



**International Coordination Group on Vaccine  
Provision for Yellow Fever**

**Report of the Annual Meeting**

**Geneva**

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## Contents

List of abbreviations.....	iv
Executive summary .....	v
1. Introduction.....	1
2. Epidemiological update 2018 .....	3
AFRO Region.....	3
PAHO Region .....	4
3. ICG response and performance outcomes.....	6
ICG performance outcomes in 2019 .....	7
Challenges, progress to date and lessons learned for emergency vaccine response and lessons learned in 2019: Nigeria.....	11
4. Vaccine supply, procurement, forecasting and deployment.....	12
Vaccine procurement and deployment .....	12
Vaccine supply and the Gavi Roadmap.....	12
EYE Strategy Update.....	14
5. Governance, accountability and transparency .....	17
Proposal for an Ebola vaccine stockpile .....	18
6. Discussion .....	19
8. Action points.....	21
7. Progress since 2018.....	22
Annex 1: Meeting agenda.....	23
Annex 2. List of participants .....	25

### List of tables

Table 1. Summary of emergency requests to the ICG for yellow fever vaccines, 2019.....	7
Table 2. Summary of ICG performance indicators for emergency yellow fever vaccine requests, October 2018–September 2019 .....	9

## List of abbreviations

AFRO	WHO Regional Office for Africa
CFR	Case fatality rate
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
EYE	Eliminate Yellow Fever Epidemics
Gavi	Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance
GOC	Governance and Oversight Committee
GTFCC	Global Task Force on Cholera Control
ICG	International Coordinating Group
IHR	International Health Regulations
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
KPI	Key performance indicator
LGA	Local Government Area
MSF	Médecins sans Frontières
MMR	Measles, mumps and rubella vaccine
NERRIC	National Emergency Routine Immunization Coordination Centre
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PCR	Polymerase chain reaction
SD	Supply Division of UNICEF
RT-PCR	Reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UVRI	Uganda Virus Research Institute
WHO	World Health Organization
YF	Yellow Fever

## Executive summary

The annual meeting of the International Coordinating Group (ICG) on Vaccine Provision for yellow fever was held on 12 September at the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva. The aims of the meeting were for partners and stakeholders to: review the epidemiological situation and epidemic response activities, including ICG requests from September 2018 to August 2019; discuss the anticipated stockpile size, composition and funding for 2020; discuss vaccine supply and demand forecasts; vaccine manufacturers' future development plans; and review areas of complementarity between the ICG and Eliminate Yellow Fever Epidemics (EYE) Strategy.

The participants were briefed on the global yellow fever (YF) epidemiological situation in Africa and the Americas. It was requested during the previous year's ICG meeting that the 2019 meeting should include a presentation on challenges and lessons learned from the field, and the WHO Nigeria country office gave a presentation on the implementation and results of outbreak investigations and emergency response campaigns in 2019. UNICEF Supply Division (UNICEF SD) gave an update on vaccine shipments made over the previous year, and the ICG Secretariat then presented its review of the ICG's performance in terms of meeting its targets for timeliness of vaccine response. Representatives of the EYE Strategy gave their update on the Strategy's development and progress towards meeting its objectives. Gavi presented its updated YF vaccine supply and demand projections, and progress on the 2017 Gavi Roadmap target outcomes. Manufacturers then gave their production forecasts for coming years and presented their future development plans. Before concluding the 2019 ICG meetings, participants discussed the required size of the ICG YF stockpile going forward.

During the period spanning September 2018 to August 2019, the ICG received six emergency requests (of which three were in 2019) from Ethiopia, Nigeria and South Sudan for YF vaccines. All six requests were approved or partially approved, and 7,678,344 vaccine doses were approved for release from the ICG stockpile.

It was agreed that ICG Secretariat, with collaboration from stakeholders and partners, will make further efforts to simplify and enhance the use-friendliness of its emergency request forms; to identify the key drivers of, and measures to reduce, vaccine wastage. Work will also continue on identifying bottlenecks in the vaccine delivery process. The ICG Secretariat and decision-making group for YF also agreed to meet to discuss whether submission of entomological data should remain mandatory for making emergency vaccine requests in future years.

ICG members agreed that the YF stockpile should remain at its current size of 6 million doses. The increase in vaccine supply over recent years was identified as a positive development. According to current projections, global YF vaccine supply is likely to meet demand for emergency, preventive and routine use over the coming years. Even so, the ICG will continue to play an important role in controlling YF outbreaks as the risk patterns of YF shift due to climate change, accelerating urbanization and population movements. While the ICG provides a mechanism to handle large-scale emergencies when individual countries do not possess the necessary vaccine doses or technical capacity to manage, effective emergency response also prevents disruption of preventive campaigns and routine immunization.

Finally, the ICG and partners also agreed, based on the recommendations of the July 2019 Governance and Oversight Committee (GOC) meeting, to initiate a technical consultation on the establishment of an Ebola vaccine stockpile and ICG-like decision-making mechanism.



## 1. Introduction

Yellow Fever is an acute viral haemorrhagic disease caused by a flavivirus primarily transmitted by mosquito vectors. Case identification is often complicated by the co-circulation of malaria and other flaviviruses. The virus is primarily spread in two cycles. In the sylvatic cycle, transmission occurs between non-human and primates via forest-dwelling mosquito species. In the urban cycle, *Aedes aegypti* vectors transmit YF directly between humans.

A single YF vaccine dose confers long-term immunity in 95% of recipients, and it is recommended that a vaccination coverage of 80% or more should be targeted to prevent and control outbreaks.

The International Coordinating Group on Vaccine Provision (ICG) was established in 1997, following major outbreaks of meningitis in Africa, as a mechanism to manage and coordinate the provision of emergency vaccine supplies and antibiotics to countries during major outbreaks. ICG groups and emergency vaccine stockpiles were established for yellow fever and cholera in 2001 and 2013 respectively.

The ICG brings together four founding agencies: The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO). It also consults with extended partners including technical experts and vaccine suppliers. Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, is the principal funder of the three vaccine stockpiles.

### **The ICG's objectives are:**

- To rapidly deliver vaccines in response to infectious disease outbreaks.
- To provide equitable vaccine allocation through careful and objective assessment of risk, based on epidemiological and operational criteria.
- To coordinate the deployment of limited quantities of vaccines and other essential medicines.
- To minimize wastage of vaccines and other supplies.
- To advocate for readily-available, low-cost vaccines and medicines.
- To work with manufacturers through UNICEF and WHO to guarantee availability of vaccine emergency stock supplies at the global level.
- To follow standard operating procedures and establish financial mechanisms to purchase emergency vaccine supplies and ensure the sustainability of stocks.

The 2019 annual meeting of the ICG on Vaccine Provision for yellow fever was held on 12 September at the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva. Participants included representatives of the World Health Organization (WHO) headquarters (HQ), including ICG Secretariat, the WHO Regional Office for Africa (AFRO), the WHO Nigeria country office, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), with participants both from HQ and the Supply Division (SD), Médecins sans Frontières, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent

Societies (IFRC), the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. Representatives from vaccine manufacturers were also in attendance.

The objectives of the meeting were to review the epidemiological situation of yellow fever worldwide for 2018–2019, review the emergency outbreaks requests and campaigns supported by ICG during the same period; discuss current vaccine demand forecasts; discuss the size of the ICG YF vaccine stockpile; and discuss vaccine supply and future development plans with the manufacturers. Participants also discussed work on the establishment of the new Governance and Oversight committee for the ICG mechanism, and the implementation of its new Accountability Framework.

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