

RESOLUTION

OF THE

WHO REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA

SEA/RC64/R3

2012: YEAR OF INTENSIFICATION OF ROUTINE IMMUNIZATION IN THE SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION: FRAMEWORK FOR INCREASING AND SUSTAINING COVERAGE

The Regional Committee,

Recalling World Health Assembly resolutions WHA 53.12 on immunization as a major factor in promoting child health and WHA 58.15 on Global Immunization Vision and Strategy,

Recalling the target adopted at the United Nations General Assembly's Twenty-seventh special session on children (S-27/2, 2002) to ensure full immunization of children under one year of age, at 90% coverage nationally, with at least 80% coverage in every district or equivalent administrative unit,

Recognizing the progress made in the Region in protecting children from vaccine-preventable diseases through close partnerships with Member States, development agencies and other stakeholders,

Concerned that globally over 40% of the children who do not receive DPT 3 in their first year of life live in the South-East Asia Region,

Taking pride in the milestones achieved in the Region on polio eradication and reduction of measles mortality,

Considering that most Member States have recognized immunization as a public good, basic human right and a valuable tool in accelerating progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goal of reducing by two-thirds by 2015, the under-five mortality rate,

Reiterating that high-level advocacy and intense social mobilization contribute to increased demand for immunization services and appropriately informed populations,

Cognizant that decentralized health systems and certain health reforms may affect immunization programmes,

Concerned with inadequate allocation of resources in national and sub-national health budgets to implement the necessary activities, and

Having considered "2012: Year of Intensification of Routine Immunization in the South-East Asia Region: Framework for increasing and sustaining immunization coverage" (SEA/RC64/8 Inf.Doc.),

1. URGES Member States:

- (a) to declare 2012 as the Year of Intensification of Routine Immunization while agreeing to implement, and mobilize and allocate the needed resources to successfully overcome the challenges identified in the Framework for increasing coverage in the South-East Asia Region;
- (b) to support organizing an annual regional immunization week in April as one of the major advocacy activities in regional intensification of routine immunization in 2012 and as part of a growing global and multi-regional movement designed to raise awareness of the benefits of immunization by increasing access and demand while targeting under-served populations and cross-border collaboration;
- (c) to ensure that routine immunization remains a priority on the national health agenda and is supported by systematic planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and long-term financial commitment through establishment of a specific budget line for immunization in national budgets;
- (d) to develop national and sub-national level plans of action based on risk analysis to intensify routine immunization coverage in line with agreed immunization targets expressed in the United Nations General Assembly special session on children, and targets in the Framework for increasing and sustaining coverage;

- (e) to encourage and inform senior policy makers and stakeholders of the benefits of improving and sustaining immunization programmes, and
 - (f) to continue to collaborate with development partners to explore the introduction of new vaccines in expanded programmes for immunization through evidence-based disease burden studies, cost-effectiveness analysis and sustainability, and
2. REQUESTS the Regional Director:
- (a) to officially launch 2012 as the Year of Intensification of Routine Immunization in South-East Asia and support and promote major advocacy activities in regional intensification of routine immunization in 2012;
 - (b) to mobilize resources from donors and development partners and support Member States in resource mobilization and implementation of the Framework, to further intensify technical support to Member States to strengthen their capacity to increase and sustain immunization coverage within the framework of primary health care and health system strengthening by focusing on high-priority and low-coverage areas;
 - (c) to pursue a multisectoral approach to ensure collaboration between Member States, development partners and technical agencies and to mobilize adequate resources to intensify routine immunization coverage in the Region;
 - (d) to facilitate purchase of quality vaccines at affordable rates, especially for countries with limited capacity for negotiation with suppliers, and sharing of experiences between Member States, and
 - (e) to report annually to the Regional Committee on the progress towards achievement of the immunization targets adopted in the Framework.

Fifth meeting, 9 September 2011