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WHO Launches New Vaccine Market Initiative: MI4A

Tania Cernuschi, World Health Organization, Emily Nickels, Linksbridge, and Stefano Malvolti, MMGH Consulting

- 2 Market Information for Access to Vaccines (MI4A) is a World Health Organization (WHO) initiative to enhance access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable vaccines for all. WHO launched MI4A as part of its broader efforts to achieve universal health coverage, ensure availability of essential medicines and respond to specific requests from Member States and the WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization to address vaccine market information gaps.



- 3-7 MI4A focuses on vaccines that have availability constraints, affordability issues, or that are subject to important policy or vaccine pipeline changes. In particular, MI4A aims to address the needs of self-procuring countries that do not benefit from international financing or procurement support.

The objectives of MI4A are to:

- enhance the understanding of global vaccine demand, supply and pricing dynamics;
- identify affordability and shortage risks;
- convene global health partners to develop policies, strategies and guidance to address the identified risks;
- strengthen national and regional capacity for improved access to vaccine supply.

MI4A will achieve these objectives through three annual activities:

- Global Market Studies that analyze demand and supply prospects for vaccines to identify areas of risk for sustainable access to vaccine supply and define mitigating actions;
- Vaccine Product, Price and Procurement (V3P) data collection and management of vaccine purchase details from over 140 collaborating countries;
- Global, regional and country reports that analyze and disseminate the data from V3P to further enhance the understanding of global vaccine markets and inform country procurement choices.

MI4A benefits from the expertise of a standing advisory group composed of global partners, such as the PAHO Revolving Fund, UNICEF, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, WHO regional offices, and vaccine manufacturers, for input, review and validation of project outputs.

For more information, please visit this [website](#) or send an [email](#).

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Maintaining maternal and neonatal tetanus elimination in Timor Leste – post validation assessment

Francois Gasse, Laura Nic Lochlainn, Sudath Peiris, Sigrun Roesel, Ahmadu Yakubu, World Health Organization and Azhar Abid Razar, UNICEF

In 2012, maternal and neonatal tetanus elimination (MNTE) was confirmed in Timor-Leste through the WHO formal MNTE validation process. This represented an important public health success and contributed towards Regional MNTE in 2016. Prior tetanus toxoid (TT) immunization levels had been raised through national campaigns targeting women aged 12–49 years. Today, young girls entering child bearing age can rely on routine immunization for TT protection. While reported TT2+ coverage remains relatively low, protection at birth figures in the 2015 Demographic Health Survey indicated higher levels of TT protection. Hence, the Ministry of Health (MOH) decided to conduct a district level risk assessment, recommended by WHO, to monitor MNTE. To support countries in this activity, WHO is currently updating its operational guidelines, which were field tested in Timor-Leste.



Community interview in Dare Succo, Dili Municipality, during MNTE post validation assessment in March 2018 (Ministry of Health and WHO team). Credit: WHO/S Roesel.

Following a desk review of relevant MNTE core risk indicators, a joint assessment with the MOH, WHO and UNICEF was conducted in three municipalities (two low performing and one good performing). During rapid convenience assessments at district health offices, referral hospitals and community health centers (CHCs), women who had a child in the previous two years were interviewed.

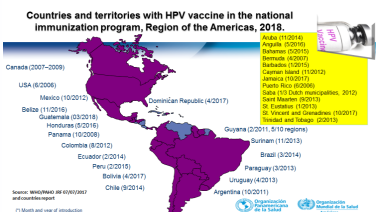
Key findings included impressive recent progress made in establishing a health infrastructure through CHCs and health posts, leading towards better access and use of services in challenging environments. This has resulted in remarkable routine performance of MNTE core risk indicators, with >80% TT protection of pregnant women, >90% antenatal care coverage (first visit) and improving skilled birth attendance in the visited municipalities. Neonatal tetanus (NT) is integrated with vaccine preventable disease surveillance and no municipality reported >1 NT case / 1000 live births in the last three years. Findings from the data review and field assessments in the two lower performing municipalities are compatible with sustaining MNTE and, by extension, in the whole of Timor-Leste.

Lessons learned in the introduction of the HPV vaccine in the Region of the Americas

Maria Tereza Da Costa Oliveira and Lucia Helena De Oliveira, PAHO-Washington, DC

In October 2017, PAHO held a meeting in Guatemala to share the lessons learned in HPV vaccine introduction. Twenty-four countries from the Region of the Americas attended.

The HPV vaccine was first used in the Region in 2006 (United States) and as of now, 31 countries and territories have included the vaccine in their national immunization programmes.



Map of countries in the Region that have introduced the HPV vaccine into their national immunization programmes.



Participants at the meeting in Guatemala to discuss HPV vaccine introduction. Credit: PAHO/WHO.

The main topics discussed at the meeting were the challenges in calculating HPV vaccination coverage, vaccine delivery strategies used, the relevance of communication and crisis response plans, as well as preparing to respond to rumors and concerns about HPV vaccine safety.

PAHO is developing a guideline to standardize vaccine coverage calculation in the Region, following recommendations from PAHO's last meeting of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Vaccine-preventable Diseases in July 2017.

Past Meetings/Workshops

PAHO holds workshop on rapid responses to imported measles, rubella, CRS cases, and polio outbreaks in the Dominican Republic

Patricia Grullon, Ministry of Public Health, Dominican Republic; Yenny Rocio Neira, PAHO-Dominican Republic; Pamela Bravo and Desiree Pastor, PAHO-Washington, DC

Location: Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Date: 13-16 February 2018

Participants: Those responsible for epidemiology at the national and sub-national levels; EPI staff at the national level and in high-risk provinces.

Purpose:

- Strengthen national and sub-national technical capacities to rapidly respond to imported measles, rubella, congenital rubella syndrome (CRS) cases
- Conduct an exercise simulating a polio outbreak

Details: In response to the Regional Plan of Action for the Sustainability of Measles, Rubella and Congenital Rubella Syndrome Elimination 2018-2023, and to the Polio Eradication and Endgame Strategic Plan, the Dominican Republic's Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) conducted a national workshop on preparing rapid responses to imported measles cases and polio outbreaks with support from PAHO/WHO.



Rapid response workshop participants, Dominican Republic, February 2018. Credit: PAHO/WHO.

This workshop sought to strengthen national and sub-national technical capacities to develop strong responses to diseases that have been eliminated in the Region and avoid their reestablishment in the country. Sixty epidemiologists from the national and provincial levels, and EPI coordinators from the country's high-risk provinces (heavy on tourism and/or migration) participated in the workshop.

The methodology established for this workshop included an evaluation of the participants at the beginning and end, aiming to determine levels of knowledge before and after the workshop. Five presentations were given, followed by a case study and a simulation exercise to respond to imported measles cases. Finally, a second simulation exercise was carried out to respond to polio outbreak detection events.

Each group of ten participants had the support of a facilitator, which allowed that in the case study and simulation exercises, participants put into practice what they learned, and were able to self-assess the level of knowledge on the national polio outbreak response plan.

Some of the most important results of this workshop have been the activation of the Rapid Response Teams at the subnational level, as well as the replication of these workshops at the initiative of the provincial epidemiologists.

To date, ten sensitization and training meetings have been held with other actors on the regional measles situation and rapid response mechanisms, to ensure full preparedness.

Workshop on rapid responses to yellow fever outbreaks

Greta Arias, Monica Pun Chinarro and Samia Samad, PAHO-Peru; Octavia Silva, PAHO-Washington, DC

Location: Pucallpa, Peru

Date: 21-22 February 2018

Participants: Representatives in the areas of epidemiology, immunization and health network laboratories from the Ucayali Health Management (DIRESA-Ucayali), Peru's Ministry of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

Purpose: To train 45 people from technical teams in the DIRESA-Ucayali health networks and strengthen rapid responses to yellow fever outbreaks in the country.

Details: On the first day of the workshop, Dr Henry Lobato, Regional Director of *DIRESA-Ucayali* expressed gratitude for the support from PAHO/WHO and the Ministry of Health and emphasized that the purpose of the event was to strengthen personnel capacity during a yellow fever outbreak, also focusing on covering areas at risk in Ucayali. Emphasizing this is important given the yellow fever epidemic currently developing in Brazil and population mobility potentially increasing the risk.

At the end of the workshop, each technical team had performed a situational analysis on their network, to help inform the development of the immunization work plan with all of its components (epidemiology, laboratory, health promotion, communication, statistics and cold chain).

The workshop was evaluated and validated by the *DIRESA-Ucayali*.



Yellow fever response workshop in Peru. Credit: Monica Pun, PAHO/WHO.



Yellow fever response workshop in Peru. Credit: Monica Pun, PAHO/WHO.



Yellow fever response workshop in Peru. Credit: Monica Pun, PAHO/WHO.

Launch of the Caribbean Immunization Technical Advisory Group (CiTAG)

Tracy Evans-Gilbert and J. Peter Figueroa, Caribbean Immunization Technical Advisory Group

Location: Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

Date: 26-28 February 2018

Participants: Experts in the fields of epidemiology, public health, microbiology, pediatrics and tropical medicine from four Caribbean countries and ex-officio members from the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

Purpose: To strengthen evidenced-based technical advice on immunization and to make recommendations which will guide policy and the programmatic decisions of Health Ministers and EPI managers in CARICOM member and associated states.

Details: The Caribbean Immunization Technical Advisory Group (CiTAG) was launched during the 33rd Caribbean Immunization Managers' meeting. The CiTAG, an independent group of experts in the fields of Epidemiology, Public Health, Microbiology, Pediatrics and Tropical Medicine, is chaired by Dr. J. Peter Figueroa, Professor of Public Health, Epidemiology and HIV/AIDS at The University of the West Indies and will advise Ministers of Health on immunization through the Council for Human and Social Development of CARICOM. A representative from the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office also participated as an observer.

With 22 countries/territories in the Caribbean, many of which are too small to support individual National Immunization Technical Advisory Groups (NiTAGs) and given the history of Caribbean countries working successfully together in health, the Health Ministers took the wise decision in 2017 to establish the sub-regional CiTAG. This is an efficient mechanism to provide independent advice on immunization to the Ministers of Health in keeping with the recommendations of the Global Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP) and PAHO'S Regional Immunization Action Plan (RIAP).

Recent hurricanes in the Caribbean and outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases in neighboring countries are a stark reminder that Expanded Programmes on Immunization (EPIs) must be resilient and vigilant to maintain the polio, measles, CRS and rubella-free status of the Caribbean.

Priority areas for the CiTAG include sustaining confidence in immunization; promoting the strengthening/development of legislative frameworks to support vaccination; enhancing data quality through the implementation of electronic immunization registries; surveillance of vaccine-preventable diseases; strengthening laboratory capacities and linkages between EPI, surveillance, laboratory and the private sector and building capacity of EPI managers through training.

33rd Caribbean immunization managers' meeting and risk communication training workshop

Karen Lewis-Bell and Nathalie El Omeiri, Pan American Health Organization

Location: Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

Date: 26 February-2 March 2018

Participants: National immunization managers from the 26 English and Dutch-Speaking Caribbean countries as territories, as well as Haiti



Purpose:

- The overall objective of the 33rd Caribbean EPI managers' meeting was to analyze achievements for 2017 and plan activities for 2018, while sharing country experiences on immunization programmes.
- The purpose of the Risk Communications training workshop was to train managers of the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) in the principles of risk communication to encourage positive behavior change in support of vaccination, strengthen the capacity of EPI managers to develop immunization messages targeting various audiences (parents, children, anti-vaccine groups) and to effectively communicate with the media and the public.

Participants at the 33rd Caribbean EPI managers' meeting in Trinidad and Tobago, March 2018. Credit: PAHO/WHO.

Details:

The 33rd Caribbean EPI Managers' Meeting convened 70 persons from 29 countries/territories and was opened by the Minister of Health, Honorable Terrence Deyalsingh, who gave the main address.

Presentations focused on specific vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs), EPI programmatic areas and global and regional/sub-regional updates. Countries shared experiences with VPD surveillance, as well as sustainability plans for measles, introduction of new vaccines, Vaccination Week in the Americas, measles, yellow fever and pertussis outbreaks and the implementation of electronic immunization registries (EIRs).

Vaccination coverage in the Caribbean remains higher than the regional and global average with DTP3 being 95% in 2016 compared to 91% in the Americas and 86% globally. Despite plans to sustain measles, rubella, CRS and polio elimination, countries need to improve the quality of surveillance systems for timely detection and management of importations.

The Caribbean has been validated for the containment of WPV2, VDPV2 and OPV2/Sabin 2 infectious and potentially infectious materials. Countries were reminded to conduct periodic audits/surveys to validate the quality of their coverage data.

The Risk Communication workshop focused on the Single Overarching Communication Outcome (SOCO), how to develop messages and the principles of effective communication using various media. Participants worked in groups to develop SOCOs and messages using examples of myths/beliefs and challenges with the uptake of the influenza and MMR vaccines, while at the same time sharing and exploring strategies to address these issues through effective communication.

Overall, the 33rd Caribbean EPI Managers' meeting and Risk Communication Training workshop were successful and participants benefitted greatly.

Regional capacity building workshop to train consultants in establishing and strengthening National Immunization Technical Advisory Groups (NITAG) in the African Region

José Biey, [Anyà Blanche](#), Morgane Donadel, Messeret Eshetu, Louise Henaff, Benjamin Kagina Yves Mongbo, Gilson Paluku, WHO AFRO

Location: Brazzaville/Congo

Date: 27 February - 2 March 2018

Participants: NITAG members from Senegal and Zimbabwe, free-lance consultants, WHO staff, and expert facilitators from WHO, CDC, WAHO and University of Cape Town



Purpose: To train a pool of experts who can be engaged in facilitating the establishment, strengthening and evaluation of NITAGs in the countries of the African region based on an identified need. Participants at the Regional capacity building workshop to train consultants in establishing and strengthening NITAG in the African Region



Details: The Global Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP) and the African Regional Immunization Strategic Plan provide the direction for the establishment of functional NITAGs in all the countries by 2020. However the pace of progress has been slow. At the end of 2017, only 24 out of 47 Member States had established NITAGs, with only 13 reporting to have fulfilled the six WHO criteria of functionality. To accelerate the establishment of the NITAGs and strengthen those already in operation, the immunization unit (IVD) in WHO/AFRO has embarked on building the capacity of individuals to assist with these efforts.

The workshop used the standard materials developed by the former SIVAC initiative (Supporting Independent Immunization and Vaccine Advisory Committees), which was a project of the Agence de Médecine Préventive's Health Policy and Institutional Development (HPID) center, a WHO Collaborating Center.

Participants were taken through the course using materials for pre-reading, practical exercises in group work, plenary discussions, and the review of lessons learned from well-established NITAGs. An assessment of skills was conducted at baseline prior to the commencement of the workshop and at the end of the workshop.

At the conclusion of the four-day workshop, a total of eight participants were trained as consultants, in addition to four staff members from WHO and the two NITAG representatives.

Resources

TVEE Publishes Open Source Health Economics Courses on OpenCourseWare

[Shreena Malaviya](#), Teaching Vaccine Economics Everywhere (TVEE)

The Teaching Vaccine Economics Everywhere (TVEE) project is pleased to announce that three modules from its vaccine economics curriculum are now available to the public for free on the JHSPH OpenCourseWare (OCW). The modules published are Health Economics for Vaccines, Costing in Vaccine Planning and Programming, and Economic Evaluation and are available [here](#). Anybody can now download lecture slides, syllabi and exercises from this curriculum. Instructors can freely adapt this material for their own courses with attribution under the terms of Creative Commons licensing.

"I think anyone who has to teach or study health economics and economic evaluation will find something useful whether or not they are specifically interested in vaccines," said David Bishai, the leader of the TVEE project. The courses cover general principles and illustrate them with examples from decisions typically facing vaccine policy makers in low and middle-income countries.

This curriculum uses a mix of training methods including lectures, guided discussion, case analysis, group work, assignment, and experiential learning. It is designed for mid-career professionals who are involved in planning and implementation of immunization programmes and projects as well as early career students in health economics.

The TVEE curriculum is currently being taught at training workshops in India, Pakistan, South Africa, and Uganda. Each module requires about 16 to 20 hours to complete.

Later this year the project will release three additional courses on Programme Evaluation; Systems, Logistics and Operations; Financing, Resource Tracking, and Affordability of Vaccine Programmes. Learn more about the TVEE project, workshops and activities at [this link](#).



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Course: Teaching Vaccine Economics Everywhere: Costing in Vaccine Planning And Programming

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Teaching Vaccine Economics Everywhere: Costing in Vaccine Planning And Programming



Course

Instructor:
Teaching Vaccine Economics Everywhere Consortium – Susmita Chatterjee, Dagna Constenla, Anthony Kinghorn, and Chrispus Mayora

Offered:
Spring 2018

Offered By:
Dept. of Population, Family, and Reproductive Health

Photo Creative Commons

Description:

Costs and costing information is an important and useful input to the routine planning, budgeting, management, and implementation or rollout of an effective immunization program. This information is also needed when conducting economic evaluation studies to determine what, when and how to introduce new vaccines or which implementation approach/strategy would achieve better and effective coverage. The costs are not generalizable from one country to another as vaccine schedules, target populations, strategies etc. vary by country. For this reason, costs are country-specific and should be obtained and estimated locally. This module provides information on the cost profiles of routine immunization programs and supplementary immunization activities (SIA) using different country examples. We will learn how to cost existing programs, specific interventions, new vaccine introduction, and possible data sources to conduct such analysis and how to report and use the results for policy decisions.

Calendar

April

17-18	Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization	Geneva, Switzerland
23-29	European Immunization Week	Across Europe

May

1-3	Teach to Reach: Innovative Methods for Immunization Training	Tanzania
21-26	71st World Health Assembly	Geneva, Switzerland
28-29	WHO Executive Board	Geneva, Switzerland

June

4-8	EURO Regional Verification Committee (RVC) meeting	Paris, France
6-7	Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety	Geneva, Switzerland
12-14	Global Task Force for Control of Cholera (GTFCC)	Annecy, France
26-28	WHO Global Measles and Rubella Laboratory Network (GMLN)	Cascais, Portugal
26-28	Global Immunization Meeting (GIM)	Kigali, Rwanda
29-30	Regional Immunization Technical Advisory Group (RITAG)	Kigali, Rwanda

July

10-12	Immunization Practices Advisory Committee (IPAC) Annual Meeting	Geneva, Switzerland
31 Jul-2 Aug	3rd South East Asia Regional Verification Commission Meeting and National Measles Rubella Laboratory assessment	Kathmandu, Nepal

August

27-29	13th International Rotavirus Symposium	Minsk, Belarus
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October

23-25	Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization	Geneva, Switzerland
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December

5-6	Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety	Geneva, Switzerland
6-7	Global NITAG Network meeting	Ottawa, Canada

Links

Organizations and Initiatives

American Red Cross
[Child Survival](#)

Agence de Médecine Préventive
[Africhol](#)
[EpiVacPlus](#)
[LOGIVAC Project](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
[Polio](#)
[Global Vaccines and Immunization](#)

Johns Hopkins
[International Vaccine Access Center](#)
[VIEW-hub](#)

JSI
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[Immunization Center](#)
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[Publications and Resources](#)
[Universal Immunization through Improving Family Health Services \(UI-FHS\) Project in Ethiopia](#)

PAHO
[ProVac Initiative](#)

PATH
[Better Immunization Data \(BID\) Initiative](#)
[Center for Vaccine Innovation and Access](#)
[Defeat Diarrheal Disease Initiative](#)
[Vaccine Resource Library](#)
[Malaria Vaccine Initiative](#)
[RHO Cervical Cancer](#)

Sabin Vaccine Institute
[Sustainable Immunization Financing](#)

UNICEF
[Immunization](#)
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USAID
[Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program](#)

WHO
[Department of Immunization, Vaccines & Biologicals](#)
[ICO Information Centre on HPV and Cancer](#)
[National programmes and systems](#)
[Immunization planning and financing](#)
[Immunization monitoring and surveillance](#)
[National Immunization Technical Advisory Groups Resource Center](#)
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Other
[Coalition Against Typhoid](#)
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[Measles & Rubella Initiative](#)
[Multinational Influenza Seasonal Mortality Study](#)
[Network for Education and Support in Immunisation \(NESI\)](#)
[TechNet-21](#)
[Vaccine Safety Net](#)
[Vaccines Today](#)

WHO Regional Websites

[Routine Immunization and New Vaccines \(AFRO\)](#)
[Immunization \(PAHO\)](#)
[Vaccine-preventable diseases and immunization \(EMRO\)](#)
[Vaccines and immunization \(EURO\)](#)
[Immunization \(SEARO\)](#)
[Immunization \(WPRO\)](#)

UNICEF Regional Websites

[Immunization \(Central and Eastern Europe\)](#)
[Immunization \(Eastern and Southern Africa\)](#)
[Immunization \(South Asia\)](#)
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[Child survival \(Middle East and Northern Africa\)](#)
[Health and nutrition \(East Asia and Pacific\)](#)
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Newsletters

[Immunization Monthly update in the African Region \(AFRO\)](#)
[Immunization Newsletter \(PAHO\)](#)
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[TechNet Digest](#)
[RotaFlash \(PATH\)](#)
[Vaccine Delivery Research Digest \(Uni of Washington\)](#)
[Gavi Programme Bulletin \(Gavi\)](#)
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