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Report of the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE)

Geneva, 14–15 June 2002



Vaccines and Biologicals

World Health Organization

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Abbreviations

AD	auto-disable (syringes)
ADC	accelerated disease control
AEFIs	adverse events following immunization
AFP	acute flaccid paralysis
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (USA)
CDS	Communicable Diseases cluster (WHO)
CSR	Department of Communicable Disease Surveillance and Response
CRS	congenital rubella syndrome
cVDPV	circulating vaccine-derived viruses
DTP	diphtheria–tetanus–pertussis (vaccine)
EPI	Expanded Programme on Immunization
ETEC	enterotoxigenic <i>Escherichia coli</i>
GAVI	Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization
GVF	Global Vaccine Fund
HBV	hepatitis B virus
HepB	hepatitis B vaccine
Hib	<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b
HTP	Health Technology and Pharmaceuticals cluster (WHO)
ICCs	interagency coordinating committees
IPV	inactivated polio vaccine
iVDPV	vaccine-derived poliovirus associated with immunodeficiency
IVI	International Vaccine Institute
IVR	initiative for vaccine research
JE	Japanese encephalitis
MMR	measles–mumps–rubella (vaccine)
MNT	maternal and neonatal tetanus
MR	measles-rubella
MVP	Meningitis Vaccine Project
NIDs	national immunization days

NRA	national regulatory authority
OPV	oral polio vaccine
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PATH	Program for Appropriate Technology in Health
PEI	Polio Eradication Initiative
R&D	research and development
SAGE	Strategic Advisory Group of Experts
SIAs	supplementary immunization activities
SNIDs	subnational immunization days
TAGs	technical advisory groups
TDR	Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases
TCG	Technical Consultative Group
Td	tetanus–diphtheria toxoid
TT	tetanus toxoid
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
VAPP	vaccine-associated polio
V&B	Department of Vaccines and Biologicals (WHO)
VDPV	vaccine-derived poliovirus
WHA	World Health Assembly
WHO	World Health Organization
YF	yellow fever

Abbreviations used in Figure 1.1, page 4

ATT	Access to Technologies (WHO)
BAC	Research on Bacterial Vaccines (WHO)
EXD	Executive Director
POP	Parasitic and Other Pathogens Vaccine Research (WHO)
PRD	Product Research and Development (WHO)
QSB	Quality Assurance and Safety: Biologicals (WHO)
VAM	Vaccines Assessment and Monitoring (WHO)
VIR	Research on Viral Vaccines (WHO)

Executive summary

Introduction

The Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE), established by the Director-General of WHO in 1999 to provide guidance on vaccines and biologicals, held its fourth annual meeting on 13 and 14 June 2002 at WHO headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland.

SAGE reviewed progress over the past year in relation to the objectives and targets set by the Department of Vaccines and Biologicals (V&B). Challenges, adjustments and refinements in priority setting and activities were discussed, and recommendations made in all key areas (see this section for the full text of the recommendations made by SAGE). SAGE plays an important global role in vaccines and immunization and its recommendations make an important impact at a time of change and challenge.

Main topics of discussion

The Strategic Plan

The V&B strategy for 2002–2005 represents a minor revision of the 2000–2003 Strategic Plan. The presentation to SAGE gave examples of changes in emphasis in the new plan with respect to five targets. Substantial revisions will be made in 2004. The review took into account progress, implementation and funding for work covered in the last plan as well as work being done which was not included in the last plan. In addition to the three priority targets on polio eradication, immunization safety, and new vaccine introduction, the new plan focuses on standardization and control of biologicals, and the supply and quality of vaccines - core functions considered to need independence from external funding. SAGE considered all nine targets through the individual subgroup sessions on innovation, the strengthening of immunization

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