



Launch Event/Webinar for the “Expanding the evidence base to inform vaccine introduction: program costing and cost-effectiveness analyses” supplement to *Vaccine*

Ana Gabriela Felix Garcia and Cara Janusz

The Pan American Health Organization’s (PAHO) ProVac Initiative has coordinated the publication of a second supplement to the journal *Vaccine*. The first supplement, titled “Evidence Base for Vaccine Introduction in Latin America and the Caribbean”, was published in July 2013. It is available online to subscribers via the journal’s website.

This second supplement, titled “Expanding the evidence base to inform vaccine introduction: program costing and cost-effectiveness analyses”, features country-led research to support real-time policymaking, including cost-effectiveness analyses, program costing analyses, financial flows analyses, among others. Work carried out by partner organizations collaborating in the ProVac International Working Group, as well as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation-led Multi-country Costing and Financing of Routine Immunization and New Vaccines (EPIC) initiative is also featured throughout the supplement.

A total of 31 original research articles and four perspective articles that provide reflection on the role and use of economic evidence for decision making are included. Among the original research articles, the supplement includes results from 14 ProVac country-led cost-effectiveness analyses and 9 EPIC country costing and financial flows analyses. The four perspective pieces highlight themes like the potential role of cost-effectiveness analyses in vaccine price negotiations; the continued need for models and methodological approaches that can be adapted for use in low resource policy settings; and the juxtaposition of supporting country-level decision making in the context of donor priority setting. This supplement adds much needed evidence to the field and provides an opportunity to highlight country-led work.

Funding for the supplement was supported by a Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation grant to PAHO.

A Webinar will be held on 12 May 2015 to launch the supplement and provide an open forum for discussion with the editorial team and authors. The virtual meeting will begin at 10am EDT, and can be accessed at: <http://bit.ly/1NKhPyk>. Interested readers based in Washington, DC are cordially invited to participate in-person. The Webinar will be streamed from PAHO Headquarters (room B). All in-person participants must RSVP by 8 May 2015. To RSVP please contact Ms. Susana Asmat at asmats@paho.org.



PAHO Immunization GIN Articles



(GLOBAL IMMUNIZATION NEWSLETTER)

1st National Meeting on Integrating Electronic Immunization Registries – National Directorate for the Control of Vaccine-preventable Diseases (DiNaCEI) and SUMAR Program¹

Carla Vizzotti*, Martín Sabignoso*, Analía Aquino*, Mirta Magarinos[‡], Carolina Danovaro[‡]

*Ministry of Health, Argentina; [‡]Pan American Health Organization

Location	Buenos Aires, Argentina
Dates	21 April 2015
Participants	Argentina's Vice-Minister for Community Health; Argentina's Vice-Minister for Health Promotion and Programs; Representatives of Argentina's Ministry of Health (MOH) National Directorate for the Control of Vaccine-preventable Diseases (DiNaCEI) and coordinator of SUMAR; Health Information System, Immunization and SUMAR representatives from each of the country's 24 Provincial Ministries of Health; and representatives from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).
Purpose	1) To share the progress made on integrating the national electronic immunization registry (EIR) with the operation and M&E of the program SUMAR. SUMAR is a MOH Program charged with ensuring health coverage and promoting access to, and the quality of, priority health interventions. 2) To discuss achievements, challenges and next steps in the implementation of the national EIR and data transfers from provincial EIRs.

Participants met to discuss the progress and challenges in the country's efforts to roll-out the national EIR, which includes direct use of the national EIR in 12 provinces and loading data from the provincial EIRs of the other 12 provinces via Web. Additionally, integrating the immunization registry with the functionalities related to ensuring SUMAR performance-based resource transfers was covered. The roll-out of the national EIR, and its integration with SUMAR, is a priority for the MOH. This is reflected in the provision of government resources and the engagement of various vice-ministries in the endeavor.

Some highlights of the meeting included working group discussions and dynamic exercises, the latter facilitated by a psychologist specialized on change and organizational development. At the end of the meeting, participants were asked to respond to the following questions: 1) What are the main challenges to having timely and quality immunization data? 2) What should be the role of each actor and level in addressing those challenges? 3) What is a concrete activity that each person (or in collaboration with others), could commit to doing to address those challenges? And what are specific areas of difficulty for integration at the sub-national level and what could the national level do to support the provinces?



From left to right: Dr. Carla Vizzotti, National Director for the Control of Vaccine-preventable Diseases; Dr. Nicolas Kreplak, Secretary of Community Health; Dr. Federico Kaski Fullone, Secretary of Promotion and Health Programs; Dr. Martin Sabignoso, Na

¹ SUMAR: MOH Program charged with ensuring health coverage and promoting access to and the quality of priority health interventions.



Training of Medical Personnel in Surveillance for Vaccine Preventable Diseases

Julietta Frederick-Cassius; Karen Lewis-Bell; Carolina Danovaro, Ministry of Health, St. Lucia and PAHO

Location	Castries, St. Lucia
Dates	6 February 2015
Participants	Medical doctors and other health care workers from the public and private sector, St. Lucia.
Purpose	The purpose of the training workshop was to ensure the maintenance of elimination of measles, rubella and polio in St. Lucia through increasing the knowledge, skills and attitudes of medical and other personnel in the surveillance and reporting for vaccine preventable diseases (VPDs).

A one day training workshop targeting medical and nursing personnel from the primary and secondary care health facilities in both the public and private sector was conducted to build awareness of participants on the importance of strengthening surveillance for vaccine preventable diseases in keeping with the PAHO resolution CSP28.R14 for maintaining the elimination of measles and rubella in the Americas.

The format of the meeting involved an overview of the EPI program in St. Lucia and technical updates on VPDs, the surveillance system and reporting indicators for measles, rubella, CRS and polio. Presentations were done by the EPI Manager and National Epidemiologist of St. Lucia, as well as by PAHO EPI Advisors. A total of 23 persons were in attendance including twelve medical doctors and visiting EPI managers from Barbados and Jamaica.

The training was very well accepted by all the participants and the presentations generated much vibrant discussion and questions. The participants expressed their commitment to participating in enhancing the surveillance for VPDs in St. Lucia and keeping the country free of measles, rubella and polio.

Dominican Republic against Measles and Rubella

Irene Leal and Carlos Torres, PAHO-DOR

Within the framework of Vaccination Week in the Americas, the First Lady of Dominican Republic, Candida Montilla de Medina and the Minister of Health, Dr. Altagracia Guzmán Marcelino, launched the national vaccination campaign against measles and rubella in the country. The campaign will target around 778,000 children less than 5 years old throughout the entire country. The vaccination, which has started now and will end on May 15th, is supported by a media campaign.



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Dr. Guzman emphasized the political will to support the initiative and encouraged the whole population to go to the closest health center and receive the measles-rubella containing vaccine and deworming medication. Dr. Guzman also recognized the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) for their ongoing technical cooperation for the vaccination campaign.

The PAHO/WHO representative, Dr. Laura Ramírez León, highlighted the success of Vaccination Week in the Americas, which began in 2003 in response to a measles epidemic between Venezuela and Colombia. The success the Region of the Americas has transcended to the whole world, and this year the fourth World Immunization Week (WIW) will be celebrated. WIW serves as a framework for initiatives that will take place in the six regions of the World Health Organization (WHO).

Finally, Dr. Ramírez expressed a special appreciation and gratitude to all of the health workers who bring vaccination to everyone with commitment and enthusiasm, despite the heat, distance, and size of the population. She stressed that they are the heroes of the day.



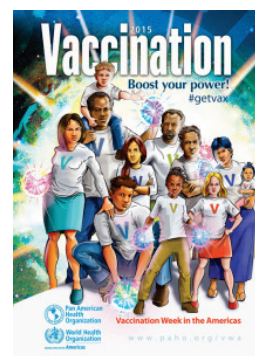
Dominican Republic's Minister of Health, Dr. Altagracia Guzmán Marcelino, speaking at the launch of the national vaccination campaign against measles and rubella in the country.

Country Vaccination Activities for VWA 2015

Alba Maria Ropero, Hannah Kurtis, and Elizabeth Thrush, PAHO-WDC

Countries and territories in the Americas will be implementing a wide array of activities for Vaccination Week in the Americas (VWA) 2015. During this year's VWA, health workers from all over the Region have plans to vaccinate more than 60 million individuals of all ages through a multitude of national vaccination efforts.

While not comprehensive, some examples of VWA activities that countries will be implementing this year include:



Polio vaccination campaigns

Cuba, Ecuador, Grenada, Nicaragua, and Peru

Completing vaccination schedules for children <5 years of age

Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, BVI, Cayman Islands, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela

Vaccination against measles and rubella, targeting both children and adults

Anguilla, the Dominican Republic, Peru, Suriname, Turks and Caicos and Uruguay

Vaccination against Tetanus/Diphtheria (Td) to prevent maternal and neonatal tetanus

Bolivia, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama



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Seasonal influenza campaigns (Southern Hemisphere formulation)

Promotion of vaccination against pertussis for women in their third trimester of pregnancy or immediately post-partum

Integration of other preventative interventions with vaccination

Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama and Uruguay.

Uruguay

Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Belize, Colombia, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama,

Additionally, several countries plan to use VWA as an opportunity to engage in specific information, education and communication (IEC) activities.

These include promoting vaccination in public schools (Argentina); targeting education officers and school principals nationwide for orientation on the EPI (Jamaica); holding a one-day symposium on the challenges and prospects of the EPI (Haiti) and conducting training activities for health (Anguilla, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Lucia and Turks and Caicos).



Vaccination Week in the Americas 2014: Paraguay

Advances & Challenges with Measles Elimination: Dialogue with the Experts

Desiree Pastor and Pamela Bravo, PAHO-WDC

During the *Ad-hoc Meeting of the International Expert Committee on Measles and Rubella elimination in the Americas*, and as a pre-launch to Vaccination Week in the Americas, on April 23rd, PAHO/WHO broadcast a special technical session via Livestream to discuss the Advances & Challenges with Measles Elimination in the Region from 11:00AM – 12:30PM. The discussion was followed by a question and answer session for health personnel in the Ministries of Health in the Region.



Members of the International Expert Committee on Measles and Rubella Elimination in the Americas.

The recording of sessions, in both English and Spanish, will be available shortly on the VWA website: www.paho.org/vwa (English) and www.paho.org/sva (Spanish)



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Boost your Power! Get Vaccinated!

Alba Maria Ropero, Hannah Kurtis, and Elizabeth Thrush, PAHO-WDC

Vaccination boosts immune systems and helps the body to fight against more than 20 preventable diseases, making people into “superheroes” with special powers to defeat illness. This year, PAHO’s Director, Dr. Carissa F. Etienne, encouraged the Region of the Americas to be superheroes and get vaccinated through a one-minute PSA.

To see the video, visit the links below.

English: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8NXa3g-L6To>

Spanish: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T2YnGZF_Fus

“As a mother, a grandmother, a friend and a doctor, I’m here to tell you that vaccines truly save lives.” – Dr. Etienne, PAHO Director.



Dr. Carissa F. Etienne: Boost your power. Get vaccinated. VWA2015_HD

Vaccination Week in the Americas (VWA) Photography Campaign

Alba Maria Ropero, Hannah Kurtis, and Elizabeth Thrush, PAHO-WDC

In honor of **Vaccination Week in the Americas 2015**, PAHO/WHO wants to see your best superhero pose! Send us a picture or video of anyone, at any age, posing as a superhero and holding a sign that says **#GetVax**, **#BoostYourPower** and/or any other message in support of vaccination. [See more information.](#)

All photos that are submitted to PAHO/WHO will be available on the PAHO/WHO Boost Your Power Photo album: <http://bit.ly/1yygpiK>.



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PAHO/WHO Country Representatives at the South America's Sub Regional Manager's Meeting in Chile showed their support: "We are vaccinated and our powers are boosted!" Vaccination Week in the Americas 2015! "Boost your power!"



The Ninth Session of PAHO/WHO's Subcommittee on Program, Budget, and Administration of the Executive Committee also shows their support for VWA!

#GetVax +SocialGood Webcast

Lauren Brown Vulcanovic, PAHO-WDC

To educate the public on the importance PAHO/WHO & The UN Foundation held a special #GetVax +SocialGood webcast as part of the regional launch of Vaccination Week in the Americas 2015: Boost Your Power! Get Vaccinated! live from Guayaquil, Ecuador.

Experts addressed issues such as the impact of vaccines in public health, recent outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases, the experience of Ecuador in vaccination, and shared ways to support vaccination from your community and/or organization.

Participants included Carissa F. Etienne, Director of PAHO/WHO; Carina Vance, Minister of Health, Ecuador; Gina Tambini, PAHO/WHO Representative in Ecuador; Cuauhtemoc Ruiz, Chief of the Comprehensive Family Immunization Unit at PAHO; Jon Andrus, Executive Vice President and Director, Vaccine Advocacy and Education, Sabin Institute; John Fitzsimmons, Deputy Director, Global Immunization Division Center for Global Health, CDC; and Grant Leaty, UNICEF Representative in Ecuador.



The recording of live English broadcast is available here: www.paho.org/vwa. The Spanish broadcast is available at www.paho.org/sva.