

Report of the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE)

Geneva, 27–29 October 2004

Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals



World Health Organization

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World Health Organization

Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals

CH-1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland

• Fax: + 41 22 791 4227 • Email: vaccines@who.int •

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Abbreviations

AACPE	Ad-hoc Advisory Committee on Polio Eradication
AD	autodisable (syringes)
ADIP	accelerated development and introduction plan
AEFI	adverse events following immunization
CRS	congenital rubella syndrome
DCVM	Developing Countries Vaccine Manufacturers
DNA	deoxyribonucleic acid
DQA	data quality audit
DTP	diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (vaccine)
EMA	European Medicines Agency, United Kingdom
EPI	Expanded Programme on Immunization
ETEC	enterotoxigenic <i>Escherichia coli</i>
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
FSP	Financial Sustainability Plan
GAVI	Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization
GDP	gross domestic product
GIVS	Global Immunization Vision and Strategies
GSK	GlaxoSmithKline
HPV	human papillomavirus
IPV	inactivated poliovirus vaccine
IFFIm	International Finance Facility for Immunization
IMCI	integrated management of childhood illness
IP	intellectual property
IPR	intellectual property rights
IVB	Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals (WHO Department)

IVR	Initiative for Vaccine Research (WHO Department)
MDGs	Millenium Development Goals
mOPV	monovalent oral polio vaccine
MVP	Meningitis Vaccine Project
NIBSC	National Institute for Biological Standards and Control, United Kingdom
NIH	National Institutes of Health
NRA	national regulatory authority
ODA	official development assistance
OPV	oral poliovirus vaccine
RAPID	Rotavirus Action Plan for Immunization and Development
RED	reaching every district
RVP	Rotavirus Vaccine Project
SIA	supplementary immunization activity/activities
SII	Serum Institute of India
SWAps	sector-wide approaches
TAG	technical advisory group
TRIPS	Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
VAPP	vaccine-associated paralytic polio
cVDPV	circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus
iVDPV	immunodeficient vaccine-derived poliovirus

Summary of discussions and recommendations from the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts to the Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals

The Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) was established in 1999 by the Director-General of WHO to provide guidance on the work of the Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals (IVB)¹. SAGE held its sixth meeting on 27–29 October 2004 in Geneva, Switzerland. The following summarizes the principal points raised and the recommendations made by SAGE.

Global Immunization Vision and Strategies

The context in which national immunization programmes function has changed dramatically: globally, the expanded range of traditional and new vaccines used in immunization programmes is protecting more children against disease; and many more innovations aimed at reducing disease burden are in the pipeline. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative is now tackling the last remaining foci of wild poliovirus transmission and looking ahead to certification and cessation of oral poliovirus vaccine (OPV) use. Significant progress is also being made in several countries in reducing mortality caused by measles.

However, four global immunization challenges must be addressed: how to sustain the gains, both managerially and financially; how to ensure equitable access to new vaccines; how to control diseases such as avian flu, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS); and how to finance the more costly new vaccines currently available as well as those shortly to come forward from clinical trials. These new vaccines present an opportunity to scale up immunization activities, to reach everyone, and to increase the range of diseases prevented by vaccination.

Furthermore, the scope of the financial resources being made available through

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