

Meeting Report

28TH MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP ON IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC REGION



18-21 June 2019
Manila, Philippines



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WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC

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IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES IN THE
WESTERN PACIFIC REGION

Convened by:

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
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NOTE

The views expressed in this report are those of the participants of the 28th Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on Immunization and Vaccine-Preventable Diseases in the Western Pacific Region and do not necessarily reflect the policies of the conveners.

This report has been prepared by the World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific for Member States in the Region and for those who participated in the 28th Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on Immunization and Vaccine-Preventable Diseases in the Western Pacific Region in Manila, Philippines from 18 to 21 June 2019.

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Keywords:

Immunization / Immunization programs / Vaccines – standards / Regional health planning

SUMMARY

The 28th Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Immunization and Vaccine-Preventable Diseases in the Western Pacific Region was held on 18–21 June 2019 in Manila, Philippines. The meeting was attended by six TAG members, four temporary advisers, 30 participants from 14 countries and areas, 53 representatives from partner organizations, and WHO staff from headquarters, the Regional Office for the Western Pacific and representative country offices.

The meeting participants discussed lessons learnt and the status of the measles and rubella elimination strategies and poliovirus (polio) eradication, the *Regional Guide for Accelerated Control of Japanese Encephalitis in the Western Pacific* and the *Field Guide for Preparedness and Response to Diphtheria Outbreaks in the Western Pacific*. Discussions covered regional plans for surveillance, data management and laboratories and laboratory networks for vaccine-preventable disease control and elimination. Discussions also covered the goals for immunization and vaccine-preventable diseases during 2021–2030 for the 37 countries and areas that make up the Western Pacific Region. The TAG acknowledged that initiatives for vaccine-preventable disease control and elimination, and the introduction of new vaccines have led to strengthened immunization systems and programmes in the Region over the last four decades. The TAG offered full support to the WHO Secretariat to continue developing a post-2020 regional framework of action for immunization and vaccine-preventable diseases in the Western Pacific, working in collaboration with Member States and partners.

The TAG urged all Member States to continue to implement the recommendations of the Regional Committee resolution (WPR/RC68.R1), including developing national strategies and plans, establishing a target year for rubella elimination, and ensuring adequate technical and financial resources for implementation. The TAG also urged all Member States to continue to introduce new vaccines that are recommended by WHO for inclusion in national immunization programmes. The TAG recommended all Member States to strengthen surveillance for diseases targeted by new vaccines and build capacity for laboratory diagnosis.

The TAG recommended the WHO Secretariat to continue providing technical support to Member States for investigation, causality assessment and response to vaccine and immunization safety events. The TAG also recommended the WHO Secretariat to continue technical support and capacity-building to strengthen immunization services to reach under-served persons and achieve high immunization coverage across all population groups. The TAG requested the WHO Secretariat to advocate for an increased global commitment to achieving and sustaining measles and rubella elimination, continuous reduction and sustained prevention of measles deaths and congenital rubella syndrome in all WHO regions. The TAG also requested the WHO Secretariat to support Member States to gather country-specific information on vaccine hesitancy and diagnosis of root causes and to develop strategies to overcome hesitancy and to build demand for vaccination. The TAG encouraged the WHO Secretariat to continue to work with all Member States to maintain the polio-free status in

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