

Fourth Regional workshop to review progress towards measles-rubella and other priority VPD surveillance and outbreak preparedness and response in WHO South-East Asia Region

Dhaka, Bangladesh, 13–16 June 2022

Report of the Meeting

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SEA-Immun-137

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Cataloguing-in-Publication (CIP) data. CIP data are available at <http://apps.who.int/iris>.

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Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Abbreviations and acronyms	v
Executive Summary.....	vi
1. Background.....	1
2. Objectives of the meeting.....	1
3. Organization of the meeting.....	2
4. Proceedings of the workshop	2
5. Key areas of discussion	4
6. Key conclusions and action points.....	5
7. Country action plans	7

Annexes

1. Agenda.....	17
2. Opening address by Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, WHO Regional Director f or South-East Asia (delivered by WR, Bangladesh)	18
3. Designation of countries for peer review activities	21
4. Evaluation of the workshop	22
5. List of participants	23

Abbreviations and acronyms

AFP	acute flaccid paralysis
CIF	case investigation form
CRS	congenital rubella syndrome
DHIS	district health information system
DQA	data quality assessment
e-HMIS	electronic health management information system
e-LMIS	electronic logistics management information system
EPI	Expanded Programme on Immunization
GAVI	Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization
ICMR	Indian Council of Medical Research
MCV	measles-containing vaccine
MOH	Ministry of Health
MRCV	measles–rubella-containing vaccine
NBBD	newborn and birth defects
RCV	rubella-containing vaccine
RVAP	Regional Vaccine Action Plan
SEA-RVC	South-East Asia Regional Verification Commission
US CDC	United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
VPD	vaccine-preventable disease
WHO	World Health Organization

Executive Summary

Fourth Regional workshop to review progress towards measles-rubella and other priority VPD surveillance and outbreak preparedness and response in WHO South-East Asia Region was conducted in Dhaka, Bangladesh, 13-16 June 2022. The meeting was attended by national managers and officers of the National Immunization Programme, surveillance officers and data focal points of nine member states, together with the WHO focal points in the respective countries. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea expressed its regrets about its inability to attend the meeting and Myanmar was represented only by WHO Country office in Myanmar.

The general objective of the meeting was to strengthen Member States' capacity to conduct high quality surveillance for Measles, Rubella, and other priority VPDs for accelerated efforts towards elimination/control of all priority VPDs.

The specific objectives were to

- Review of surveillance performance in Member States for measles rubella and other priority VPDs in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- Obtain inputs to the updated draft Regional VPD surveillance guide and finalize its contents
- Streamline the various roles of National EPI program managers, surveillance managers, and data managers to identify, investigate, report, and classify suspected cases of fever and rash
- Review and strengthen capacity for data quality improvement for measles, rubella, and other priority VPDs
- Simulation exercise on outbreak preparedness and response for measles, rubella, and other priority VPDs.

The first two days of the meeting were devoted to a review of the surveillance programme and capacity building on outbreak preparedness and response. Each country's surveillance programme was peer-reviewed by two countries and appropriate inputs and feedback were provided. Simulation exercise (SimEx) and review of preparedness checklist was done enhance capacity on outbreak preparedness and response.

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