



# Update

## ON COUNTRY LEVEL GAVI & VACCINE FUND RELATED ACTIVITIES

*The information contained in this Update depends upon your contributions  
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**30 June 2003**

### **GENERAL NOTE ON THE VACCINE FUND APPLICATION PROCESS**

- The country activities listed below are those that have been initiated by various Partners of the Alliance.
- Please note change in round numbering below.
- The **3<sup>rd</sup> Round 2003 – September deadline is 30 September 2003**. The Independent Review Committee (IRC) will meet from 28 October – 5 November 2003.
- The next **Monitoring Review** will take place from **27 October 2003 to 7 November 2003**. The deadline to receive reports is **30 September 2003**.

### **GAVI BOARD**

**30/06/03 from the GAVI Secretariat:** The next GAVI Board meeting will be held in Washington D.C. from 15-16 July 2003.

### **FINANCING TASK FORCE**

**30/06/03 from Lidija Kamara, WHO/HQ:**

*Update on Financial Sustainability Planning* – Following the evaluation of the first 12 countries to have prepared financial sustainability plans in 2002 and recommendations from the Independent Review Committee, 2003 has required a major scaling up of efforts by all partners to meet the needs of the first 12 first round countries as they move into further development and implementation of their financial sustainability plans and provision of support to the 22 countries preparing for submission in November of this year. Some of the financial sustainability activities in the first half of 2003 include:

- Revision of the Financial Sustainability Plan Guidelines.
- Development of an Advocacy Framework for supporting countries with implementation of financial sustainability plans.
- Training of regional consultants in Geneva to support RWGs and countries with financial sustainability development and implementation.

- Financial Sustainability Planning country workshops in English, French and Russian, to support 22 countries preparing financial sustainability plans in 2003 – Despite SARs, there was excellent representation from Bangladesh and Pakistan at the English language workshop in Kampala in May.
- Technical assistance and support to 2002 countries revising and implementing their plans in 2003 based on the recommendations of the Independent Monitoring Committee.
- Preparation of the analysis of the first round of financial sustainability plans for the GAVI Board meeting in July.

Special thanks to partners CVP/PATH for their support with country workshops, UNICEF and the World Bank. The revised Financial Sustainability Plan Guidelines are posted on the FTF working web-site, [www.gaviff.org](http://www.gaviff.org)

### **DATA QUALITY AUDIT**

**30/06/03 from Olivier Ronveaux, WHO/HQ:** Two auditing companies have been selected to conduct 16 DQAs in 2003: the Liverpool Associates in Tropical Health consortium (4 DQAs) and PriceWaterHouseCoopers (12 DQAs). Thanks to the Eastern Mediterranean regional office and the Yemen country office, auditors from both companies were successfully trained from 21-25 June 2003 in Yemen, together with Yemeni counterparts. They also received a parallel training in the Data Quality Self Assessment Tool. DQAs will be conducted soon after the training according to arrangements taken between the auditing companies and the respective Ministries of Health.

### **NEW VACCINES**

**30/06/03 from Oya Afsar, WHO/HQ:**

*Accelerated Vaccine Introduction Priority Project (AVI-PP) Retreat:* The retreat was held in WHO/HQ, Geneva from 9-10 June 2003. The goals of the meeting were to review the status of the AVI project with regional and new vaccines officers, examine successes and failures in new vaccines introduction activities over the last year and identify barriers to progress in the coming months. Principle areas of discussions focused on:

- Over-utilization of VF supported vaccine due to various reasons
- Actual vaccine wastage rates in the field
- Issues with technical assistance
- Supply limitation and slow uptake of Hib
- Policy for phasing in/out countries
- Prioritization at country level
- Recent changes in GAVI application process
- Issues with DQAs

A summary of outcomes and action points from the meeting include:

- WHO/HQ to work on a wastage policy document and advise GAVI Board to revise wastage rates accordingly.
- WHO EPI/UNICEF Supply Division will produce and circulate an options document according to the confirmed supply situation in July 2003.
- Readjustment of supply amounts for phasing-in countries will be brought to the attention of GAVI Board by the VPP in July 2003.
- WHO/HQ will conduct a departmental study on prioritization of vaccines at the country level in 2003.
- A policy is needed for future assistance of the regional offices to countries, depending upon the pentavalent supply.

**Post-Introduction Evaluation (PIE) Workshop:** The workshop was held in WHO/HQ in Geneva on 11 June 2003. The objective was to discuss experiences from the past evaluations that have been conducted in countries that introduced HepB and/or Hib, and to agree upon future directions for the evaluation of new vaccine introductions.

It has been discussed that for most country situations, the objectives of new vaccine evaluation can be met during routine monitoring and supervision that occurs on an ongoing basis as well as by integrating new vaccine evaluation into the many other evaluation activities that are taking place. In case of country situations that are known to be challenging (e.g. countries with weaker EPI systems or those that are introducing monovalent vaccine), the duration and methodology of the evaluation should be greatly simplified.

The core set of indicators to evaluate new vaccine introduction should include the following:

- Vaccine coverage
- Vaccine wastage
- Vaccine freezing
- Vaccine stockouts
- Vaccination safety
- Progress as assessed on field visits
- Pre-implementation activities conducted (training, advocacy, social mobilization)

## COUNTRY INFORMATION

### ALBANIA

**30/06/03 from Oya Afsar, WHO/HQ:**

- Hib Cost Effectiveness Analysis (CEA) was performed by Dr. Gary Ginsberg (WHO/HQ) in April 2003.
- Country plans to submit their application for Hib vaccine later this year.
- MLM and Injection Safety training courses to be held in September and October 2003.

### ANGOLA

**30/06/03 from East and South African Sub-Regional Working Group:**

- Polio TAG meeting took place from 9-10 June 2003.
- Measles <15 year old catch-up campaign was completed, and preliminary national coverage reached 93%.

### ARMENIA

**30/06/03 from Oya Afsar, WHO/HQ:** Injection Safety training is planned for August 2003.

### BANGLADESH

**30/06/03 from the South East Asia Regional Working Group:** HepB was launched in 6 districts. The initial plan was to expand nationwide in 2004 with DTP-HepB combination, however it is likely that the combination vaccine will be available in 2004. Therefore the country will expand with monovalent HepB keeping the option to switch to combination DTP-HepB when it becomes available.

### BHUTAN

**30/06/03 from the South East Asia Regional Working Group:** The country was to launch the DTP-HepB combination vaccine in January 2003, but deferred due to excess stock of DTP and monovalent HepB. However, as of May 2003, the DTP-HepB combination vaccine has been introduced nationwide.

### BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

**30/06/03 from Oya Afsar, WHO/HQ:**

- Evaluation of the Immunization programme is currently underway.
- HepB training is scheduled for the end of June 2003.
- Introduction of Hib in 2003 – GAVI/VF mechanism has not been applied at this stage.

### BURKINA FASO

**30/06/03 from West and Central African Sub-Regional Working Group:** EPI review is in progress and should be completed by mid July 2003.

### BURUNDI

**30/06/03 from East and South African Sub-Regional Working Group:**

- Continued preparations for new vaccine introduction in 2004 and plans to introduce HepB and Hib in 2004. Preparations are underway for application process and to decide on vaccine formulation.
- Country participated in the francophone FSP meeting in Douala, Cameroon.

## **CAMBODIA**

### **30/06/03 from the Asia Pacific Regional Working Group:**

- Carib Nelson (PATH/Seattle) and Diana Chang Blanc (CVP/PATH Bangkok) visited from 2-6 June 2003 to review immunization technologies with the NIP, including introduction of Uniject and potential improvements to the cold chain systems.
- Alan Brooks and Heidi Lasher (CVP/PATH Seattle) are scheduled to visit from 25 June to 3 July 2003 to support the government in implementation of financial sustainability plan.
- Coverage improvement planning (CIP) continues to move forward in 14 priority districts, with plans developed, agreement reached on varying roles at each level of governance, and monitoring strategy defined.

## **CHINA**

**30/06/03 from Asia Pacific Regional Working Group:** EPI review is scheduled for October/November 2003. The review will include an assessment of HepB introduction and birth dose delivery.

## **COMOROS**

**30/06/03 from East and South African Sub-Regional Working Group:** DTP-HepB vaccine was received in end March, however the launch, which was planned for April, is postponed and tentatively rescheduled for July 2003.

## **DPR KOREA**

**30/06/03 from the South East Asia Regional Working Group:** Due to the difficulties in channelling funds to the country, the introduction of HepB vaccine has been delayed.

## **ERITREA**

### **30/06/03 from East and South African Sub-Regional Working Group:**

- Country is preparing for the measles campaign in October 2003.
- Preparing for a needle-cutter field trial.
- Country participated in the FSP meeting in Kampala, Uganda. Technical assistance is needed for the drafting of the FSP which is currently being negotiated with WHO/HQ and Abt Associates.

## **ETHIOPIA**

### **30/06/03 from East and South African Sub-Regional Working Group:**

- Country is severely affected by drought emergency
- A national consensus meeting on new vaccines is being held on 16 July
- Measles vaccination campaign is ongoing, currently in emergency areas, and will expand in

October to the Eastern and Southern part of the country.

- Deployment of additional surveillance and routine reporting staff is planned, especially in high density low performing areas.
- Polio TAG meeting has just been completed. The country is moving closer to polio eradication. The last case was over 30 months ago.

## **INDIA**

**30/06/03 from the South East Asia Regional Working Group:** Although it was planned to introduce HepB vaccine in 15 metropolitan cities and 32 districts, only 10 cities have actually introduced the vaccine. The 32 districts are expected to introduce the vaccine in September 2003.

## **KENYA**

### **30/06/03 from East and South African Sub-Regional Working Group:**

- Injection Safety Assessment has been conducted. Currently awaiting the report.
- Training for EPI Performance Improvement System is ongoing.
- Awaiting follow-up of pentavalent stock level checks in central store.
- Completed comprehensive surveillance and reporting assessment in May 2003, and held an implementation meeting in mid-June 2003.
- Drafting a "Performance Monitoring Handbook" which is complete and to be printed soon. The purpose of the handbook is to strengthen reporting and monitoring systems.

## **LIBERIA**

**30/06/03 from Olivier Ronveaux, WHO/HQ:** The DQA has been postponed for later this year.

## **MOLDOVA**

### **30/06/03 from Oya Afsar, WHO/HQ:**

- Hib RAT is scheduled for July 2003.
- Store management assessment planned for July 2003.

## **MOZAMBIQUE**

**30/06/03 from East and South African Sub-Regional Working Group:** Response to the DQA report was received, however further details on the implementation of recommendations are required.

## **MYANMAR**

**30/06/03 from the South East Asia Regional Working Group:** Introduction of HepB (monovalent) is delayed due to funding issues. However, the vaccine will be launched in two provinces (Mandalay and Yangon) in July 2003. Training for this has already been completed.

## **NEPAL**

**30/06/03 from the South East Asia Regional Working Group:** The country launched the HepB vaccine in 2002, however introduction is delayed. From the planned 19 districts, only 6 districts are indicated to have introduced HepB as at June 2003. However, training for introduction

was proceeding on an accelerated scale so that all the planned districts can be reached by July 2003. The country will continue expansion next year with HepB monovalent without waiting for combination vaccine, but will keep the option to switch to combination if the supply becomes available.

## **RWANDA**

**30/06/03 from East and South African Sub-Regional Working Group:**

- Improved routine coverage quarterly report.
- Need to improve surveillance systems, especially AFP and measles case based.

## **SRI LANKA**

**30/06/03 from the South East Asia Regional Working Group:** HepB vaccine was introduced in three of the nine provinces as planned. Introduction will expand to the rest of the provinces except for the two most northern provinces in 2004. In 2005, it is expected that HepB will be introduced nationwide. Introduction is on track and according to the initial plans.

## **TAJIKISTAN**

**30/06/03 from Oya Afsar, WHO/HQ:** Injection Safety assessment tentatively planned for the second half of 2003. WHO will support the preparation of the Injection Safety application.

## **TANZANIA**

**30/06/03 from East and South African Sub-Regional Working Group:**

- Achieved the first time receipt of quarterly routine vaccination coverage reports by district for some districts, which is a good first step.
- Waste management workshop for Eastern and Southern Africa has been completed.
- AFP surveillance decreased at the beginning of the year, and is now improving.
- Awaiting countrywide surveillance training to improve case based measles and IDs surveillance.

## **TURKMENISTAN**

**30/06/03 from Oya Afsar, WHO/HQ:** Injection safety assessment is scheduled to be conducted by WHO and UNICEF in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2003. Support will be provided for the preparation of the Injection Safety application.

## **UGANDA**

**30/06/03 from East and South African Sub-Regional Working Group:**

- Country will be getting DTP vaccine to bridge the six month pentavalent vaccine stock out (from August to December 2003).
- Country has improved vaccination coverage beyond expectation in the first quarter.

## **UKRAINE**

**30/06/03 from Oya Afsar, WHO/HQ:** A Hib RAT is scheduled for July 2003.

## **UZBEKISTAN**

**30/06/03 from Oya Afsar, WHO/HQ:** There are currently no plans to introduce Hib due to results of the Hib RAT and sustainability concerns.

## **VIETNAM**

**30/06/03 from Asia Pacific Regional Working Group:**

- Carib Nelson (PATH Seattle) and Diana Chang Blanc (CVP/PATH Bangkok) visited from 9-18 June to look at central, regional, and provincial cold stores, with particular emphasis on raising awareness around vaccine freezing in the chain down to commune level.
- CVP/PATH consultant Geoff Steward is visiting from 18 June – 11 July 2003 to conduct EPI training needs assessment.
- WHO consultant Nick Wilson is scheduled to visit in September 2003 to support the development of the financial sustainability plan and participate in an advocacy workshop in advance of developing the FSP with local partners.
- National EPI review is planned for the fourth quarter.

## **YEMEN**

**30/06/03 from the GAVI Secretariat:** Possible visit by a team consisting of UNICEF and WHO/EMRO with the MOH and Population to discuss the provision of pentavalent vaccine through GAVI in July 2003.

## **ZAMBIA**

**30/06/03 from Birthe Locatelli-Rossi, UNICEF/Zambia:**

- National measles campaign was held from 7-13 June and was completed successfully. Preliminary coverage rates from 6 out of 8 provinces in excess of 100% using CBOH 2003 figures. Debriefing with supervisors and field monitors is expected to take place on 24 June. The national review is scheduled for 27-28 June.
- MNTE campaign will be postponed from July-August to later in 2003. The campaign will deliver other reproductive health interventions in addition to TT.

## **ZIMBABWE**

**30/06/03 from East and South African Sub-Regional Working Group:** The EPI Review report is currently being edited.

## **REGIONAL ACTIVITIES**

### **EAST & SOUTH AFRICAN SUB-REGIONAL WORKING GROUP**

**30/06/03 from East and South African Sub-Regional Working Group:** The new chairperson for the sub-regional working group is Dr Bob Davis from UNICEF/ESARO.

## **EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGIONAL WORKING GROUP**

**30/06/03 from the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Working Group:** The 20<sup>th</sup> Inter-Country Meeting of National EPI Managers WHO/EMRO will be held in Cairo, Egypt from 29 June to 2 July 2003. This will be followed by the 6<sup>th</sup> GAVI Eastern Mediterranean Regional Working Group meeting on 3 July 2003. The provisional programme for the RWG meeting include:

- Status of implementation of previous meeting recommendations
- Regional progress, constraints, perspectives
- Recommendations on Progress Reports
- Follow-up on DQAs
- Country Updates

## **ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL WORKING GROUP**

**30/06/03 from Asia Pacific Regional Working Group:**

- The ACTF/UNICEF is conducting a communications workshop in Bangkok, Thailand from 30 June to 1 July 2003.
- Senior Level EPI Managers Forum is scheduled from 25-27 August 2003 in Bangkok, Thailand. It will include participants from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

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