COMPREHENSIVE IMMUNIZATION (CIM)

Considerations prior to the issuance of recommendations on chikungunya vaccination in the Americas

Pan American Health Organization 2026

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The Pan American Health Organization, with the support of its Strategic Advisory Group on Vaccine-Preventable Diseases, notes that additional evidence and data are needed before recommendations on the use of chikungunya vaccines can be developed. The following gaps should therefore be addressed:

- Vaccine performance and safety: Outbreaks in the Americas also affect infants and young children. Further evidence on immunogenicity, safety, efficacy, effectiveness, and post-marketing safety is needed for children aged <12 years and for protection against chikungunya virus strains circulating in the Region. Continued generation of post-authorization evidence, including large-scale safety monitoring, is needed to address these gaps and further characterize vaccine safety in light of recent reports of serious adverse events.

- Epidemiology in the Americas: Given indications that disease patterns may differ from those traditionally described, countries are encouraged to conduct epidemiological studies and whole-genome sequencing of chikungunya viruses circulating in the Americas to better characterize transmission dynamics and disease burden in the Region.

- Clinical characterization: Countries are encouraged to compile, analyze, and publish clinical data to better characterize age-specific disease patterns and outcomes. Improved understanding of the clinical manifestations of chikungunya is needed, particularly among pregnant women, neonates, infants, and children.