

Meeting Report

Twenty-second Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on Immunization and Vaccine-Preventable Diseases in the Western Pacific Region



Manila, Philippines
25–27 June 2013



REPORT

**TWENTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP (TAG)
ON IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES
IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC REGION**

Manila, Philippines
25–27 June 2013

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NOTE

The views expressed in this report are those of the participants of the Twenty-second Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Immunization and Vaccine-Preventable Diseases in the Western Pacific Region do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Organization.

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Keywords:

Immunization programmes/ vaccination/ vaccines/ poliomyelitis – prevention and control/ regional health planning/ measles/ rubella

This report has been printed by the Regional Office for the Western Pacific of the World Health Organization for the participants of the Twenty-second Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on Immunization and Vaccine-Preventable Diseases in the Western Pacific Region, which was held in Manila, Philippines, 25–27 June 2013.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACIP	Advisory Committee on Immunization
AEFI	adverse events following immunization
AFP	acute flaccid paralysis
bOPV	bivalent oral polio vaccine
cVDPV	circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus
CEA	cost-effectiveness analysis
CRS	congenital rubella syndrome
DoV	Decade of Vaccines
DTaP	diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis
DTP	diphtheria tetanus pertussis vaccine
DTwP	diphtheria tetanus whole-cell pertussis
EPI	Expanded Programme on Immunization
EVM	effective vaccine management
FRR	financial resource requirements
GVAP	Global Vaccine Action Plan
Hib	haemophilus influenza type b
HPV	human papillomavirus
HSCC	Health Sector Coordination Committee
ICC	Interagency Coordinating Committee
IPV	inactivated polio vaccine
JE	Japanese encephalitis
MCV1	first dose of measles-containing vaccine
MCV2	second dose of measles-containing vaccine
MLM	mid-level managers
mOPV	monovalent oral polio vaccine
NIP	National Immunization Program
NIPH	National Institute of Public Health
NITAG	National Immunization Technical Advisory Group
NRA	national regulatory authority
OPV	oral poliovirus vaccine
PICs	Pacific island countries and areas
RCC	Regional Certification Commission

REC	reaching every community
RED	reaching every district
SAGE	Strategic Advisory Group of Experts
SIA	supplementary immunization activity
TAG	Technical Advisory Group
tOPV	trivalent oral poliovirus vaccine
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VAPP	vaccine-associated paralytic poliomyelitis
cVDPV	circulating vaccine derived poliovirus
WHA	World Health Assembly
WPV	wild poliovirus

SUMMARY

The Twenty-second Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Immunization and Vaccine-Preventable Diseases in the Western Pacific Region was held 25–27 June 2013 in Manila, Philippines and was attended by six TAG members, participants from 14 countries and areas, 41 representatives from partner organizations, and WHO staff from Headquarters, the Regional Office and country offices.

Dr Shin Young-soo, WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific, welcomed all participants and asked TAG members to provide guidance on four main issues: implementation of the global polio endgame strategic plan in the Western Pacific Region; continued work on the regional goals for maintaining polio-free status, measles and maternal and neonatal tetanus elimination and accelerated hepatitis B control; newly proposed regional goals for rubella elimination, accelerated Japanese encephalitis control, achieving routine immunization coverage targets and evidence-based introduction of new vaccines; and implementation of the Global Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP) through a regional framework that incorporates the regional goals.

The Polio Eradication and Endgame Strategic Plan 2013–2018 was reviewed with emphasis on two critical actions for all oral polio vaccine (OPV)-using countries: introduction of one dose of inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) into the routine immunization schedule by October 2015 and replacement of trivalent OPV (tOPV) with bivalent OPV (bOPV) by April 2016. The TAG endorsed the urgent implementation of necessary steps to achieve these actions, along with improvements in acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) surveillance, identification of and action to reduce polio immunity gaps, and initiation of the second phase of poliovirus laboratory containment.

The TAG reinforced existing regional goals to remain polio-free, to eliminate measles and maternal and neonatal tetanus, and to achieve accelerated control of hepatitis B. The TAG noted progress in the elimination of measles and the remaining challenges of endemic transmission and endemic or imported outbreaks in several countries. For hepatitis B, 2017 is proposed as the target year for the less than 1% seroprevalence goal, and progress toward the goal is very promising. All but four countries in the Region have been validated to have eliminated maternal and neonatal tetanus.

The TAG recommended the establishment of four new regional goals: for rubella elimination, with the target year to be discussed and defined in the 2014 TAG meeting; for JE accelerated control; for increased routine vaccination coverage; and for evidence-based introduction of new vaccines.

A draft regional framework for implementation of GVAP was presented. This framework is built around the GVAP strategic objectives and proposes a series of priority actions to be taken by the countries and the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific. The framework also links achievement of the regional immunization goals with the GVAP strategic objectives. The TAG endorsed in principle the draft framework and the priority actions.

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