has passed the **DQA** with a verification factor of 0.78.

MADAGASCAR

01/11/04 from GAVI Secretariat: Submitted application for Injection Safety for October 2004 review.

MALAWI

01/11/04 from AFRO E&S:

The mission to revise the **FSP** was conducted from 4-8 October 2004.

A **Hib impact study** was planned for 20-30 October 2004 with participation from WHO/AFRO and WHO/HQ.

UGANDA

01/11/04 from Fiona Brake, WHO/Uganda:

The country will host a **RED meeting** for Eastern Africa from 1-3 November 2004. The purpose of the meeting is to review the progress made in the implementation of the RED approach in improving immunization coverage.

A study on the effectiveness of **Hib vaccine** in Uganda has been initiated for one year with support from USAID and PATH through WHO.

ZAMBIA

01/11/04 from AFRO E&S:

The country trained health staff on **pentavalent introduction** in September 2004.

An assessment of **vitamin A supplementation** in low-performing districts was scheduled to be conducted from 26 October - 20 November 2004. There is continued financing of **injection safety supplies**, and the Ministry of Health has already begun remitting funds to UNICEF to buy supplies.

¹ FSP = Financial Sustainability Plan
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

ZIMBABWE

01/11/04 from AFRO E&S:

A **RED training** was conducted in September 2004, and more training activities are ongoing in different districts.

The **DQA** is scheduled for the fourth quarter of 2004.

WEST & CENTRAL AFRICA

BENIN

01/11/04 from AFRO W&C: The draft **FSP** is available and will be presented shortly to the ICC:

BURKINA FASO

01/11/04 from GAVI Secretariat: Submitted applications for New Vaccines (HepB and Hib) for October 2004 review.

GAMBIA

01/11/04 from AFRO W&C: Support for **Injection Safety** will end in 2004, there has been no indication so far on how to supersede current support.

GUINEA

01/11/04 from AFRO W&C:

The **FSP** is under preparation.

A **Yellow Fever** preventive campaign is expected to commence shortly.

MALI

01/11/04 from GAVI Secretariat: Submitted application for New Vaccines (Hib) for October 2004 review.

SENEGAL

01/11/04 from AFRO W&C:

The implementation of **pentavalent vaccine** will commence in January 2005.

SIERRA LEONE

01/11/04 from AFRO W&C:

The country had a successful **DQA**.

An application for **New Vaccines** (HepB) is planned for next year. Technical assistance is requested from WHO/HQ for this activity.

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

REGIONAL INFORMATION

01/11/04 from EMRO: The Eastern Mediterranean Regional Inter-Country Workshop on Pneumococcal Diseases Surveillance is scheduled to be held in Cairo, Egypt from 8-9 December 2004. The main objectives of the workshop are to:

- Review the current pneumococcal surveillance activities in the Region and share experiences from the countries.
- Review current data on pneumococcal epidemiology and strain prevalence in the Region.
- Identify suitable options for establishing and strengthening pneumococcal surveillance in the potential interested member countries.
- Develop national and regional plans for establishing pneumococcal surveillance network in the Eastern Mediterranean Region.

The meeting will be attended by three representatives (national EPI manager, national focal point for surveillance of Pneumococcal diseases and a representative from the academia who is experienced with pneumococcal diseases) from nine member countries, namely Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Tunisia.

AFGHANISTAN

01/11/04 from EMRO:

The country reported a DTP3 coverage of 50% in 2003, and is now eligible to apply for **new vaccines** support from GAVI. The country has stated its interest in applying for HepB vaccine introduction. WHO/EMRO is currently in the process of identifying suitable consultants to assist with preparing the application for submission in 2005.

Planning to submit **FSP** in January 2005.

DJIBOUTI

01/11/04 from EMRO:

The country reported a DTP3 coverage of 50% in 2003, and is now eligible to apply for **new vaccines** support from GAVI. The country has stated its interest in applying for pentavalent vaccine, and a consultant will be sent to assist with an application for New Vaccines (HepB) in early 2005.

The **FSP** is due this year, and the country has participated in a workshop organized in March 2004.

There has been an increase in **immunization coverage**, however discussions have started on how to further improve routine immunization coverage. A GAVI immunization advisor has been in place since 2002.

A visit is planned by members of the regional working group to commence training on **RED microplanning**.

PAKISTAN

01/11/04 from EMRO:

A **GAVI follow-up country** visit is scheduled from 21-25 November 2004. This will be

conducted by a joint WHO/UNICEF/GAVI Secretariat team (Dr Mohsni and Mr Haghrou from WHO/EMRO, Dr Gasse from UNICEF/HQ, Dr Anne Golaz from UNICEF/ROSA and Dr Bchir from GAVI Secretariat). The objective of the visit is to follow-up with progress made in implementing the RED approach in the 33 selected priority districts, and the GAVI Process as a whole (including HepB introduction, immunization safety, use of GAVI funds, etc), and to identify main constraints and assist with identifying adequate solutions. The **FSP** will be revised this year and submitted by January 2005. A consultant has been identified to visit in January 2005 to assist with the process.

SOMALIA

01/11/04 from EMRO: A **GAVI follow-up country visit** is scheduled for November 2004. The objective of the visit is to follow-up with progress made in implementing the RED approach, the GAVI Process as a whole, and to identify main constraints and assist with identifying adequate solutions.

SUDAN

01/11/04 from EMRO:

The first shipment of **HepB vaccine** was received, and the country is currently preparing for vaccine introduction, including training, updating reporting forms, etc. They are expected to start introduction on 1 January 2005.

An assessment of **HepB implementation** is being planned for next year.

Phase one of the **measles catch-up campaign** was conducted earlier this year and targeted eight states including the three Darfur states.

Phase two entails targeting eight other states, and this will be done soon. Vaccinators training workshops started on 26 October 2004 for three of the states, and a similar workshop will be conducted for the remaining five states in early November 2004.

Phase three will target the state of Khartoum in addition to states in the south. This phase will be conducted in early 2005 and will be synchronised with similar campaigns in southern Sudan.

Country is planning to submit **FSP** in January 2005.

YEMEN

01/11/04 from EMRO:

The introduction of **New Vaccines** (pentavalent) will take place at the beginning of 2005.

The second tranche of **ISS** funds was received, and country has commenced district micro planning exercise.

The **DQA** is scheduled for next year.

Country is planning to submit **FSP** in January 2005.

EUROPEAN REGION

REGIONAL INFORMATION

01/11/04 from Andrei Lobanov, WHO/EURO:

The regional Meeting of Immunization Programme Managers was held at the WHO Regional Office for Europe in Rogaska Slatina, Slovenia, from 18-20 October 2004. Programme managers from 52 member states of the European Region and immunization experts representing international agencies and other partner organizations were invited.

The following issues were discussed:

- Current status of global and regional immunization programmes, including disease control targets, progress and future priorities for strengthening immunization systems.
- Immunization safety issues with focus on injection safety and waste disposal.
- Country experiences on strategies and activities to enable vulnerable and difficult to reach population groups to access immunization services.
- National activities implemented and progress achieved towards regional targets of measles elimination and congenital rubella infection prevention, including surveillance and laboratory support.
- Achievements and challenges in the introduction and implementation of new and under-used vaccines in countries, and strategies to address the problems identified.
- Strategies to improve communication and advocacy for immunization, including the role of new European partners.

This meeting was followed by the 14th Interagency Immunization Coordinating Committee (IICC) from 21-22 October 2004. The IICC members were briefed on progress in implementing the recommendations of the last meeting (Budapest, 2003) and key issues of concern resulting from the meeting of national programme managers. The participants reviewed the status of immunization activities and control of vaccine preventable diseases in the European Region, with a focus on vulnerable groups. They identified key activities for priority countries, including advocacy needs and financial sustainability issues.

MOLDOVA

01/11/04 from GAVI Secretariat: Submitted application for Injection Safety for October 2004 review.

SOUTH EAST ASIAN REGION

SOUTH EAST ASIAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP

01/11/04 from SEARO: The South East Asian Regional Working Group meeting was held on 29 October 2004 in Myanmar. The purpose of the meeting was to:

- Review the regional status of immunization programs, particularly the implementation of GAVI projects.
- Discuss potential shifts to combination vaccines in selected countries.
- Updates on DQA and DQS trainings.

BANGLADESH

01/11/04 from SEARO: Drs Craig Burgess (WHO/SEARO) and Patrick Lydon (WHO/HQ) have been providing technical assistance for the **FSP**.

BHUTAN

01/11/04 from SEARO: Patrick Lydon from WHO/HQ has provided technical assistance in early August 2004 for the **FSP**. Country has requested another visit.

DPR KOREA

01/11/04 from SEARO: Drs Burgess (WHO/SEARO) and Dr Siripen from Chulalongkorn University visited in July 2004 and will assist in developing the **FSP**. A second visit is scheduled for 2-9 November 2004.

INDIA

01/11/04 from GAVI Secretariat: Submitted applications for New Vaccines (HepB) and Injection Safety for October 2004 review.

MYANMAR

01/11/04 from SEARO: A Regional Working Group visit occurred from 27-29 October 2004 in Myanmar. The first two days were field trips to review implementation of GAVI projects, both for Strengthening Immunization Services and New Vaccines (HepB). There was an ICC meeting on 29 October 2004 to review Myanmar specific issues, including the status of FSP and findings from the field trip.

TIMOR EAST

01/11/04 from SEARO: A district level EPI coverage survey is tentatively planned for 8-19 November 2004.

WESTERN PACIFIC REGION

ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL WORKING GROUP

01/11/04 from WPRO: The 16th Asia Pacific Regional Working Group meeting was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on 15 October 2004. A summary of outcomes and recommendations from the meeting are as follows:

Country Reports: Participants were informed about progress in implementation of GAVI projects in countries. Country reports were endorsed for Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Vietnam and Papua New Guinea.

Financial Sustainability Planning: Participants agreed with the plan for holding two consecutive training workshops in Vaccine Fund-eligible countries. The workshop will involve provincial level EPI managers and financial personnel, and will also focus on making programs more cost-efficient through better stock management, reducing vaccine wastage rates, and generating more social demand for vaccines.

Regional Hepatitis B Control: The members noted the progress made in hepatitis control efforts through universal childhood hepatitis B vaccination in the region. It was proposed that the action plan for monitoring regional hepatitis B control should be submitted in the next Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting.

Hib vaccine introduction at the region: The members noted the current status of documentation of disease burden in the region and the status of Hib vaccine introduction. It was decided that a regional approach paper be prepared, laying the current status of documentation of disease burden, vaccine introduction and future perspectives of Hib vaccine introduction in the region.

CAMBODIA

01/11/04 from WPRO: As there is high HepB seroprevalence in adolescents, the country would like to verify it with a study. The country has already decided to implement universal HepB immunization.

CHINA

01/11/04 from WPRO: A national EPI review will take place in November 2004, with participation from WHO, UNICEF, JICA and PATH. This will include an assessment of HepB immunization and injection safety.

LAO PDR

01/11/04 from WPRO: The **GAVI Systemwide Barriers Study** was postponed and a new date is to be determined.

Injection Safety Support ends in 2004, however no donor has committed to take over the support yet.

MONGOLIA

01/11/04 from WPRO:

The country plans to introduce the **pentavalent vaccine** in a phased manner over three years, starting in January 2005. The plan has been changed to start with the whole capital city instead of selected districts, and with two additional provinces instead of the original five.

A **HepB impact study** was conducted in October 2004. Dr Wiersma (WHO/HQ) visited to provide technical assistance.

VIET NAM

01/11/04 from WPRO: HepB implementation is progressing without problem.

END

Regional Meetings of Relevance to the GAVI Objectives: November - January 2005					
Title of Meeting	Start	Finish	Location	Responsible Partner	Region
Oct-04					
GAVI Monitoring & Evaluation GAVI Sub-Group Meeting	14-Oct	15-Oct	Lyon, France	Global	Global
Asia Pacific Regional Working Group Meeting	15-Oct	15-Oct	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia	WHO/WPRO	WPR
South East Asian Regional Working Group Meeting	29-Oct	29-Oct	Myanmar	WHO/SEARO	SEAR
Nov-04					
East African RED Meeting	01-Nov	03-Nov	Kampala, Uganda	WHO/AFRO E&S	AFR
GAVI Financing Task Force Core Group Meeting	02-Nov	03-Nov	Washington DC	Global	Global
Dec-04					
EMR Inter-Country Workshop on Pneumococcal Diseases Surveillance	08-Dec	09-Dec	Cairo, Egypt	EMRO	EMR
GAVI Financial Sustainability Planning Meeting	postponed till further notice	postponed till further notice	Geneva, Switzerland	Global	Global
Jan-05					
Asia Pacific Regional Working Group Meeting	Mid Jan	Mid Jan	tbd	WPRO	WPR