



Evaluation of the Introduction of New Vaccines (Pentavalent and Rotavirus) in Haiti's Expanded Program on Immunization

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Location	Port-au-Prince, Haiti
Dates	8-15 May, 2015
Participants	Fifteen national consultants and 10 international consultants visited three departments and central level of the Ministère de la Santé Publique (MSPP). The evaluation was conducted jointly by the MSPP, the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The objectives of the Evaluation of the Introduction of New Vaccines in Haiti's Expanded Immunization Program were to: • Identify and reinforce the strengths of Haiti's Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI). • Identify the weaknesses of Haiti's EPI and whether or not they are caused by the introduction of new vaccines.
Purpose	• Inform on new facts regarding the future introduction of other new vaccines. • Provide valuable lessons learned for future introductions of new vaccines. • Share new vaccine introduction experiences and lessons learned with other countries of the Region of the Americas.

Some of the strengths found in the evaluation include:

- The team at the national level is experienced and well trained.
- Management has improved and there is good coordination among partners at the national and international levels.
- The introduction of new vaccines had some challenges, especially regarding good vaccine coverage levels.
- Following vaccine introduction, there was an increase in vaccine storage.
- Vaccine introduction promoted communication and promotion.
- Data collection tools were reviewed and improved to include new vaccines.



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Some recommendations given include:

- The need for the Ministry of Health to increase EPI funding at all levels.
- The EPI needs to be given the necessary resources to ensure coordination with the departmental levels.
- The EPI must continue to strengthen the routine program with effective vaccination strategies to reach high coverage for all antigens.



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- Advanced strategies should follow as soon as the multipurpose community health workers are functional.
- Financial and logistical resources should be provided to departmental levels to improve cold chain management and develop a good vaccine distribution system. The Ministry of Health should ensure the continuity of epidemiological surveillance activities.

Prior to the forthcoming introduction of a new vaccine, the country should ensure that the basic requirements established for this purpose by PAHO/WHO are strictly met.