



# SAFE-VACCINATION TRAINING MODULES

One of the greatest achievements in public health has been the prevention of infectious diseases through immunization. As vaccine-preventable diseases become less visible thanks to effective vaccination programs, more attention will be paid to Events Supposedly Attributable to Vaccination or Immunization (ESAVIs).

Notwithstanding the great strides that have been made in disease control, immunization is not without controversy and the world has witnessed the dangers and effects of interrupting vaccination.

The public's fears about/reaction to the occasional ESAVI or group of serious ESAVIs linked to vaccines used in immunization programs can quickly pose a serious threat to public health. A high number of adverse events in vaccination programs can erode the public's confidence in immunization and produce an unexpected crisis that, if not properly handled, can jeopardize the hard-won progress of public health in the field of immunization.

Proper management of ESAVIs calls for the speedy detection and adequate assessment, investigation, and handling of such events. It is also essential to have a public relations plan to keep people informed. Therefore, it is important for health personnel to develop partnerships with the media.

Immunization services also must address this concern and prepare their staff by providing them with information on safe vaccination. Safe vaccination, a priority component of immunization programs, aims to create and improve mechanisms to enable countries to guarantee the use of quality vaccines, safe injections, and the monitoring of ESAVIs.

To this end, the Pan American Health Organization has designed seven safe-vaccination modules to improve immunization services and give health workers the information they need to address the issues that arouse public concern about the potential risks of vaccines and potential adverse events. The modules are divided into units that include a series of technical activities to encourage participants to examine the problems that arise in the daily activities and work of the immunization program.

The seven modules are:

- MODULE I**      **National Regulatory Authority**
- MODULE II**     **Quality Control Laboratory**
- MODULE III**    **Safe Injection Practices**
- MODULE IV**    **Technical and Clinical Aspects of Events Supposedly Attributable to Vaccination or Immunization (ESAVIs)**
- MODULE V**     **Introduction to the Concepts of Causality and Risk-Benefit Considerations**
- MODULE VI**    **System for Monitoring an Event Supposedly Attributable to Vaccination or Immunization (ESAVI)**
- MODULE VII**   **Developing Partnerships with the Media**