

Meeting Report

26TH MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP ON IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC REGION



13–16 June 2017
Manila, Philippines



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC

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MEETING REPORT

26TH MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP (TAG) ON
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 26th Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) 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 26th Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Immunization and Vaccine-Preventable Diseases in the Western Pacific Region in Manila, Philippines from 13 to 16 June 2017.

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Keywords:

Immunization / Vaccines / Regional health planning
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SUMMARY

The 26th Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Immunization and Vaccine-Preventable Diseases in the Western Pacific Region was held on 13–16 June 2017 in Manila, Philippines. The meeting was attended by six TAG members, four temporary advisers, 30 participants from 15 countries and areas, and 34 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 poliomyelitis (polio) endgame strategies as well as the new regional plans of action for measles and rubella elimination and triple elimination of HIV, hepatitis B and syphilis. Discussion also covered regional plans for hepatitis B control goals and the global supply of inactivated polio vaccine and its implication for this Region.

The TAG's key recommendations included developing implementation measures to fill immunity gaps among 14–24-year-olds in China, the Philippines, and Viet Nam to prevent outbreaks of rubella and congenital rubella syndrome. The TAG recommended that incremental cost and cost-effectiveness research on hepatitis B perinatal interventions be completed to inform countries and help move them towards the global hepatitis B elimination goal of $\leq 0.1\%$ hepatitis B surface antibody prevalence among children by 2030. In addition, the TAG urged Member States, once inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) supply is available, to develop strategies to address gaps in population immunity against type 2 poliovirus due to delayed introduction or possible stock-out of IPV. The TAG recommends that WHO conduct a survey to map diphtheria laboratory capacity in the Region and gather information on diagnostic testing methods. The TAG also recommended that a regional strategy and plan of action for accelerated Japanese encephalitis control be developed. The TAG recommended that countries with suboptimal representativeness and sensitivity of vaccine-preventable disease surveillance systems strengthen their systems by prioritizing support for the surveillance of diseases targeted by elimination goals. Finally, the TAG urged each Member State in which surveillance includes laboratory confirmation of diseases targeted by new vaccines to monitor and improve the quality of surveillance implementation.

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