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News

Global Vaccination Summit: European Commission and WHO join forces to promote the benefits of vaccines

Hayatee Hasan, WHO Headquarters

- On 12 September, the European Commission and the World Health Organization (WHO) co-hosted the world's first Global Vaccination Summit in Brussels. The Summit aims to accelerate global action to stop the spread of vaccine-preventable diseases, and advocate against the spread of vaccine misinformation worldwide. Opening the summit, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and WHO Director-General Dr Tedros called for an urgent intensification of efforts to
- Tedros called for an urgent intensification of efforts to stop the spread of vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles. In the past three years, seven countries, including four in the European region, have lost their measles elimination status. Special addresses and video messages were made by:



Opening remarks by Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General at the Global Vaccination Summit. Credit: WHO.

- Yvonne Chaka Chaka (South African singer, champion for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, and the United Nations MDG Envoy for Africa)
- Fergal Brennan, brother of Laura Brennan, Irish HPV vaccine advocate who died of cervical cancer in March 2019
- Ethan Lindenberger, American teenager known for his opposition to anti-vaccine disinformation campaigns
- Beatrice Vio, Italian wheelchair fencer, 2014 and 2016 European champion, 2015 and 2017
 World champion, and 2016 Paralympic champion.



One of the panel discussions at the Global Vaccination Summit. Credit: WHO.

New outbreaks are the direct result of gaps in vaccination coverage, including amongst teenagers and adults who were never fully vaccinated. To tackle vaccination gaps effectively, the summit addressed the multiple barriers to vaccination, including rights, regulations and accessibility, availability, quality and convenience of vaccination services; social and cultural norms, values and support; and individual motivation, attitudes, and knowledge and skills.

The European Commission and WHO also urged for strong support of GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance.

New models and opportunities for stepping up vaccine development were also on the Global Vaccination Summit agenda, as well as ways to ensure that immunization is a public health priority and a universal right.

Dr Tedros said: "After many years of progress, we are at a critical turning point. Measles is resurging, and I in I0 children continues to miss out on essential childhood vaccines. We can and must get back on track. We will only do this by ensuring everyone can benefit from the power of vaccines – and if governments and partners invest in immunization as a right for all, and a social good. Now is the time to step up efforts to support vaccination as a core part of Health for All."

More information on the Summit
Ten actions towards vaccination for all
Watch the recording of the Summit
Summit photos and audio-visual materials



Vaccine misinformation: Statement by WHO Director-General on Facebook and Instagram

Hayatee Hasan, WHO Headquarters

WHO welcomes the commitment by Facebook to ensure that users find facts about vaccines across Instagram, Facebook Search, Groups, Pages and forums where people seek out information and advice.

Facebook will direct millions of its users to WHO's accurate and reliable vaccine information in several languages, to ensure that vital health messages reach people who need them the most.

WHO and Facebook have been in discussions for several months to ensure people can access authoritative information on vaccines and reduce the spread of inaccuracies.

Vaccine misinformation is a major threat to global health that could reverse decades of progress made in tackling preventable diseases.

Many debilitating and deadly diseases can be effectively prevented by vaccines. Think measles, diphtheria, hepatitis, polio, cholera, yellow fever, influenza...We want digital actors doing more to make it known around the world that #VaccinesWork.

More information

Malaria vaccine launched in Kenya: Kenya joins Ghana and Malawi to roll out landmark vaccine in pilot introduction

Hayatee Hasan and Kristen Kelleher, WHO Headquarters

WHO congratulates the Government of Kenya for launching the world's first malaria vaccine on 13 September 2019 in Homa Bay County, western Kenya. The malaria vaccine pilot programme is now fully under way in Africa, as Kenya joins Ghana and Malawi to introduce the landmark vaccine as a tool against a disease that continues to affect millions of children in Africa.

The vaccine, known as RTS,S, will be available to children from six months of age in selected areas of the country in a phased pilot introduction. It is the first and only vaccine to significantly reduce malaria in children.

Elian, age 6 months, is the first to be vaccinated in the Kenya malaria vaccine pilot. Credit: WHO/N. Thomas.

Malaria claims the life of one child every two minutes. The disease is a leading killer of children younger than five years in Kenya.

"Africa has witnessed a recent surge in the number of malaria cases and deaths. This threatens the gains in the fight against malaria made in the past two decades," said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa. "The ongoing pilots will provide the key information and data to inform a WHO policy on the broader use of the vaccine in sub-Saharan Africa. If introduced widely, the vaccine has the potential to save tens of thousands of lives."

Speaking at the event, WHO Representative to Kenya Dr Rudi Eggers said: "Vaccines are powerful tools that effectively reach and better protect the health of children who may not have immediate access to the doctors, nurses and health facilities they need to save them when severe illness comes. This is a day to celebrate as we begin to learn more about what this vaccine can do to change the trajectory of malaria through childhood vaccination."

Health officials and advocates, national and local leaders, malaria and immunization specialists, global and in-country partners, mothers and children, and hundreds of community members celebrated the start of the phased introduction of the vaccine. Thirty years in the making, the vaccine is a complementary malaria control tool – to be added to the core package of WHO-recommended measures for malaria prevention, including the routine use of insecticide-treated bed nets, indoor spraying with insecticides and timely access to malaria testing and treatment.

The malaria vaccine pilot is a country-led, WHO-coordinated initiative. WHO partners PATH and GSK, with funders Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and Unitaid made this day a reality. WHO news: Malaria vaccine launched in Kenya: Kenya joins Ghana and Malawi to roll out landmark vaccine in pilot introduction

Kenya brochure : First malaria vaccine: A potential new tool for child health and improved malaria control in children Website: Malaria Vaccine Implementation Programme



Immunization saves thousands of lives in the camps of forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals, Cox Bazar (Bangladesh)

Catalin Bercaru and Rajendra Bohara, WHO Country Office, Bangladesh

During a visit to Camp 14 Hakimpara in Ukhia subdistrict, Bangladesh, WHO Staff met forcibly displaced Myanmar families that had suffered huge losses, including death, due to civil unrest in their home country. Rajuma Khatun, 28 years old, lost her husband in the conflict of August 2017 that triggered the largest and fastest refugee influx from Myanmar into Cox's Bazar district, Bangladesh. However, Rajuma who has four children aged three, five, eight and 11 years, showed us the vaccination cards of her children demonstrating that all of them had received vaccinations since their arrival in the refugee camp.



Children getting vaccinated during a vaccination campaign.

Beginning in September 2017, multiple life-saving vaccination campaigns have been conducted in Cox's Bazar against Measles, Rubella, Polio, Cholera, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping Cough, *Haemophilus influenzae* type b and Pneumonia. Over 4.2 mil-

lion doses of the various vaccines have been delivered to date to prevent outbreaks of infectious diseases, with significant and measurable impact for more than a million people with little or no vaccination history. The political commitment and timeliness, together with national and international community involvement, were pivotal in making such massive and

Children in one of the refugee camps of Cox Bazar.

complicated interventions possible. Innovation and the variety of operational approaches used were instrumental in the campaigns being carried out successfully.

Rajuma and her entire community have benefited from immunization not only as one of the most effective interventions for child survival, but also through the opportunities it has provided for the delivery of integrated services, including the distribution of vitamin A supplements and implementation of growth monitoring tools, vital for the wellbeing of these children.

Under the leadership of the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) and with extensive support from Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, WHO and UNICEF, routine immunization

is now well established in the 34 camps of Cox's Bazar. Through the ongoing immunization services delivered through over 65 outreach and 35 fixed sites, the one million refugees and their host communities are now better protected from outbreaks like diphtheria, measles and against the potential threat of cholera and other childhood diseases.

WHO South-East Asia Regional Committee delegates urged to accelerate efforts to eliminate cervical cancer

Hayatee Hasan, WHO Headquarters

WHO urges countries in its South-East Asia Region to accelerate efforts to eliminate cervical cancer by 2030.

"Countries need to expand vaccination, screening, detection and treatment services for everyone, everywhere to address the growing problem of cervical cancer," said Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director WHO South-East Asia, at the Seventy Second Session of WHO Regional Committee here in Delhi.



Sample screening

Cervical cancer is a significant public health problem in the Region. In 2018, an estimated 158 000 new cases and 95 766 deaths were reported due to cervical cancer, which is the third most common type of cancer.

Addressing cancer risk factors and reducing its prevalence has been a regional flagship priority since 2014. All countries in the Region are taking measures for screening and treatment of pre-cancers. Four countries in the Region - Bhutan, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand - have introduced HPV vaccine nationally.

"We need to scale up both our capacities and quality for screening, treatment services and palliative care," the Regional Director said.

Read the statement



Past Meetings/Workshops

National Forum on immunization and polio eradication in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Cassie Kobrin, PATH

Location: Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Date: 22-23 July 2019

Participants: Officials from the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gavi, Bill & Melinda Gates

Foundation, WHO, UNICEF, Rotary International, World Bank Group, USAID, PATH, and others.

Purpose: Top leaders in the Congolese government—including DRC President Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshi-

lombo, the President of the National Assembly, the Prime Minister, and leaders of all 26 provinces, to declare a shared vision around strengthening immunization systems and polio eradication in the DRC.

Details: The forum culminated in a tremendous display of commitment when the country's new government

signed on to the Kinshasa Declaration on Immunization and Polio Eradication. Governors, Presidents of Provincial Assemblies, Ministers of Health and Heads of the Provincial Health Divisions from each of DRC's 26 Provincial Assemblies signed onto specific actions which will provide oversight, accounta-

bility, and resources to improve immunization systems in each of their respective provinces.

Also in attendance were civil society leaders and high-level representatives from the global immunization community, including: Dr Seth Berkley, CEO of Gavi; Dr Chris Elias, President of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Global Development Division; Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa; Gilles Fagninou, Deputy Regional Director of the UNICEF Regional Office for West and Central Africa; Michael McGovern, Chair of the Rotary International Polio Plus Committee; Dr Muhammad Pate, Director of Health and Social Services for the World Bank Group; and Paul Saba-

tine, USAID DRC Mission Director.

The day after President Tshisekedi spoke at the forum, the Ministry of Finance announced a commitment of US\$3M in Gavi co-financing for the purchase of new vaccines—an additional show of DRC government's bold and ongoing commitment to immunization. PATH was pleased to support the DRC government in planning this important forum.

More information:

Link to article about the forum on PATH.org (English)

Link to WHO press release about the forum and Dr Moeti's participation (French)



Niger: official establishment of the Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NITAG-Niger) and orientation workshop on methodology for developing recommendation notes

El Khalef Ishagh, Aichatou Gbaguidi , Nomo Emmanuel, Batoure Oumarou, Haladou Moussa, Tombokoye Harouna, Mokhtar Abdoul Hakim, Anya Blanche, WHO Country Office, Niger

Location: Niamey, Niger

Date: 9-14 September 2019

Participants: Partners including WHO, UNICEF, Gavi, civil society

organizations, distinguished guests of the scientific community and several Ministry of Public Health offi-

cials.

Purpose: To brief NITAG members on their role, the method-

ology for developing recommendation notes to the Ministry of Health based on the evidence, using the tools and the operating mode of the consultative

group.



Group photo of the participants. Credit: WHO/NIGER.

Details:

NITAG Niger established by a Ministerial Decree of 28 November 2018, is a multidisciplinary consultative body called GTCV-Niger whose members were appointed by decree. The NITAG-Niger is composed of 15 multidisciplinary experts, ex-officio members from the various departments of the Ministry of Public Health and partners. The Executive Board of the NITAG is composed of a Chair, a Vice-Chair and two Secretaries.

The NITAG-Niger will thus use the knowledge gained to advise the Ministry of Health on appropriate decisions related to the national vaccination programme.

At the end of this workshop, an annual work plan of the NITAG-Niger relating to the activities to be implemented during the 4th quarter of 2019 and the year 2020 was developed as well as NITAG Niger Standard Operational Procedures.

NITAG Niger intends to start working immediately making maximum use of the NITAG Resources Center (NRC) while also sharing its activities. It also intends to be an active member of the Global NITAG Network (GNN).



Workshop on analysis of data from electronic immunizations registries

Ignacio Castro, Marcela Contreras, Robin Mowson and Martha Velandia, PAHO.

Washington DC, United States. Location:

Date: 10-11 September 2019

Participants: 22 participants attended the workshop

representing four countries of the Americas Region (Argentina, Chile, Colombia and Uruguay), two countries from other WHO regions (Spain and Vietnam), CDC, UNICEF, PATH, GAVI, AIRA, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, independent consultants and

PAHO.

Purpose: Share best practices regarding the design and estimation of indicators to evaluate

the performance of immunization programmes, in countries or sub-national Group photo of the participants areas that have an Electronic Immunization Registry (EIR) or are in the process of implementating one.

 Continue the preparation of a methodological guide for the estimation of indicators with data obtained from EIRs.



Details:

Nine countries in the Americas Region have an Electronic Immunization Registry (EIR) and another eight have made at least 50% progress towards implementing an EIR. This workshop was a continuation of the work done by PAHO regarding the quality and analysis of data from EIRs held in September 2018, in Mexico City, Mexico.

Different sessions were held where representatives of the countries, organizations and external consultants presented their experiences in the construction of indicators with data from EIRs in the following four main areas: 1) traditional indicators of immunization programme evaluation; 2) indicators for use during the implementation stage and use of the systems; 3) data quality indicators; and 4) innovative indicators. During each session, discussion, joint construction and questions were allowed by all participants.

The main conclusions of the workshop were the importance of having standardized indicators for use by countries at different stages of the EIR life cycle, such as: implementation; use of the system; monitoring of programme performance; decision-making processes; and data quality as a tracer. The reports and indicators should be oriented to the different levels of responsibility, in addition to promoting the generation of evidence from the countries that have made progress in the implementation and use of Electronic Immunization Registries.



VacunateRD, the Immunization Programme in the Dominican Republic taking a step towards innovation in social communication

Zacarias Garib, Ministry of Public Health, Dominican Republic, Patricia Grullon, Leonela Medina, Yenny Rocio Neira, Elaine Suriel, PAHO

Location: Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Date: 16 September 2019

Participants: Zacarias Garib, Director of the Expanded Immunization Pro-

gramme, Ministry of Public Health, Patricia Grullon, Focal Point Surveillance Immunization Programme, Dr Yenny Rocio Neira,

Immunization Adviser, Elaine Suriel, Consultant PAHO.

Purpose: To show and discuss the initiative and advances related to the

digital marketing strategy for the immunization programme in the

Dominican Republic.

Details: Social media platforms are vital to reaching a wide segment of the population and as such are an essential component of the communication strategy for any immunization programme. In light of this, the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) of the Dominican Republic, with the support of the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO / WHO), has integrated the use of social media

into its education and communication strategies.

Under the @VacunateRD user on Instagram and Facebook, a direct communication channel has been established with the community. Through these platforms, users' questions are answered, timely assis-



tance is provided by referring people to Vaccination Posts around their area and key messages are provided on the routine vaccination programme and associated events, as was the case for the last Vaccination Week in the Americas (SVA).

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¿Tiene sus vacunas al día?

CLASES!

This project has been very well received. Within the framework of the SVA 2019, one message about the launch of the campaign had the following impact on Instagram: 110,324 people reached, 204,546 views, 29,460 people watched the full video, 644 people became followers, and 4,681 people interacted with the publication. While on Facebook, the same message reached 154,834 people, had 43,292 video views and 4,077 interactions.

In addition, another message about the campaign was published which reached 53,311 people, had 76,643 views and 852 interactions on Instagram. And on Facebook, 46,216 people were reached, 583,589 video views and 561 clicks on the advertising link.

The Dominican Republic will continue with this strategy through the production of innovative and attractive content in order to effectively inform the population about the importance of vaccination at the appropriate ages, and to promote the quality of vaccines offered in Vaccination Sites from the Ministry of Public Health. With this digital component, the aim is to reach as many people as possible without leaving anyone behind!



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Resources

New report provides a policy framework to support countries in implementing an effective life-course approach to immunization

International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA)

The report "Implementing a Life-Course Approach to Immunization" provides a policy framework for countries to implement effective policies in order to maximize individual and population-wide health and economic benefits.

Designed for policy makers and healthcare professionals, the report draws on research from six countries, Australia, Brazil, France, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, and their experience in controlling vaccine-preventable diseases by implementing a life-course approach to immunization. Successful and innovative approaches are being implemented with lessons that may inform immunization policies and programmes in other contexts.

The report was compiled by Health Policy Partnership (HPP) on the basis of desk research and expert interviews with funding from the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA).

Implementing a Life-Course Approach to Immunization Lessons learned from international best practice in policy and programming



A Need for Regulatory Convergence to Accelerate Development of Much Needed Vaccines

International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA)





The report "Complex Journey of a Vaccine: The Steps behind Developing a New Vaccine" highlights three major factors that contribute to the lengthy development process of a novel vaccine, and highlights the challenges that manufacturers face when submitting Clinical Trial Applications (CTA).

The existence of divergent regulatory requirements across the world and the lack of a global standard significantly slows down the manufacturers' ability to timely deliver products which have the potential to protect people from devastating infectious diseases where no other prevention or treatment options exist. As vaccines are typically targeting healthy people, it is paramount to rigorously test the

safety, efficacy and quality of vaccines. To accelerate this process, there is a need to inject a dose of efficiency and predictability into the regulatory processes.

The Complex Journey of a Vaccine: The Steps Behind Developing a New Vaccine provides eight key recommendations on what can be done to accelerate innovative vaccine development. Convergence towards common global standards for Clinical Trial Applications requirements, reliance and ultimately, mutual recognition of CTA approvals, will enable a robust and timely development of much needed vaccines.

This report is the third IFPMA publication in The Complex Journey of a Vaccine series: Part I <u>The Manufacturing Chain, Regulatory Requirements and Vaccine Availability</u>, and Part II <u>Immunization Supply Chain, Delivery Innovation, and Regulatory Requirements</u>.



Calendar

2019

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8-10	Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization	Geneva, Switzerland	
15-16	Vaccine Safety Net workshop	Geneva, Switzerland	
15-17	EPI Managers' meeting for Central African countries	Bujumbura, Burundi	
21-23	20th DCVMN Annual General Meeting	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	
24-25	Gavi Programme and Policy Committee (PPC)	Geneva, Switzerland	
28Oct-8Nov	Gavi Independent Review Committee (IRC)	Geneva, Switzerland	
29-30	19th Meeting of the European Technical Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (ETAGE)	Copenhagen, Denmark	
30	20th World Vaccine Congress	Barcelona, Spain	
November			
12-14	Africa Regional Immunization Technical Advisory Group (RITAG) meeting	Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo	
18-22	Global Rotavirus and Pediatric Diarrhea Surveillance meeting	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	
19-23	American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) 68th Annual Meeting	Washington DC, USA	
24-26	Global consultation on Implementing School Entry Checks for Vaccination Status	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	
December			
2-3	Global Vaccine Safety Summit: updating the blueprint and celebrating 20 years of GACVS	Geneva, Switzerland	
4-5	Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety	Geneva, Switzerland	
4-5	Gavi Board Meeting	New Delhi, India	
2020			
February			
11-13	SEARO & WPRO Regional Working Group meeting	Siam Reap, Cambodia	
24-25	Global NITAG Network Meeting	Atlanta, USA	
March			
10-12	Global Vaccine and Immunization Research Forum (GVIRF)	Seoul, Korea	
31Mar-2Apr	Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization	Geneva, Switzerland	
June			
3-4	Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety	Geneva, Switzerland	



Links

Organizations and Initiatives

American Red Cross

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Global Vaccines and Immunization

Johns Hopkins

accine Access Center

ulue of Immunization Compendium of Evidence (VoICE)

VIEW-hub

IMMUNIZATIONbasics

Immunization Center Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program (MCHIP)

Publications and Resources

Universal Immunization through Improving Family Health Ser-

vices (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

Supplies and Logistics

USAID

USAID Immunization

USAID Maternal and Child Survival 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

SIGN Alliance

Other

Coalition Against Typhoid

Confederation of Meningitis Organizations
Dengue Vaccine Initiative

European Vaccine Initiative

Gardasil Access Program
Gavi the Vaccine Alliance

Immunization Economics resource

International Association of Public Health Logisticians
International Vaccine Institute

Measles & Rubella Initiative

Multinational Influenza Seasonal Mortality Study

Network for Education and Support in Immunisation (NESI)

Stop Pneumonia

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

<u> Immunization (Central and Eastern Europe)</u>

Immunization (Eastern and Southern Africa)

Immunization (South Asia)

Immunization (West and Central Africa)

Child survival (Middle East and Northern Africa)

Health and nutrition (East Asia and Pacific)

Health and nutrition (Americas)

Newsletters

Immunization Monthly update in the African Region (AFRO)

Immunization Newsletter (PAHO)

The Civil Society Dose (GAVI CSO Constituency)

TechNet Digest

RotaFlash (PATH)

Vaccine Delivery Research Digest (Uni of Washington)

Gavi Programme Bulletin (Gavi)

<u>Immunization Economics Community of Practice</u>