



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: dassanayake@who.int*

4 October 2004

REVIEW PROCESS

The **Monitoring Review** was held from 27th September to 1st October 2004 for countries who did not submit their reports for the June 2004 Review.

The next **Proposals Review** will be held from **18 - 22 October 2004**. The deadline for receiving applications for this round was **24 September 2004**.

EPIVAC PROGRAM

04/10/04 from Anaïs Colombini, AMP: The fourth supervision of the second fifty EPIVAC student's session will end in mid October 2004. It focuses on problem-solving in the management of transportation and storage equipment, as well as EPI financing at the district level. The students will receive their third distance learning CD-ROM in October 2004, which will address the assessment of EPI performance, vaccine market, EPI financing, new vaccines introduction, social mobilisation and advocacy.

The training of this second EPIVAC session will end with the final thesis presentation at the WHO's Regional Institute of Public Health at Ouidah (Benin), from 22-25 November 2004. The international board of examiners is composed of university professors from the beneficiary countries, and from Paris IX Dauphine, as well as international experts.

The residential courses of the third EPIVAC session will start on 1 November 2004, at WHO's Regional Institute for Public Health at Ouidah in Benin.

Students and supervisors will come from eight countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Togo.

An update on EPIVAC can be found in the *Bulletin d'Information* at www.epivac.org. The subsequent ones will be published in both French and English.

FINANCING TASK FORCE

04/10/04 from Lidija Kamara, WHO/HQ: The GAVI FTF is pleased to announce the appointment by the World Bank of Alan Crouch, Global Financial Sustainability Implementation Coordinator. Mr Crouch is seconded to the WHO Department of Immunization,

Vaccines and Biologicals, Access to Technologies team, and commenced work in WHO on 4 October 2004.

Please note that the Financial Sustainability Implementation Workshop planned for 25-26 October 2004 has been postponed until further notice.

The GAVI FTF Core Group meeting will be held in Washington D.C. from 2-3 November. Invitations for this meeting have been extended to Regional Focal Points involved in financial sustainability planning. Please confirm your participation by email to Violaine Mitchell, vmitchell@pacificcoast.net.

For the most recent version of the FSP Guidelines and corresponding Costing and Financing Tools, please consult the Immunization Financing Database at http://www.who.int/immunization_financing/en/

TRIVALENT VACCINE

04/10/04 from Chris Nelson, WHO/HQ: Trivalent Nm ACW 135 polysaccharide vaccine:

Preliminary results from the trivalent Nm ACW 135 polysaccharide (PS) vaccine non-inferiority trial among adults 15-34y indicate that the trivalent vaccine performs as well as the quadravalent Nm ACYW135 PS vaccine. The field site in Ghana is now preparing for the 11m follow-up with results from this work expected in early 2005.

After the completion of site selection earlier this year, a working group is now finalizing the protocol for the immunogenicity and reactogenicity of the trivalent vaccine among young children.

Results from the trivalent vaccine effectiveness and safety studies conducted in Burkina Faso during 2003, where 2m doses of vaccine were used for epidemic response, were presented at the 14th International Pathogenic Neisseria Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in September 2004.

VACCINE SAFETY NET PROJECT

04/10/04 from Alison Delo, WHO/HQ: The Vaccine Safety Net Project was launched on 31 August 2004. The initial intention of the Project was to develop a network of partner websites to address unbalanced and misleading vaccine safety information propagated on the web. A meeting was held near Annecy, France in

February 2003 to discuss the concept with representatives from governmental and nongovernmental professional organizations, members of the Global Advisory committee on Vaccine Safety (GACVS) and representatives from UNICEF and WHO.

Participants agreed that the work of the GACVS should be supported and given visibility, and that linkages with other websites providing credible information on vaccine safety - in a variety of languages - should be developed as far as possible, but without a formal collaborative structure. It was also agreed that before websites are linked to partner sites, they should meet certain criteria. Meeting participants agreed that it would be appropriate for the GACVS to define these criteria.

Subsequent to these conclusions, the GACVS researched and approved a set of criteria for good information practices for vaccine safety websites. During the last months, WHO has evaluated a number of websites providing vaccine safety information for their adherence to the criteria relating to credibility and content. Among these sites evaluated are the websites of the initial partners and other sites suggested by them. Sites meeting the criteria are listed on the WHO immunization safety website. Sites not listed do not appear because either they have not been reviewed, or they have been reviewed and do not meet the essential and important criteria noted above.

It is hoped that as information spreads about this project, more sites will wish to be linked and will improve their websites such that they comply with the established criteria, thus expanding the network.

The link to the "Vaccines Safety Net" pages is: http://www.who.int/immunization_safety/safety_quality/vaccine_safety_websites/en/

In parallel to the above-noted activities, efforts have been made to improve accessibility to GACVS-related information by translating material on the GACVS website http://www.who.int/vaccine_safety/en/ from English into all WHO HQ official languages. A significant proportion of the information on the site is now available in Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish, as well as English.

Comments or queries relating to the Vaccine Safety Net Project should be sent to Ms Alison Delo, Administrative Officer, Immunization Safety Priority Project, WHO at deloa@who.int.

COUNTRY INFORMATION¹ BY REGION

EAST & SOUTH AFRICA SUB REGION

ANGOLA

04/10/04 from AFRO E&S: The country will conduct a RED (Reach Every District) assessment from 29 September - 11 October 2004. They have already implemented an intensified RED Approach to improve routine coverage and are yielding good results to date.

BOTSWANA

04/10/04 from AFRO E&S:

Currently preparing a **Multi-Year Immunization Plan**. The Ministry of Health has accepted to conduct an assessment of routine Vitamin A supplementation in the country and findings to be incorporated in the Multi-Year Plan.

The STOP Team is in the country to support **surveillance** activities.

BURUNDI

04/10/04 from AFRO E&S:

Reporting improvement plan is being worked on, including a creation of supervision tools. UNICEF has agreed to fund the printing of the necessary health facility registers, tally sheets and cards.

For the **cold chain**, an inventory of national and sub-national stores is complete. The country staff are now in the process of obtaining information from the health facility level.

The current three-year GAVI grant for **Injection Safety** will expire shortly, and it is expected that funds will be obtained from various in-country donors. A document regarding this matter has been prepared for ICC approval.

COMOROS

04/10/04 from AFRO E&S: The country has submitted a revised Annual Progress Report to the GAVI Secretariat expressing its intention to switch to tetravalent DTP-HepB in 2005.

04/10/04 from Lidija Kamara, WHO/HQ: The FSP has been revised with external support from WHO/HQ, and is currently circulating for signatures prior to submission to the GAVI Secretariat for review.

ERITREA

04/10/04 from AFRO E&S:

The **DQA** was conducted with a verification factor of 0.99.

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
STOP = Stop Transmission of Polio

The **FSP** consultant is appointed and started working through the existing document. No problems have been anticipated. The FSP mission is planned for mid-October by an ICP health economist.

ETHIOPIA

04/10/04 from AFRO E&S:

The application for **New Vaccines** has been postponed for the first half of 2005.

There has been a dramatic improvement in **immunization coverage** noted in high population parts of the country and thus the national average DTP3 moved from 52 to 72%. Plans are under way to verify this coverage improvement.

Cold chain rehabilitation plan is in place for 2004 - 2008.

04/10/04 from Lidija Kamara, WHO/HQ: The World Bank will be providing FSP development support in October 2004.

KENYA

04/10/04 from AFRO E&S:

The country has passed the **DQA** with a verification factor of 0.86. Baseline adjustment is an outstanding issue.

The **Annual Progress Report** has been signed and sent to the GAVI Secretariat for the review in September 2004.

LESOTHO

04/10/04 from AFRO E&S:

The **DQA** was conducted during July 2004. Currently awaiting the final results and report.

Polio National Immunization Days were conducted in August and September 2004.

04/10/04 from Lidija Kamara, WHO/HQ: FSP development is currently underway.

MADAGASCAR

04/10/04 from AFRO E&S: The country is implementing a nationwide under 15 measles campaign from 13 September to 8 October 2004.

MALAWI

04/10/04 from AFRO E&S:

The country will be conducting **Mid-Level Managers trainings** in the pilot districts.

The RED (Reach Every District) training in priority districts is expected to be conducted soon.

04/10/04 from Lidija Kamara, WHO/HQ: WHO/AFRO will be supporting a mission for the revision of the FSP in October 2004.

MOZAMBIQUE

04/10/04 from AFRO E&S:

The country hosted the **Mid-Level Managers** course for Lusophone countries during 9-25 September 2004.

The country is scheduled to conduct a **coverage survey** in October 2004.

A **Hib burden study** was conducted by WHO/AFRO in July 2004. GAVI will conduct another Hib study in October 2004.

The plan to conduct training in the RED (Reach Every District) approach in the Nampula province has been finalised.

A **measles campaign** is being planned for 2005.

04/10/04 from Lidija Kamara, WHO/HQ: WHO/HQ recently supported the AFRO office in a joint implementation follow-up mission.

NAMIBIA

04/10/04 from AFRO E&S: A surveillance review was conducted in August 2004.

RWANDA

04/10/04 from AFRO E&S:

Routine coverage seems stable at the moment, despite the departures of some key staff members. Problems with the calculation of pentavalent vaccine stock for 2005 are present, since replenishment of a buffer stock has not been included.

TANZANIA

04/10/04 from AFRO E&S:

The DQS training was conducted in four districts, and this proved to be a good experience.

UGANDA

04/10/04 from AFRO E&S:

A budget line has been established to follow up on the expiry of **Injection Safety support**. It is expected that AD syringes will be funded by the Ministry of Health. There is sufficient **pentavalent** vaccine.

ZAMBIA

04/10/04 from AFRO E&S:

The country was currently awarded funds for increased DTP3 coverage in children under the age of one. Ten pilot districts are currently implementing the **RED** (Reach Every District) approach.

An **EPI Review** is planned for November 2004.

The **STOP Team** is in the country to support surveillance activities.

ZIMBABWE

04/10/04 from AFRO E&S:

The training of pilot districts for the **RED** (Reach Every District) approach is ongoing.

Currently preparing for the **FSP** mission, which is scheduled for 18-23 October 2004.

The **DQA** is scheduled to be conducted in the fourth quarter of 2004.

WEST & CENTRAL AFRICA SUB REGION

CAMEROON

04/10/04 from AFRO W&C:

The country will start **HepB vaccine introduction** in January 2005. The **Yellow Fever** vaccine has been introduced.

A **vaccine coverage survey** is planned for the 4th quarter of 2004. Technical assistance is planned to

support this activity.

Two rounds of **National Immunization Days** will take place in November and December 2004.

CHAD

04/10/04 from AFRO W&C: The Yellow Fever vaccine has arrived and ISS money has been received.

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION

PAKISTAN

04/10/04 from EMRO:

A revision of the **FSP** will be done by January 2005.

A **coverage survey** is being requested by GAVI. WHO has received recent data. A country visit is being planned for November 2004.

SOMALIA

04/10/04 from EMRO:

The Independent Review has approved the third tranche of **ISS** funds.

The **DQA** and **FSP** have been postponed to 2005.

SUDAN

04/10/04 from EMRO: HepB vaccine has been introduced in June 2004. The UNICEF Supply Division confirmed shipments for this year. The first shipment arrived on 22 August 2004, and the second is scheduled for October 2004.

YEMEN

04/10/04 from EMRO:

The UNICEF Supply Division has planned a first shipment of **pentavalent vaccine** in December 2004. The **DQA** will be conducted in 2005.

EUROPEAN REGION

ALBANIA

04/10/04 from EURO: An application for New Vaccines (Hib) is expected for 2005.

TAJIKISTAN

04/10/04 from EURO: The country is a RED (Reach Every District) priority country for the region. Districts have developed microplans for the measles campaign, which can subsequently be used in strengthening routine immunization as well.

UKRAINE

04/10/04 from EURO: In 2005, the country will contribute for 20% of the purchase of HepB monovalent vaccine from the government budget.

SOUTH EAST ASIAN REGION

SOUTH EAST ASIAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP

04/10/04 from SEARO: The next South East Asian Regional Working Group meeting is scheduled to be

held in Myanmar on 29 October 2004. The provisional agenda includes:

BANGLADESH

04/10/04 from SEARO:

The second **ISS** tranche has been approved. Country staff will follow up on the implementation of the funds in the country.

There is a high level of **HepB** wastage. WHO will issue a study by December to address this matter as well as bringing it up in the next Regional Working Group meeting.

BHUTAN

04/10/04 from SEARO:

The current three-year GAVI grant for **Injection Safety** will expire in 2005.

The **FSP** is currently moving forward.

DPR KOREA

04/10/04 from SEARO:

Some progress has been made on the **FSP**. Dr Craig Burgess (WHO/SEARO) is providing technical assistance for this process.

UNICEF has agreed to supersede GAVI support for **Injection Safety**.

INDIA

04/10/04 from SEARO:

The **EPI review** was completed in August 2004 and the report will be ready in a few weeks.

The country is going to use **AD syringes** from the beginning of 2005.

HepB implementation is ongoing in 15 cities. An evaluation of the introduction process has confirmed the recommendation to expand immunization to the entire population of the 15 cities.

INDONESIA

04/10/04 from SEARO:

The **DQS** is scheduled for the first two weeks of October 2004. Craig Burgess (WHO/SEARO) and Diana Chang Blanc (PATH/CVP) will provide technical assistance for this activity.

The current three-year GAVI grant for **Injection Safety** will expire in 2005.

MYANMAR

04/10/04 from SEARO:

A workplan has been developed for the implementation of **ISS** funds.

The country is currently in the process of developing their **FSP** as it is due this year.

The current three-year GAVI grant for **Injection Safety** will expire in 2005.

NEPAL

04/10/04 from SEARO:

The district implementation of **ISS** has commenced. **HepB** implementation is using a phased approach.

The current three-year GAVI grant for **Injection Safety** will expire in 2005.

SRI LANKA

04/10/04 from SEARO:

The **Hib burden study** is ongoing till 2005.

The **HepB monovalent vaccine** is being implemented in a phased manner. There are two more provinces to complete before all the nine provinces are covered.

The country would like to offer *Japanese Encephalitis* vaccine through its regular immunization schedule.

The current three-year GAVI grant for **Injection Safety** will expire in 2005.

04/10/04 from Lidija Kamara, WHO/HQ: Currently in the process of developing the FSP which is due this year.

TIMOR EAST

04/10/04 from SEARO:

A **coverage survey** is scheduled for November 2004.

Assistance will be provided by WHO and UNICEF for this activity.

It is unlikely that the country will apply for **HepB monovalent** this year.

WESTERN PACIFIC REGION

ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL WORKING GROUP

04/10/04 from WPRO: The next Asia Pacific Regional Working Group meeting is scheduled to be held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on 15 October 2004. The provisional agenda includes:

- Country updates
- Financial sustainability planning
- GAVI updates
- RWG modus operandi and meeting schedule for 2005

CAMBODIA

04/10/04 from WPRO:

The current three-year GAVI grant for **Injection Safety** will expire at the end of 2004. JICA has shown interest in providing AD syringes in 2005, though no definitive agreement has been signed yet.

HepB monovalent vaccine (in 10-dose vials) for birth dosing has been secured through JICA for continued phased introduction in 2005 and 2006.

The country has deferred its participation in the **system-wide barrier study** till the second quarter of 2005.

CHINA

04/10/04 from WPRO:

The **HepB vaccine** was integrated into the EPI nationwide in 2003. The GAVI project implementation plan (PIP) was formally issued to the provinces on 12 February 2003. GAVI and the central government will provide for hepatitis B vaccine and AD syringes for EPI vaccines in 12 Western provinces and in national poverty counties in Shanxi, Anhui, Jianxi, Henan, Hubei and Hunan provinces.

The **FSP** is due in November 2004. Technical assistance was provided in September 2004 to assist with this activity.

LAO PDR

04/10/04 from WPRO:

AD syringes seem to be in the process of being introduced according to plan. Urgent action is needed to mobilize support for **Injection Safety** when the current GAVI grants expire in 2004. There have been some discussions as to how to mobilize the support.

MONGOLIA

04/10/04 from WPRO:

Applications for introduction of New Vaccines (Pentavalent - DTP-HepB+Hib) and Injection Safety support were approved in July 2004.

According to the Strategic Plan for **introduction of pentavalent vaccine**, the country intends to introduce the pentavalent vaccine in a phased manner (over three years: 2005 - 2007), initially targeting five out of the 9 districts of Ulaanbaatar, and five out of 21 provinces, which account for approximately 25% of the total eligible population. This is scheduled to commence from 3 January 2005, and expanded nationwide in 2008.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

04/10/04 from WPRO: A meeting of the ICC was held in May 2004. Country representatives from UNICEF; JICA, AUSAID, EO-CMC and WHO, and Government from NDOH, Secretary for Education, Secretary for Community Development and responsible persons from different departments attended the meeting. It was decided that the country will apply for ISS funds in the next rounds.

END

Regional Meetings of Relevance to the GAVI Objectives: September - December 2004

Title of Meeting	Start	Finish	Location	Responsible Partner	Region
Sep-04					
East & South African Sub-Regional Working Group Meeting	01-Sep	02-Sep	Nairobi, Kenya	WHO/AFRO E&S	AFR
EPI Programme Managers' Meeting	20-Sep	01-Oct	Douala, Cameroon	WHO/AFRO W&C	AFR
Oct-04					
GAVI Monitoring & Evaluation GAVI Sub-Group Meeting	10-Oct	10-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					
GAVI Financing Task Force Core Group Meeting	02-Nov	03-Nov	Washington DC	Global	Global
Dec-04					
GAVI Financial Sustainability Planning Meeting	postponed till further notice	postponed till further notice	Geneva, Switzerland	Global	Global