

National Virtual Workshop on Effective Vaccine Management

Dr. Jazmina Umaña

Location	Managua, Nicaragua
Dates	23 September-2 October 2020
Participants	<p>There were participants from the country's Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) – the central level, sub-regional level (SILAIS), and municipalities. One hundred and ninety participants were in attendance, including six representatives from the ministry of health/EPI-Colombia and three participants from PAHO's Department of Procurement and Supply Management (PRO). PAHO/WHO Representative Ana Treasure and the General Director of Public Health Surveillance from the Ministry of Health, Dr. Cristhian Toledo were also in attendance.</p> <p>Facilitators: Nora Lucía Rodríguez, regional advisor for the cold chain in PAHO/WDC; José T. Martínez, responsible for the cold chain in the ministry of health/Honduras; Alejandro Ortega, responsible for the cold chain in the ministry of health/Nicaragua.</p>
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce participants to the tool: Evaluation of Effective Vaccine Management (EVM) to strengthen the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of health personnel in managing the cold chain, supply chain, and logistics operations in the 19 SILAIS and municipalities of the country. The participants will carry out an evaluation using the nine criteria outlined in the EVM tool. Develop and implement the improvement plan.

EVM is a tool from the World Health Organization (WHO) to evaluate the quality of the cold and supply chains of vaccines, syringes, and supplies – which are essential elements of the immunization system.

In June 2015, there was an evaluation of Nicaragua's EVM 9 criteria for cold and supply chain operations and vaccine management. The results showed a score of 93% was achieved across the different participating health services. Nicaragua was ranked first among the evaluated countries at the time.

In order to maintain this achievement, an EVM course was conducted virtually for the first time, considering limitations from the pandemic. A combined methodology was used. Prior to the virtual meeting, participants read the criteria to be evaluated. Pre and post tests were carried out to confirm the knowledge acquired. Participants scored correct answers between 70 and 90% when comparing the results of the pre-tests and post-tests. This confirms an improvement in the knowledge of the evaluation criteria, as well as in the management of key components of the cold and supply chain, such as the adequate preparation of ice water packs, distribution, among other components.



Photos of pre-pandemic EPI vaccine management trainings in Nicaragua. Credit: Ministry of Health, Nicaragua.



Commitments were made to carry out self-evaluations, as well as to develop and follow up on improvement plans.

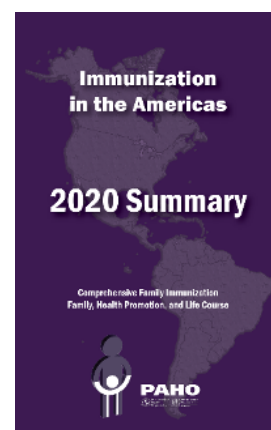
PAHO's "Immunization in the Americas: 2020 Summary" is Published

Comprehensive Family Immunization Unit, Pan American Health Organization

<https://www.paho.org/en/tag/immunization-brochure>

The "Immunization in the Americas" brochure is published annually by PAHO's Comprehensive Family Immunization unit. It highlights some of the achievements in immunization and summarizes key regional data in the Americas from the previous year.

This year's edition presents coverage data for all vaccines in immunization programs of the Region of the Americas, by sub-region and country, and focuses on the importance of maintaining routine immunization during the COVID-19 pandemic. In the preface, PAHO Director Dr. Carissa Etienne encourages governments to ensure that universal health care should protect all people's health, beginning with the most vulnerable.



She also encourages countries to maintain the high commitment of health workers to national immunization programs, design and implement innovative immunization strategies that involve the participation of communities and have political support at all levels.



New Issue of PAHO's Immunization Newsletter is Published

Comprehensive Family Immunization Unit, Pan American Health Organization

<https://www.paho.org/en/tag/immunization-newsletter>

In this edition:

- Vaccine Development, Distribution, and Supply
- What I Have Learned as an Immunization Advisor during the COVID-19 Pandemic...By Marc Rondy, PAHO/WHO Immunization Focal Point in Guatemala
- Summary of the Status of National Immunization Programs during the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Guidelines to Plan for COVID-19 Vaccine Introduction



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