



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 next **Proposals Review** will be held from **16-26 May 2005**. The deadline for receiving applications is **22 April 2005**.

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

FSPs submitted to the GAVI Secretariat were reviewed from **26 January to 2 February 2005**.

TRAINING

09/02/2005 from Molly Mort, CVP/PATH: New e-Learning Advanced Immunization Management Modules Launched

In December 2004, PATH's Children's Vaccine Program (CVP) and Stanford University's SUMMIT in collaboration with GAVI partners launched a series of Advanced Immunization Management (AIM) e-Learning modules. This new and expanding tool is a significant step forward in the global community's ability to address priority issues for national managers and in-country partners who are trying to improve immunization programmes in developing countries.

These modules are available on the AIM website at <http://aim-e-learning.stanford.edu> and on CD-ROM. Already 1300 CD-ROMS were sent to national-level immunization managers, GAVI partners working in the poorest 74 countries in the world (1000 copies) and global/headquarter-level GAVI partners (300 copies). Several have already introduced the AIM through workshops and meetings. Along with the AIM e-Learning CD-ROMS and available on the AIM website is an evaluation form. Users are invited to fill it out, and if their evaluation is received by **7 March 2005**, they will be automatically entered into a drawing to receive a copy of the fourth edition of *Vaccines* by Drs Stanley A. Plotkin and Walter A. Orenstein.

The AIM website and CD-ROM currently include:

- Considerations for introduction of new and under-utilized vaccines currently covering:
 - Hepatitis B
 - Japanese encephalitis vaccines
- Immunization Financing, currently available in English, French, Russian and Indonesian.

AIM e-Learning

AIM e-Learning brings together a wide range of best practices and published information using interactive learning techniques that help national immunization managers and other decision makers make well-informed management and implementation decisions.

The AIM e-learning tool has been developed and reviewed in close collaboration with GAVI partners including WHO and CDC.

The AIM materials are designed to give users the flexibility to learn at their own pace, according to their own schedule and their own learning style. AIM e-learning should be combined with face-to-face trainings to raise the specific issue and introduce the tool. The AIM e-learning site can be used for individual learning or for use in group settings. To facilitate group learning, AIM includes facilitator guides in the "Welcome" section of each module.

In 2005, AIM modules on *Considerations for Introducing Rotavirus and Meningococcal Vaccines* will be developed.

Accessing AIM e-Learning

To get started, simply access the AIM web-site at <http://aim-e-learning.stanford.edu>.

To view a short demonstration video about AIM e-learning, please go to <http://aim-e-learning.stanford.edu/demo.html> and click on one of the three bandwidth options.

If you have any questions or would like to receive a free CD-ROM version of AIM, please email aim-inform@lists.stanford.edu

COUNTRY INFORMATION¹ BY REGION

AMERICAS

CUBA

09/02/2005 from AMRO:

The **EPI review** was conducted in December 2004, and the findings indicated that the country has been performing very well, and the report was well received by the Minister of Health.

Two consultants will assist with the application for **Injection Safety** support, for the upcoming round.

GUYANA

09/02/2005 from AMRO:

A consultant will visit in mid-February 2005 to assist with the **system wide barriers** study, which will facilitate the GAVI process.

The country is planning to submit an application for **Injection Safety** in the next round.

HAITI

09/02/2005 from AMRO:

The country is requesting technical assistance for conducting a **DQA/coverage survey** during the first half of 2005.

An **ICC meeting** was held on 18 January 2005.

HONDURAS

09/02/2005 from AMRO:

A campaign to eliminate **rubella** is scheduled for March 2005.

An **EPI Review** is planned from 19-30 September 2005.

NICARAGUA

09/02/2005 from AMRO: Technical assistance is being provided to find mechanisms to assist the government to purchase **AD syringes**.

EAST & SOUTH AFRICA

REGIONAL INFORMATION

09/02/2005 from Modibo Dicko,

WHO/AFRO: Two workshops were held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in January 2005.

The first was on "**Strengthening National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs)**", with

participants from Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda. Having functional NRAs is a new priority for African countries, since as of 1 January 2005, the "European Medicines Agency" has stopped licensing vaccines that are not used in Europe. This will also allow a continuous regulatory assessment of all vaccines, including those manufactured in other developing countries, as well as the meningitis A conjugate vaccine currently under development.

The second workshop was on the "**Africa AIDS Vaccine Project (AAVP)**". The meeting was held to discuss the possibility to establish a Task Force. It was jointly organized by WHO/ATT, with NRA representatives from Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, and Uganda, to identify gaps in their regulatory functions and develop an institutional development plan. The meeting was also attended by representatives from the NRA and National Council of Science and Technology from Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia, to discuss the vision, structure, scope and mandate of the proposed Task Force.

The Task Force will meet to develop a plan of activities in the following areas:

- Procedure for regulatory review of candidate HIV vaccines.
- Develop a plan for training and capacity in regulatory review of HIV vaccines.
- Conduct assessment to establish specific needs for training for NRA and establish a database of regional and external experts.
- Serve as a forum for information exchange.

09/02/2005 from AFRO E&S: The **East and South African Sub-Regional Working Group Meeting** took place in Harare, Zimbabwe from 27-28 January 2005. Key issues discussed at the meeting include the following:

Country and Sub-Regional Updates: The backbone for EPI activities including GAVI support in several countries has relied on polio-funded staff. It will be essential to sustain this infrastructure to allow for the continuation of GAVI activities in countries. Partners should move towards including human resources components in financial sustainability planning.

Efforts need to be made by countries to combine assessments to optimize the use of resources, foster collaboration between programmes and minimize the negative impact on health programmes.

Global and Regional Feedback: It was discussed that country multi-year plans should have the following components:

- Country ownership
- Strategic alignment to GIVS
- Flexibility and roll-over

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

- Link to in-country strategic planning processes
- Costing with information on financing available.

Annual plans of actions should be operational and specific, detailed, and include a budget and shortfalls.

Financial Sustainability Planning and Implementation: It was suggested that in-country and regional partners should become more involved in immunization financing activities within countries.

The proposed financial decision-making guidelines for new vaccines should be incorporated into the overall new vaccine guidelines to the extent possible.

ANGOLA

09/02/05 from AFRO E&S:

The country is planning to conduct a **DQA** in 2005. The country is continuing to implement the **RED approach**.

COMOROS

09/02/05 from AFRO E&S: The country is planning to introduce **DTP-HepB combination vaccine** in March/April 2005.

09/02/05 from GAVI Secretariat: The country submitted its **FSP** for review in January 2005.

ERITREA

09/02/05 from GAVI Secretariat: The country submitted its **FSP** for review in January 2005.

LESOTHO

09/02/05 from GAVI Secretariat: The country submitted its **FSP** for review in January 2005.

MADAGASCAR

09/02/05 from AFRO E&S:

The country is planning to introduce **safe injections** into the EPI programme in 2005.

The country is continuing to implement the **RED approach**.

MALAWI

09/02/05 from AFRO E&S:

The country has prepared a proposal for **injection safety** support, and will consult with the ICC, prior to submitting it to the GAVI Secretariat.

The country is also preparing for a **measles campaign** in May 2005.

A **mid-level managers** and **RED training** will be conducted during March-April 2005.

The country is continuing to implement the **RED approach**.

Vaccine wastage is being monitored through sentinel sites.

09/02/05 from GAVI Secretariat: The country submitted its **FSP** for review in January 2005.

MOZAMBIQUE

09/02/05 from AFRO E&S:

The country conducted a **coverage survey** in October 2004, and opted for a second DQA in 2005.

Country is currently planning for a **measles campaign** to be held in phases from July-September 2005, and has requested support from AFRO and ICP.

Country is continuing to implement the **RED approach**.

ZAMBIA

09/02/05 from AFRO E&S:

An **EPI Review** is scheduled to be conducted in February/March 2005. WHO has provided some financial support and identified two consultants to participate with the ICP for this activity.

The **EPI multi-year plan** will be prepared after the EPI review.

The country is continuing to implement the **RED approach**.

The **vaccine wastage surveillance system** will be implemented in March 2005.

ZIMBABWE

09/02/05 from AFRO E&S:

The **DQA** was conducted from 1-19 December 2004.

A **vaccine management assessment** was conducted in December 2004, and the draft report is currently being finalized.

The country is currently revising the **EPI Policy** document.

The country is continuing to implement the **RED approach**.

09/02/05 from GAVI Secretariat: The country submitted its **FSP** for review in January 2005.

WEST & CENTRAL AFRICA

CAMEROON

09/02/2005 from AFRO W&C: The first shipment of **tetravalent vaccine** is due in the first quarter of 2005. The country has planned to begin implementation in March 2005 and officially launch the introduction of this antigen in June 2005.

GUINEA

09/02/2005 from AFRO W&C: The country has started the first phase of preventive campaigns against **yellow fever** in December

2004, and plans to continue during the first quarter of 2005.

SAO TOME & PRINCIPE

09/02/2005 from AFRO W&C: The country has requested technical assistance for in preparing its **FSP** submission.

SIERRA LEONE

09/02/05 from GAVI Secretariat: The country submitted its **FSP** for review in January 2005.

TOGO

09/02/2005 from AFRO W&C: The country has now integrated **yellow fever vaccine** into EPI, and it was launched in the last week of December 2004.

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

REGIONAL INFORMATION

09/02/05 from EMRO: The 9th **Eastern Mediterranean Regional Working Group Meeting** was held in Cairo, Egypt, from 11-13 January 2005. Following is a summary of recommendations made at the meeting:

Country multi-year plans: Countries are encouraged to develop a MYP along the lines of a broad five-year time-frame, and a more detailed activity work plan for the current year of activities. Both MYPs and annual workplans should include a budget component, and MYPs should be linked to the national health sector strategic plans and country budgeting/planning cycles.

GIVS: The RWG welcomes the GIVS as a framework to coordinate the efforts of all partners working on immunization that could help contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Country Progress Reports and WHO/UNICEF Joint-Report Forms: The RWG held discussions on the reporting formats of 2004 annual progress reports and the WHO/UNICEF JRF. Countries were requested to share them with the RWGs prior to submitting them for review, in order to consider comments arising from RWG members. EMRO will hold a core group meeting in March 2005 to review country progress reports and send comments prior to the end of March.

Financial Sustainability Planning: Countries are encouraged to use information derived from FSPs for national immunization planning and budgeting processes. National FSPs can be used as a management tool for national immunization programmes and updated by national teams on a regular, annual basis.

Improving data quality and reporting: National EPI managers are encouraged to assess reliability of their EPI routine reporting system,

using existing data. Based on this assessment, countries should consider using monitoring tools such as DQS, and cluster surveys as required.

EUROPEAN REGION

ALBANIA

09/02/05 from GAVI Secretariat: The country submitted its **FSP** for review in January 2005.

SOUTH EAST ASIA REGION

BANGLADESH

09/02/05 from GAVI Secretariat: The country submitted its **FSP** for review in January 2005.

BHUTAN

09/02/05 from GAVI Secretariat: The country submitted its **FSP** for review in January 2005.

DPR KOREA

09/02/05 from GAVI Secretariat: The country submitted its **FSP** for review in January 2005.

NEPAL

09/02/05 from Johannes Schmidt, WHO/HQ: A mission took place from 3-15 January 2005 to monitor round 2 of a combined **measles/polio immunization campaign** in three districts of the Western Development Region. Participants of this mission include Dr. Elisabeth Luman (CDC), Drs Igbal Ansari Khan and Mohamed Tazul Islam (Government of Bangladesh), Dr Qamrul Hasan (WHO Bangladesh) and Dr. Johannes Schmidt (WHO/HQ).

His Majesty's Government of Nepal is conducting a nation-wide measles immunization campaign, targeting a total of 10 million infants and children from 9 months of age to 14 years of age. Additionally, OPV is administered to children 0-59 months of age. The campaign is phased out geographically into three rounds:

- First round was conducted in September 2004 in the Eastern and Central Development Region.
- Second round took place from 4-24 January 2005 in the southern districts of the Western, Mid-Western and Far-Western Development Regions.
- Third round will take place in April 2005 in the remaining northern districts of the Western, Mid-Western and Far Western Development Regions.

Most vaccination posts were set up in schools, and the remainder in municipal offices. The campaign was received positively by the communities, and coverage especially in school-based posts exceeded 90%. However, some children in the high risk groups and areas (child labourers, slum areas, etc) were missed.

MYANMAR

09/02/05 from GAVI Secretariat: The country submitted its **FSP** for review in January 2005.

WESTERN PACIFIC REGION

REGIONAL INFORMATION

09/02/05 from WPRO: The next **Asia Pacific Regional Working Group meeting** will be held on 15 February, by teleconference. The agenda items for this call are the following:

- Country Updates
- Financial Sustainability Planning and FTF regional support mechanisms
- Updates on GAVI
- Update on New Vaccines (Rotavirus and Pneumococcus)
- Update on efforts on Japanese Encephalitis in WPRO
- RWG Modus Operandi

09/02/05 from Oya Afsar, WHO/HQ: The ADIPs coordination meeting was conducted on 1 February 2005, with the attendance from focal persons from PneumoADIP, Rotavirus Vaccine Program, JE Project at PATH, WHO/HQ and WPRO. This was the last of a series of meetings that took place in 2004 in the WHO Regional Offices. The aim of the meeting was to brief the regional focal points about the new vaccine initiatives, and to discuss areas of common interest as well as future collaboration.

Action points arising from the meeting are the following:

- A mechanism will be established to share the findings of Asian Rotavirus Surveillance Network (ARSN) regularly with regional office and countries.
- Existing regional cost-effectiveness data for the rotavirus vaccine will be reviewed to identify and complement gaps.
- PneumoADIP will send the project's newsletter regularly to the regional office.

- Regional office and ADIPS will discuss a list of potential early adopter countries.
- WPRO will consider adding new vaccines into the agenda of the upcoming TAG and EPI managers' meetings.

As a follow-up to this meeting, WPRO decided to discuss how to fit pneumococcus and rotavirus related issues into the regional strategic plan, considering the existing priorities for the region. It was also agreed that as in all regions, ADIPS and JEP will closely coordinate their regional and country level activities with the regional office and HQ.

CAMBODIA

09/02/05 from WPRO:

The country will postpone the expansion of **DTP-HepB vaccine** in order to utilize the existing DTP stocks.

An **EPI Review** is scheduled for March 2005, and WHO/WPRO and UNICEF will provide technical assistance.

LAO PDR

09/02/05 from WPRO: An **EPI Review** is planned for 2005. The review will also assess coverage and analyse system wide barriers.

MONGOLIA

09/02/05 from WPRO:

The implementation of **pentavalent vaccine** started in January 2005, and is going well. An evaluation may be conducted during the second quarter of 2005.

The **FSP** is due in 2006, and technical assistance will be provided this year in preparation for its submission.

VIETNAM

09/02/05 from WPRO: The **system wide barriers study** was conducted in 2004, and an implementation of a plan to address some of the barriers identified will take place in 2005.

END

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

Title of Meeting	Start	Finish	Location	Responsible Partner	Region
Feb-05					
GAVI Asia Pacific Regional Working Group Meeting/Teleconference	15-Feb	15-Feb	Teleconference	WPRO	WPR
GAVI Working Group Meeting	22-Feb	23-Feb	Washington DC	GAVI Secretariat	Global
Mar-05					
EPI Managers Meeting for Southern Africa	02-Mar	04-Mar	Windhoek, Namibia	AFRO E&S	AFR
East African EPI Managers Meeting	07-Mar	11-Mar	Zanzibar	AFRO E&S	AFR
GAVI Eastern Mediterranean Regional Working Group Meeting	14-Mar	14-Mar	Tunis, Tunisia	EMRO	EMR
Inter-Country Workshop on Monitoring & Evaluation of National EPI Programme	15-Mar	18-Mar	Tunis, Tunisia	EMRO	EMR
Apr-05					
Vaccination Week in the Americas	23-Apr	30-Apr	tbd	PAHO	Americas
GAVI Board Meeting	28-Apr	29-Apr	tbd	GAVI Secretariat	Global
May-05					
GAVI East and South African Sub-Regional Working Group Meeting	May	May	Tanzania	AFRO E&S	AFR
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	tbd	GAVI Secretariat	Global
Aug-05					
Sep-05					
Andean Sub-Regional Meeting on EPI	Begin Sept	Begin Sept	Colombia	PAHO	Americas
Oct-05					
Nov-05					
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	tbd	GAVI Secretariat	Global