



*executive committee of
the directing council*

PAN AMERICAN
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

*working party of
the regional committee*

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



78th Meeting
Washington, D.C.
June 1977

CE78/INF/2 (Eng.)
2 June 1977
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PAHO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS STUDY GROUP ON THE EXPANDED
PROGRAM ON IMMUNIZATION (EPI) IN THE AMERICAS

PAHO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS STUDY GROUP ON THE EXPANDED
PROGRAM ON IMMUNIZATION (EPI) IN THE AMERICAS

At the request of the Director, a PAHO Executive Committee Members Study Group on the Expanded Immunization Program for the Americas met in Washington, D.C., on the 15th of April, 1977.

The objectives of the Study Group were:

- 1) To review the PAHO Immunization Task Force background documents of the proposal for EPI in the Americas.
- 2) To develop policy recommendations for the Director for the implementation of EPI in the Americas.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. Executive Committee Members:

Dr. Gustavo Mora
Chief, International Relations
Ministry of Public Health
Bogotá, Colombia

Dr. Rodrigo Jiménez Monge
Ministry of Public Health
San José, Costa Rica

Dr. Richard Uhrich
Associate Director
Office of International Health
Washington, D.C.

Dr. Roderick Doug Deen
Ministry of Health
Port of Spain, Trinidad

B. PAHO Staff:

Dr. Pedro N. Acha	Chief, Division of Disease Control
Dr. Karl A. Western	Chief, Communicable Diseases

Dr. Jorge Rosselot	Regional Advisor, Maternal and Child Care
Dr. Louis Greenberg	Chief, Laboratory Services
Dr. Nilo Vallejo	Regional Advisor, Health Education
Dr. Fortunato Vargas Tentori	Medical Officer, Health Services
Dr. James H. Rust	Surveillance Officer, Communicable Diseases
Mr. William Umstead	Chief, Procurement Office
Dr. Ciro A. de Quadros	Advisor in Immunization, Communicable Diseases

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PAHO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE STUDY GROUP
ON THE EXPANDED PROGRAM ON IMMUNIZATION FOR THE AMERICAS

The Study Group, which met in Washington, D.C. on the 15th of April, 1977, after reviewing the background documents prepared by the PAHO Immunization Task Force, recommends to the Director the following general policies and strategies for his consideration:

1. The Expanded Program on Immunization for the Americas should be available to all Member Countries with a national will and a determined policy to strengthen and improve the delivery of immunization services within existing or proposed health structures. The Study Group furthermore considers the designation of a national immunization program manager as essential.
2. PAHO technical cooperation should supplement and not be a substitute for the national effort.
3. Additional financial support from PAHO and other agencies is less important than assisting countries to utilize better existing resources by supporting the development of their national planning, management capacity, multidisciplinary training and operational capability in immunization services.
4. PAHO should proceed with implementing the Executive Committee Resolution CE-74.R9, particularly in reference to a comprehensive country by country analysis of the present immunization status, in order to identify areas in which assistance by the Organization and/or other technical agencies may be required.
5. Operational research should be encouraged to improve vaccines, vaccine preservation (cold chain), immunization surveillance, training and delivery of immunization services through primary health care.
6. Maximum effort should be made to strengthen the immunization component of existing PAHO Family Health and Primary Health Care projects.
7. The Study Group considered that the proposal for the establishment of the Rotating Fund for purchase of vaccine should be approved and presented to the Member Countries to determine which countries will be interested in its utilization. It is also suggested that the Rotating Fund be made available for purchase of equipment and other materials required to successfully conduct an immunization program.
8. The Study Group endorses the Organization's efforts to promote vaccine production and quality control (Annex).
9. Finally, the Study Group recommends that the proposal for the Expanded Program on Immunization for the Americas be included in the Agenda of the Executive Committee Meeting, with an outline of the budgetary implications for the proposed program.

QUALITY CONTROL AND PRODUCTION OF BIOLOGICALS

The authority for PAHO's activity related to production and quality control of biologicals is clearly outlined in the Ten-Year Health Plan for the Americas, page 67, recommendations 2 and 4c, which state:

Recommendation 2: "Expand and improve laboratories that manufacture biological products for human and veterinary use designed for diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of infectious diseases, in order to satisfy, in particular, the present and future national and multinational demand of programs for control of measles, whooping cough, tetanus, diphtheria, poliomyelitis and smallpox."

Recommendation 4c: "Consolidate and expand facilities for the preparation and control of biological products for human and veterinary use, intended for diagnosis, prevention and treatment of infectious diseases."

The six diseases specifically referred to in Recommendation 2 contain five of the diseases being dealt with in the Expanded Program on Immunization. Smallpox which is included in the Recommendation is now on the verge of eradication and no longer applies. Tuberculosis which is not included in the recommendations is a component of the EPI and should therefore be added to the list.

While there is a capability for the production of DPT, BCG, Poliomyelitis and measles vaccine in a number of countries in this Region, except for Canada and the USA none are self-sufficient in the production of any of these vaccines other than BCG. The EPI will thus have to depend heavily on imports for at least another 5 to 10 years.

To hasten self-sufficiency in the Region, PAHO's programs have been designed to increase the capability in the control of all biologicals at the national level. In this regard the Organization is working with the Mexican authorities towards the establishment of a Reference Laboratory for the production and quality control of vaccines. While the emphasis will be placed on the viral vaccines, the bacterial vaccines will be included. Plans include the establishment of at least another Reference Laboratory in another country. Both Laboratories should function as training centers as well as provide reference testing services. In these projects the budget will provide for the training of personnel, through fellowships and short-term consultantships.

With the expected increase in the need for testing samples of vaccine collected from the field as well as at the production level, consideration should be given to the establishment of a Fund in order to contract testing services at other laboratories at least for the next two years.

It is suggested that the sum of \$11,000 per year be set aside for this purpose. This sum would provide for the testing of 25 lots each of poliomyelitis and measles vaccines and 10 lots of DPT. This initial allocation should be reviewed annually.

As part of its routine functions, PAHO assists Government Laboratories in obtaining satisfactory production strains for vaccine manufacture, and provides manuals for production and control procedures.

Laboratories undertaking vaccine manufacture should include in their overall plans provision for the ultimate establishment of a Research and Development Division.

*executive committee of
the directing council*



PAN AMERICAN
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

*working party of
the regional committee*

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



78th Meeting
Washington, D.C.
June 1977

CE78/INF/2 (Eng.)
2 June 1977
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PAHO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS STUDY GROUP ON THE EXPANDED
PROGRAM ON IMMUNIZATION (EPI) IN THE AMERICAS

PAHO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS STUDY GROUP ON THE EXPANDED
PROGRAM ON IMMUNIZATION (EPI) IN THE AMERICAS

At the request of the Director, a PAHO Executive Committee Members Study Group on the Expanded Immunization Program for the Americas met in Washington, D.C., on the 15th of April, 1977.

The objectives of the Study Group were:

- 1) To review the PAHO Immunization Task Force background documents of the proposal for EPI in the Americas.
- 2) To develop policy recommendations for the Director for the implementation of EPI in the Americas.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. Executive Committee Members:

Dr. Gustavo Mora
Chief, International Relations
Ministry of Public Health
Bogotá, Colombia

Dr. Rodrigo Jiménez Monge
Ministry of Public Health
San José, Costa Rica

Dr. Richard Uhrich
Associate Director
Office of International Health
Washington, D.C.

Dr. Roderick Doug Deen
Ministry of Health
Port of Spain, Trinidad

B. PAHO Staff:

Dr. Pedro N. Acha	Chief, Division of Disease Control
Dr. Karl A. Western	Chief, Communicable Diseases

Dr. Jorge Rosselot	Regional Advisor, Maternal and Child Care
Dr. Louis Greenberg	Chief, Laboratory Services
Dr. Nilo Vallejo	Regional Advisor, Health Education
Dr. Fortunato Vargas Tentori	Medical Officer, Health Services
Dr. James H. Rust	Surveillance Officer, Communicable Diseases
Mr. William Umstead	Chief, Procurement Office
Dr. Ciro A. de Quadros	Advisor in Immunization, Communicable Diseases

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PAHO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE STUDY GROUP
ON THE EXPANDED PROGRAM ON IMMUNIZATION FOR THE AMERICAS

The Study Group, which met in Washington, D.C. on the 15th of April, 1977, after reviewing the background documents prepared by the PAHO Immunization Task Force, recommends to the Director the following general policies and strategies for his consideration:

1. The Expanded Program on Immunization for the Americas should be available to all Member Countries with a national will and a determined policy to strengthen and improve the delivery of immunization services within existing or proposed health structures. The Study Group furthermore considers the designation of a national immunization program manager as essential.
2. PAHO technical cooperation should supplement and not be a substitute for the national effort.
3. Additional financial support from PAHO and other agencies is less important than assisting countries to utilize better existing resources by supporting the development of their national planning, management capacity, multidisciplinary training and operational capability in immunization services.
4. PAHO should proceed with implementing the Executive Committee Resolution CE-74.R9, particularly in reference to a comprehensive country by country analysis of the present immunization status, in order to identify areas in which assistance by the Organization and/or other technical agencies may be required.
5. Operational research should be encouraged to improve vaccines, vaccine preservation (cold chain), immunization surveillance, training and delivery of immunization services through primary health care.
6. Maximum effort should be made to strengthen the immunization component of existing PAHO Family Health and Primary Health Care projects.
7. The Study Group considered that the proposal for the establishment of the Rotating Fund for purchase of vaccine should be approved and presented to the Member Countries to determine which countries will be interested in its utilization. It is also suggested that the Rotating Fund be made available for purchase of equipment and other materials required to successfully conduct an immunization program.
8. The Study Group endorses the Organization's efforts to promote vaccine production and quality control (Annex).
9. Finally, the Study Group recommends that the proposal for the Expanded Program on Immunization for the Americas be included in the Agenda of the Executive Committee Meeting, with an outline of the budgetary implications for the proposed program.

QUALITY CONTROL AND PRODUCTION OF BIOLOGICALS

The authority for PAHO's activity related to production and quality control of biologicals is clearly outlined in the Ten-Year Health Plan for the Americas, page 67, recommendations 2 and 4c, which state:

Recommendation 2: "Expand and improve laboratories that manufacture biological products for human and veterinary use designed for diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of infectious diseases, in order to satisfy, in particular, the present and future national and multinational demand of programs for control of measles, whooping cough, tetanus, diphtheria, poliomyelitis and smallpox."

Recommendation 4c: "Consolidate and expand facilities for the preparation and control of biological products for human and veterinary use, intended for diagnosis, prevention and treatment of infectious diseases."

The six diseases specifically referred to in Recommendation 2 contain five of the diseases being dealt with in the Expanded Program on Immunization. Smallpox which is included in the Recommendation is now on the verge of eradication and no longer applies. Tuberculosis which is not included in the recommendations is a component of the EPI and should therefore be added to the list.

While there is a capability for the production of DPT, BCG, Poliomyelitis and measles vaccine in a number of countries in this Region, except for Canada and the USA none are self-sufficient in the production of any of these vaccines other than BCG. The EPI will thus have to depend heavily on imports for at least another 5 to 10 years.

To hasten self-sufficiency in the Region, PAHO's programs have been designed to increase the capability in the control of all biologicals at the national level. In this regard the Organization is working with the Mexican authorities towards the establishment of a Reference Laboratory for the production and quality control of vaccines. While the emphasis will be placed on the viral vaccines, the bacterial vaccines will be included. Plans include the establishment of at least another Reference Laboratory in another country. Both Laboratories should function as training centers as well as provide reference testing services. In these projects the budget will provide for the training of personnel, through fellowships and short-term consultantships.

With the expected increase in the need for testing samples of vaccine collected from the field as well as at the production level, consideration should be given to the establishment of a Fund in order to contract testing services at other laboratories at least for the next two years.

It is suggested that the sum of \$11,000 per year be set aside for this purpose. This sum would provide for the testing of 25 lots each of poliomyelitis and measles vaccines and 10 lots of DPT. This initial allocation should be reviewed annually.

As part of its routine functions, PAHO assists Government Laboratories in obtaining satisfactory production strains for vaccine manufacture, and provides manuals for production and control procedures.

Laboratories undertaking vaccine manufacture should include in their overall plans provision for the ultimate establishment of a Research and Development Division.