

Applying tools to monitor and analyze the data quality of vaccination coverage

Martha Velandia, Marcela Contreras, Cuauhtemoc Ruiz Matus – PAHO, Washington DC; Edgar Barillas, PAHO consultant

Location	Lima, Peru
Dates	6-8 December 2017
Participants	Representatives from the National Immunization Program in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Dominican Republic and Venezuela, as well as PAHO representatives in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Washington, DC in the United States.
Purpose	Characterize the vaccination coverage situation in the Region of the Americas and identify the best practices to improve and maintain optimal coverage, as well as the definition of technical assistance that the Member States require for the implementation of these.

During the meeting, a description on the vaccination coverage situation and on the performance indicators of the Region's immunization programs was presented, emphasizing the disparities observed at the municipal level.

Subsequently, country representatives presented on the problems they have faced in trying to reach higher vaccination coverage and the innovative strategies they are implementing.

These contributions enriched the group discussions, during which participants analyzed the major challenges facing the Region and the most viable national and regional interventions to overcome them.

A group exercise conducted through an electronic application led to consensus on the priority problems and interventions.

Reasons from various components of the program explaining lower vaccination coverage were discussed, with activities suggested to address them.



Participants at meeting focused on applying tools to monitor and analyze the data quality of vaccination coverage held in Lima, Peru, December 2017. Credit: PAHO/WHO.

A summary of a few select reviewed components are presented in the following table:

Component	Reason	Activity
Access	Physical barriers to access continue to be important problems in certain remote localities that are only accessible via air or river	Improve microplanning at the local levels
	Problems with production at the global level and problems communicating effectively with PAHO's Revolving Fund have caused stock-outs or reductions in security stocks;	Improve the planning and demand processes for the countries; adjust the security stock
Information system	Problems with vaccination data quality, considering problems with the dose report in the numerator and denominator; increase in the complexity and burden of vaccination schedules, when incorporating new vaccines, changes in schedules and new target groups for vaccination	Improve data use and analysis, as well as incorporate quality control for the information in the supervision. Extend the use of electronic immunization registries
Communication campaigns and training	The incorporation of new vaccines leads to personnel requiring permanent training; in some countries with indigenous communities, there are cultural barriers that impede extending vaccination coverage	Promote the use of existing methodologies and guidelines, combining the virtual and physical parts; conduct social communication campaigns according to the program's target groups (health professionals, administrative personnel, social communicators, parents and caretakers, among others)



PAHO Immunization GIN Articles



(GLOBAL IMMUNIZATION NEWSLETTER)

Vaccinate More Children in Guatemala!

Evelyn Lopez, Communications; Alma Armas, Immunization, PAHO-Guatemala

The Vice Minister of Primary Attention to Health, Dr. Ruben Gonzalez, and his technical team from the Ministry of Health and Social Assistance, along with the PAHO/WHO Representative in Guatemala, Dr. Oscar Barreneche, multidisciplinary teams from the Secretariat of Nutritional Food Safety (SESAN) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), held a technical coordination meeting allowing for more children to complete their vaccination schedules.

Martha Velandia, Gloria Rey and Bertha Capistran, immunization experts from PAHO/WHO in Washington, DC, also participated in the meeting. Aspects including logistics, promotion and communication, information systems, the cold chain were among some of those discussed when planning vaccination actions.

This meeting is part of the plan to Intensify Vaccination that the Ministry of Health hopes to implement with support from international cooperation, universities, the Ministry of Education, municipalities, among other partners. It is also hoped that the international experts accompanying the PAHO/WHO Representative in Guatemala continue to support the country during the process.



Credit: Fredy Vivar, MSPAS.



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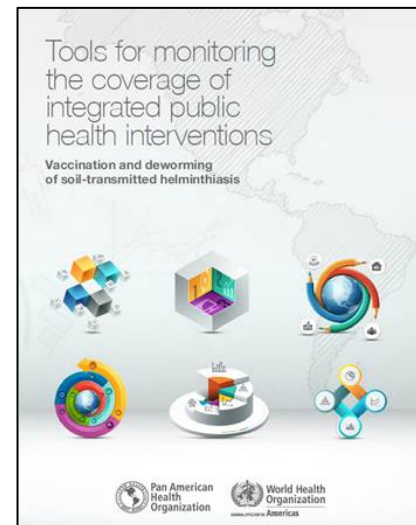


Tools for monitoring integrated public health interventions available on the PAHO website

Martha Velandia, PAHO-Washington, DC

To improve the well-being of the population and bridge gaps in health service delivery, it is necessary to guarantee access to various health interventions, including proven strategies such as vaccination and deworming. Meeting program coverage goals, however, depends on identifying and reaching target populations. This means, in turn, promoting universal access to health using integrated approaches and a more efficient use of resources. What's more, health services must adopt monitoring and systematic analysis of coverage as indispensable activities.

The Pan American Health Organization's (PAHO) Comprehensive Family Immunization Unit and Regional Program on Neglected Infectious Diseases (NIDs) have highlighted the need to systematize and integrate methods for monitoring coverage of health interventions among preschool- and school-age populations and are offering strategies and opportunities for joint collaboration.



The tools presented in these modules are the result of reviewing and integrating concepts and methodologies that draw on the experiences and lessons learned in countries, with a view towards facilitating joint interventions and monitoring activities under various health programs and platforms.

It is expected that the concepts, methods, and tools in each of the modules will be incorporated into ongoing processes to improve the quality of coverage registries, build capacity in appropriate data analysis, and make timely use of the resulting information for decision-making and the implementation of interventions that provide effective access to health care.