



In-Person Meeting of the Improving Data Quality for Immunization (IDQi) Project Advisory Group

Marcela Contreras, Gabriela Felix and Martha Velandia, PAHO-Washington, DC

Location	PAHO HQ in Washington, DC (WDC)
Dates	22-23 August 2016
Participants	Participants from the IDQi Advisory Group: Kristie Clarke, United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Dan Elhman (CDC), Tarik Derrough, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), Rebecca Coyle, American Immunization Registry Association (AIRA), Laurie Werner (PATH), Heather Zornetzer, independent consultant; Daniel Otzoy independent consultant, Patricia Arce, Ministry of Health of Bogota - Colombia; Antonia Teixeira, Ministry of Health of Brazil; Samia Samad, PAHO – Brazil; Gladys Ghisays, PAHO – Ecuador; Martha Velandia, PAHO – WDC; Gabriela Felix, PAHO – WDC; Marcela Contreras, PAHO – WDC; Claudia Ortiz, PAHO – WDC; Cuauhtémoc Ruiz, PAHO – WDC
Purpose	The purpose of the meeting was to review, discuss and agree on the final content to be included in each of the chapters in PAHO's draft document on the planning, design, development and implementation of a national electronic immunization registry (EIR).

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) is developing a practical guidance document on the planning, design, development and implementation of an EIR. Throughout the development of the documents, as well as the other tools that will become part of the live toolkit to Improve Data Quality for Immunization (IDQi), PAHO has relied on the contributions and guidance of a multidisciplinary group of experts (or advisory group).



*Participants at the IDQi Meeting, August 2016.
Credit: Fernando Revilla*

This advisory group, composed of representatives from organizations such as the AIRA, the ECDC, PATH, the CDC, and the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as from Ministries of Health from countries in the Region and technical consultants, has provided a forum for collaboration among regional and global stakeholders and experts to help support PAHO's implementation of the IDQi project effectively and efficiently. It aims to produce the most useful tools, case-studies and related material on national immunization registries and improving immunization data quality for PAHO Member States and the global community.

During a two-day in-person meeting held on 22-23 August, the advisory group met to review, discuss and agree on the final content to be included in each of the draft chapters. Among the primary conclusions from the meeting were that while the document was in good shape, some changes were needed in order to meet its final objectives more fully. These excellent contributions from the advisory group are currently being incorporated in an effort to make it as clear, practical and usable by countries as possible. The final document will be available by the end of 2016 and made available in English and Spanish on the TechNet21 in early 2017.



PAHO Immunization GIN Articles



(GLOBAL IMMUNIZATION NEWSLETTER)

Region of the Americas is Declared Free of Measles

Cuauhtemoc Ruiz Matus; Desiree Pastor; Pamela Bravo; Lauren Vulcanovic; Leticia Linn, PAHO-Washington, DC



The declaration of endemic measles elimination in the Region of the Americas at the Pan American Health Organization's 55th meeting of the Directing Council, 27 September 2016. Credit: PAHO/WHO.

Washington, D.C., 27 September 2016 (PAHO/WHO) – The Region of the Americas is the first in the world to have eliminated measles, a viral disease that can cause severe health problems, including pneumonia, blindness, brain swelling and even death. This achievement culminates a 22-year effort involving mass vaccination against measles, mumps and rubella throughout the Americas.

The declaration of measles' elimination was made by the International Expert Committee for Documenting and Verifying Measles, Rubella, and Congenital Rubella Syndrome Elimination in the Americas. The announcement came during the 55th Directing Council of the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), which is currently underway and is being attended by Ministers of Health from throughout the Americas.

Measles is the fifth vaccine-preventable disease to be eliminated from the Americas, after the regional eradication of smallpox in 1971, poliomyelitis in 1994, and rubella and congenital rubella syndrome in 2015.



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“This is a historic day for our Region and indeed the world,” said PAHO/WHO Director Carissa F. Etienne. “It is proof of the remarkable success that can be achieved when countries work together in solidarity towards a common goal. It is the result of a commitment made more than two decades ago, in 1994, when the countries of the Americas pledged to end measles circulation by the turn of the 21st century.”

Before mass vaccination was initiated in 1980, measles caused nearly 2.6 million annual deaths worldwide. In the Americas, 101,800 deaths were attributable to measles between 1971 and 1979. A cost-effectiveness study on measles elimination in Latin America and the Caribbean has estimated that with vaccination, 3.2 million measles cases will have been prevented in the Region and 16,000 deaths between 2000 and 2020.

“This historic milestone would never have been possible without the strong political commitment of our Member States in ensuring that all children have access to life-saving vaccines,” Etienne continued. “It would not have been possible without the generosity and commitment of health workers and volunteers who have worked so hard to take the benefits of vaccines to all people, including those in vulnerable and hard-to-reach communities. Indeed it would not have been possible without the strong leadership and coordination provided by PAHO, Regional Office for the Americas of WHO.”