

Report of the

WHO Pandemic Vaccine Deployment Workshop

Lagos, Nigeria, 4–6 November 2019



**World Health
Organization**

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Acronyms

AEFI	Adverse Events Following Immunization
EOC	Emergency Operations Centre
FMoH	Federal Ministry of Health
FMoARD	Federal Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
IHR	International Health Regulations
MCM	Medical countermeasures
NAFDAC	National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control
NCDC	Nigeria Centre for Disease Control
NDVP	National Deployment and Vaccination Plan for Pandemic Influenza Vaccines
NEMA	National Emergency Management Agency
NOA	National Orientation Agency
NPHCDA	National Primary Health Care Development Agency
NSCDC	National Security and Civil Defence Corps
PIP	Pandemic Influenza Preparedness
RCTWG	Risk Communication Technical Working Group
RI	Routine Immunization
WHO	World Health Organization

Executive summary

Pandemic influenza vaccines play a major role in mitigating the spread of an influenza pandemic and protecting vulnerable populations. During the 2009–2010 pandemic, Nigeria received 2 880 000 doses of pandemic influenza vaccine which were donated through the WHO Deployment Initiative. Experience during the 2009 H1N1 pandemic demonstrated the importance of planning for deployment operations – which span the entire deployment and vaccination process from importing of vaccines and other supplies, transporting and distributing these products throughout the supply chain, organizing vaccination campaigns (taking into account all elements that may impact these activities), and monitoring the safety, quality and efficacy of the medical products administered, up to the termination of vaccination operations.

The Pandemic Vaccine Deployment Workshop held from 4 to 6 November 2019 in Lagos, Nigeria, brought together participants from several sectors that play a key role in deployment and vaccination operations. The aim of the workshop was to initiate the development of Nigeria's National Deployment and Vaccination Plan for Pandemic Influenza Vaccines (NDVP). The interactive format of the workshop included a combination of presentations with the use of PIP Deploy.

Participants emphasized that the workshop allowed them to gain knowledge on key areas that an NDVP should contain, to identify gaps in current response capacities, and to identify and discuss roles and responsibilities of different national agencies during an influenza pandemic.

To capitalize on these discussions, further work is envisaged, namely: 1) to clarify coordination approaches among the different agencies and partnering organizations in the country, so duplication of work can be avoided; 2) to identify leading agencies on specific components of the deployment and vaccination operations in view of further development of these operational approaches; and 3) to develop the NDVP and address the gaps identified throughout the workshop to ensure timely and efficient response operations.

Introduction

This report summarizes the results and recommendations of the Pandemic Vaccine Deployment Workshop held from 4 to 6 November 2019 in Lagos, Nigeria.

Thirty-one representatives from different national agencies and institutions,¹ the WHO country office and WHO headquarters attended the workshop. Participants included experts in immunization, risk communications, logistics, immunization, surveillance and influenza.

The overall objective of the workshop was to support the country in drafting an updated National Deployment and Vaccination Plan for Pandemic Influenza Vaccines (NDVP) and to discuss key issues that should be addressed before, during and after a future influenza pandemic. Other workshop objectives included:

- to reinforce the importance of pandemic vaccine deployment in the wider planning of pandemic influenza preparedness;
- to stress the need to update Nigeria's NDVP for pandemic influenza;
- to raise awareness of in-country planning in order to ensure capacities and capabilities for effective and efficient deployment of pandemic vaccines;
- to run the PIP Deploy table-top/simulation game/exercise.

The workshop included critical presentations given by experts in the subject matter plus the interactive game/table-top exercise – PIP Deploy. The game provided participants with an engaging environment in which to better understand the main components of an NDVP.

Following this exercise, participants were divided into groups according to their areas of work in order to reflect on the main aspects that should be addressed in Nigeria's NDVP. A list of recommended activities that should be implemented following the workshop was developed and can be found in Annex 2 of this report.

¹ Representatives from the following agencies and institutions attended the workshop: National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA); National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC); Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC); Nnamdi Azikiwe University Teaching Hospital, Nnewi; National Orientation Agency (NOA); Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development (MHADMSD); Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMOARD); Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital; National Agency for Quarantine Service (NAQS); National Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC); Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH); National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA); and WHO.

1. Global mechanisms for effective deployment and vaccination operations during an influenza pandemic

The opening session of the workshop stressed the importance of planning for deployment and vaccination operations in order to enhance Nigeria's response capacity in the event of an influenza pandemic. It was highlighted that, when the latest pandemic influenza hit Nigeria in 2009, no deployment plans were available, which added to the challenges and slowed down the implementation of vaccination campaigns. Consequently, participants were encouraged to strengthen collaboration and commit to update and test Nigeria's NDVP.

The Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) Framework and the importance of vaccination

This session presented the PIP Framework, which was adopted by the World Health Assembly in 2011. The framework is an innovative public health instrument that seeks to improve global preparedness for, and the response to, the next pandemic. The framework's key goals include improving and strengthening the sharing of influenza viruses with pandemic potential, and increasing the access of developing countries to pandemic vaccines and other supplies. Through PIP, some 420 million doses of pandemic vaccines, 10 million treatment courses of antivirals and 250 000 diagnostic kits will be available to countries in most need.

The presentation also highlighted the benefits of pandemic influenza vaccine in decreasing morbidity and mortality. The 2009 influenza pandemic evaluations showed that vaccination rates were much higher in high-income countries (16.8%) than in middle-income (8.5%) and low-income countries (5.7%).² This led to discussion of the benefits of having a seasonal influenza vaccination programme. Evidence from the 2009 pandemic demonstrated that countries with seasonal influenza vaccination programmes were more likely to access vaccines by attaining a state of readiness faster than other countries and received their shipments earlier as a result of this.

Lessons learned from the 2009 H1N1 pandemic vaccine deployment initiative

This session presented the lessons learned from the WHO pandemic influenza vaccine deployment processes during the 2009–2010 pandemic as well as WHO's current efforts to ensure efficient

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