



Suriname Celebrates Vaccination Week in the Americas with the Switch

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This year the launch of Vaccination Week in the Americas (VWA) was held in the Brokopondo District in rural Suriname, at the Medical Mission clinic. A program was set out for the morning, which opened with the national anthem and a song performance from schoolchildren. The PAHO/WHO Representative, Dr. Yitades Gebre, and other officials made remarks on the importance of 2016's #GofortheGold VWA theme highlighting the Rio Olympics and vaccination goals.



Schoolchildren in Brokopondo, Suriname sing for the VWA launch, April 2016.

There were officials from UNICEF, the Ministry of Health and representatives from the health care clinics from the coastal area and the interior of Suriname. The event also included vaccination activities where children, newborns to 5 years of age, were vaccinated. During VWA, a measles campaign was also set up to increase vaccination coverage with the second dose of the measles-mumps-rubella vaccine (MMR2). In this regard, the decision to move the age for the second MMR dose from 4 years to 18 months was made this year.



Girl gets vaccinated during VWA in Suriname, April 2016. Photo credit: PAHO-Suriname.

During VWA, Suriname's national Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) also completed its national oral polio vaccine (OPV) switch on the 26th of April. For this activity, all immunization clinics in Suriname handed in their trivalent oral polio vaccine (tOPV) and received the bivalent oral polio vaccine (bOPV) in return. All collected tOPV was subsequently incinerated. After these ceremonies, supervisory visits were also conducted. Yes, Suriname switch!



PAHO Immunization GIN Articles

(GLOBAL IMMUNIZATION NEWSLETTER)



Workshop on High Quality Measles/Rubella Follow-Up Vaccination Campaigns Held in Peru

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Location	Lima, Peru
Dates	30 May – 3 June 2016
Participants	The workshop was launched by Peru's Vice Minister of Health, Dr. Percy Mina and Peru's PAHO/WHO Representative, Dr. Raul Gonzalez. Participants included managers of the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) from three countries: Mexico, Peru and Honduras; expert officials from Peru's sub-national level, who provided an important perspective. Also in attendance were nine experts on vaccination campaigns, including PAHO immunization focal points from Nicaragua, Peru, Mexico and Washington, DC.
Purpose	The purpose of the workshop was to identify the key factors of conducting high quality measles/rubella follow-up vaccination campaigns, as well as the challenges involved, in order to maintain high immunity levels among the population.

The workshop was planned with specific objectives, including:

- Conducting an analysis of the strengths, opportunities, weaknesses and threats of the success factors and challenges that the countries must complete to achieve the implementation of high quality follow-up campaigns.
- Identifying the necessary steps for the countries to fulfill the basic requirements of a high quality campaign: opportunity, efficiency, homogeneity and efficacy.
- Reviewing and discussing the WHO document: *"Planning and Implementing High Quality Supplementary Immunization Activities for Measles and Rubella and other Injectable Vaccines."*
- Reviewing and discussing the Rapid Coverage Monitoring (RCM) Manual for follow-up measles/rubella campaigns.

The planned objectives for the workshop were fully completed and the next steps are to consolidate the edits made to the RCM Manual and the campaign planning guide, develop a final version of each guide, promote the collection of campaign operational cost data from 2-3 municipalities in 3 countries of the Region that will be conducting campaigns in 2016 and promote the use of the RCM Manual in 2016 campaigns, to validate this tool in the field prior to publication.



*Participants at the Measles/Rubella Vaccination Campaign Workshop in Lima, Peru, June 2016.
Photo credit: PAHO-Peru.*