

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

AFR/RC56/R1

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

RESOLUTION

**THE REGIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE EXPANDED
PROGRAMME ON IMMUNIZATION 2006–2009**

(document AFR/RC56/7)

The Regional Committee,

Recalling various resolutions on the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) adopted in recent years, including resolutions AFR/RC42/R4, AFR/RC43/R8, AFR/RC44/R7, AFR/RC45/R5 and AFR/RC52/R2 on priority interventions for programme acceleration to achieve its goals;

Having examined the progress report by the Regional Director on the achievements of the Expanded Programme on Immunization in the African Region;

Noting the achievement of the accelerated disease control initiatives against poliomyelitis and measles in immunizing previously unreached populations, and noting that these initiatives have established extensive networks on which surveillance for other disease and health trends can be built or expanded;

Recognizing that although there has been quite substantial progress in improving the performance of national immunization programmes in the African Region during the period 2001–2005, a significantly increased number of children need to be vaccinated, if agreed global and regional targets are to be met;

Concerned that improved regional coverage disguises the disparities in immunization coverage at national and subnational levels;

Concerned that the introduction of more expensive vaccines and injection devices has aggravated the situation with regard to ensuring sustainable funding for immunization;

Recognizing the importance of the Global Immunization Vision and Strategy (2006–2015), whose main goal is to reduce illness and death due to vaccine-preventable diseases by at least two thirds by 2015, or earlier, compared to 2000 levels;

Acknowledging that integration of additional child survival interventions with immunization would be achieved by supporting countries to adopt a regional framework for integration;

Aware that maximizing access to immunization would be achieved through expanding implementation of the Reach Every District (RED) approach;

Emphasizing the need for all countries to strive towards achieving the internationally agreed development goal contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration of reducing by two thirds by 2015, the under-five child mortality rate;

Having considered the proposed strategies for accelerating the achievement of EPI goals for 2006–2009,

1. APPROVES the Regional Strategic Plan for the Expanded Programme on Immunization 2006–2009;
2. URGES Member States:
 - (a) to increase budgetary allocations for vaccine procurement and immunization activities;
 - (b) to meet the immunization targets expressed in the strategic plan;
 - (c) to ensure that immunization remains a priority in the national health agenda and is supported by systematic planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes, and long-term financial commitment;
 - (d) to develop financial sustainability plans for existing immunization initiatives;
 - (e) to accelerate and sustain the achievement of certification-level surveillance in all countries of the Region as well as establishing systems and polio outbreak response teams to allow timely response to polio outbreaks;
 - (f) to ensure greater community involvement in the context of the RED approach and integration with other priority programmes;
 - (g) to implement cross-border immunization campaigns where necessary;

- (h) to promote monitoring of safety and quality of vaccines through surveillance of adverse events following immunization and training of health personnel and community workers.

3. RECOGNIZES Rotary International, US Centers for Disease Prevention and Control, UNICEF, USAID, DFID, GAVI and other partners for their efforts to strengthen immunization services, expand immunization coverage, and introduce new and underused vaccines within the African Region.

4. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

- (a) to continue advocating for EPI support to achieve the poliomyelitis eradication goal in the African Region during subsequent meetings with Heads of State, political leaders and high-level opinion leaders to ensure sustained commitment to national immunization programmes;
- (b) to continue monitoring the implementation of accelerated disease control activities with particular emphasis on eradicating polio, providing technical support to Member States to establish polio outbreak response teams, eliminating maternal and neonatal tetanus, controlling measles and yellow fever, and strengthening routine immunization systems;
- (c) to foster continued collaboration with international and multilateral agencies, donor organizations and EPI partners to harmonize policies and efficient and sustainable utilization of resources;
- (d) to enhance the capacity of Member States to conduct vaccine trials and compile evidence for decision-making on new vaccine introduction;
- (e) to work closely with international and multilateral agencies, donor organizations and EPI partners in line with the Global Immunization Vision and Strategy with a view to providing support to Member States for implementation of the Regional Strategic Plan for the Expanded Programme on Immunization 2006–2009;
- (f) to support integration of immunization with other child survival activities;
- (g) to report every year to the Regional Committee on the progress made.

Fourth meeting, 29 August 2006