

# **South-East Asia Regional Immunization Technical Advisory Group (SEAR-ITAG)**

Report of the fifth meeting  
New Delhi, India, 25–29 August 2014

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## Acronyms

AES	acute encephalitis syndrome
AFP	acute flaccid paralysis
AEFI	adverse events following immunization
bOPV	bivalent oral polio vaccine
CRS	congenital rubella syndrome
DTP3	third dose of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis
EPI	expanded programme on immunization
EVM	effective vaccine management
GAVI	Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization
HSS	health systems strengthening
IPV	inactivated polio vaccine
ITAG	Immunization Technical Advisory Group
MCV	measles-containing vaccine
MCV1	first-dose measles containing vaccine
MCV2	second-dose measles containing vaccine
MNT	maternal and neonatal tetanus
MR	measles and rubella vaccine
MRI	Measles Rubella Initiative
NCCPE	National Certification Committee for Polio Eradication
NCIP	National Committee on Immunization Practices
OPV	oral polio vaccine
RCCPE	Regional Commission for Certification of Polio Eradication
SAGE	Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization
SIA	supplementary immunization activity

SEAR	South-East Asia Region
tOPV	trivalent oral polio vaccine
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
VDPV	vaccine-derived polio virus
VPD	vaccine-preventable disease
WHO	World Health Organization
WPV	wild polio virus

## 1. Introduction

The fifth meeting of the World Health Organization's South-East Asia Regional Immunization Technical Advisory Group (SEAR-ITAG) was held during 25–29 August 2014 in New Delhi, India.

SEAR-ITAG is a regional technical expert group, established by the Regional Director to provide advice on all aspects of immunization, vaccines and vaccine-preventable disease prevention, control, elimination and eradication. It comprises experts from disciplines such as programme management, communicable diseases/vaccine preventable diseases control, virology, epidemiology, and immunization. It meets annually with the participation of national EPI managers, national surveillance focal points and partners to (1) review progress on increasing immunization coverage, surveillance performance, programme issues, and matters related to vaccine quality assurance, and (2) provide guidance to countries on ways to improve and sustain overall high quality performance.

The terms of reference of ITAG are:

- (1) to review policies, strategies and plans for control, elimination and eradication of vaccine-preventable diseases, especially for polio eradication, measles elimination and control of rubella and congenital rubella syndrome (CRS) and maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT) elimination of the Member States of the Region,

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