



**REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN**

9 October 2013

**Sixtieth Session
Muscat, Oman, 27-30 October 2013**

TECHNICAL MEETING

POOLED VACCINE PROCUREMENT: REVIEW OF PROGRESS TO DATE

Objectives of the session

The session on the pooled vaccine procurement (PVP) initiative aims to:

- update Member States on the progress of the PVP initiative since the last Regional Committee in 2012;
- follow up with Member States on the action plans developed during the technical workshop in June 2013;
- confirm the official commitment and requirements needed from Member States if they wish to participate and the actions they need to take to make best use of the PVP system.

The session will be facilitated jointly by WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (WHO/EMRO) and UNICEF Supply Division (SD).

Background and discussion points

Member States of the Eastern Mediterranean Region expressed their strong interest in establishing a regional vaccine procurement system and requested WHO/EMRO to initiate, lead and coordinate the efforts. In 2011 and 2012, during the 58th and 59th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean Region, two resolutions were adopted regarding the PVP system.

In 2012 (resolution EM/RC59/R.1), Member States were urged to join the first stage of the pooled vaccine procurement mechanism by utilizing UNICEF Supply Division vaccine procurement services, if they are middle-income countries that require procurement support for new vaccines (pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, rotavirus vaccine and human papilloma virus vaccine). The Regional Director was requested to implement, as soon as possible, the second stage of the regional pooled vaccine procurement mechanism.

In line with that resolution, WHO is providing direct support to Member States in programmatic, regulatory and demand planning aspects in order to make use of the UNICEF global initiative for introduction of new vaccines in middle-income countries. Through UNICEF SD's procurement processes, Member States can start purchasing pentavalent (DPT-Hep B-Hib), pneumococcal conjugate, rotavirus or human papilloma virus vaccines by 2014. During the session, UNICEF SD representatives will provide an update on the current status of their procurement processes and their requirements from Member States who wish to use the services offered.

The Regional Office has also initiated the necessary actions to proceed with the implementation of the second stage of the initiative. In June 2013, a technical intercountry workshop for the establishment of the PVP system was held in Sharm El Sheikh. Participants in the meeting provided comprehensive feedback about their countries, and country-specific action plans for participating in the initiative (both for Stage 1 through UNICEF and Stage 2 through WHO/EMRO) were drafted. During the session, there will be opportunity for individual follow-up discussions on the implementation of these action plans for each interested Member State.

Expected outcomes

Given that the PVP initiative is ready to supply pentavalent, pneumococcal conjugate, rotavirus or human papilloma virus vaccines by 2014 through UNICEF SD procurement services, and given also that country action plans should already have been finalized, the most important aim of the session is to confirm each country's official commitment to join the PVP system. Member States are then expected to indicate which products they will procure, the delivery timelines and the initial quantities required.

Participants

The initial phase of the PVP initiative is intended for interested middle-income countries (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia).