2017: EYE’S INCEPTION

A continuum from Prevention to Outbreak Response

In 2017, there were two major outbreaks in Brazil and Nigeria. Close monitoring of the situation, including a WHO mission to Nigeria and constant discussions about vaccine supply for reactive and pre-emptive campaigns were carried out.

Governance

EYE’s governance structure has been set up and consolidated over the year. It includes:

- Bi-weekly Programme Management Group (PMG) meetings, with an active participation of PAHO and AFRO regional representatives, to address implementation aspects of the Strategy.
- Monthly Leadership Group (LG) meetings to provide guidance and direction to PMG discussions.
- Working Groups (WGs) on Risk Analysis and Laboratory were launched in December, gathering global experts in WHO, Geneva.

Political Commitment

In 2017, the EYE Strategy was endorsed by member states from AFRO and PAHO, demonstrating a strong political commitment to the Strategy.

Global Health Agendas

EYE tackles:
- global health security
- health systems strengthening
- universal health coverage

EYE’s impact in numbers

- >28M people protected from Yellow Fever through routine immunization programmes in Africa. Strengthening routine immunization coverage and quality is key to protect populations at risk and requires long-term investment. This work is led by EPI programmes partnering with UNICEF and Gavi at country level.

- >6,5M doses of yellow fever vaccine were released by the International Coordination Group on Vaccine Provision (ICG) for outbreak response in Brazil and Nigeria.

- >16M doses of yellow fever vaccine were procured from PAHO Revolving Fund to support routine immunization, vaccination of travellers, and outbreak control in the Americas.

- ~7M people protected from Yellow Fever through mass vaccination campaigns in Africa. Preventive mass campaigns are lining up, and the estimated supply of yellow fever vaccines is maximized for at least the next two years.

- 2 years
Long-term Preventive and Routine Immunization plans

The EYE Partnership has started to support countries with their long-term plans to implement preventive mass campaigns and sustain routine immunization programmes. As a starting point and following the outbreak that began in September, when the first case was detected, the Nigerian government developed a ten-year strategic plan to eliminate yellow fever epidemics. The plan is consistent with the EYE Strategy framework and is being supported by EYE partners. Other long-term immunization plans with the support of the EYE Partnership are expected to be developed in the coming years.

EYE’s team in AFRO

Two consultants have joined the EYE team in AFRO to support countries in the region to build surveillance and laboratory capacities and to assist immunization activities.

Laboratory and Surveillance

Together with the consultants in AFRO, the EYE partnership has started to enhance laboratory and surveillance capacities in Africa. It will allow at-risk countries to rapidly detect and respond to cases and outbreaks with support of the EYE laboratory working group.

EYE’s achievements in Africa

Angola has completed all preventive mass vaccination campaigns planned in the country. More than 80% of vaccination coverage has been reached and the population is now protected against Yellow Fever epidemics. This is an important achievement for Angola who dealt with an unprecedented Yellow Fever outbreak in 2016, which spread to Kinshasa, the capital of DRC and cases were exported to China.

An investigation mission was carried out in Guinea in January 2017. A WHO team was deployed to the country to investigate confirmed Yellow Fever cases amongst mining and migrant communities.

Following the confirmation of Yellow Fever and the increasing number of suspected cases, Nigeria has implemented reactive campaigns following ICG requests. More than 3 million doses have been supplied to the country for outbreak response. Additionally, 7,4M doses have been shipped to Nigeria for the implementation of pre-emptive campaigns starting in January 2018.

Numerous achievements were attained in year 1 of the EYE Strategy - most notably, the governance structure was firmly put in place. In a global context of unprecedented Yellow Fever outbreaks and suspected cases in Brazil and Nigeria, activities and partnership have been developed to meet the objectives of the Strategy. Despite remaining challenges, the EYE Partnership has ambitious plans to further protect millions of people through year 2.

Looking at 2018

3 applications were received by Gavi in January 2018. The Democratic Republic of Congo and Ghana have applied for preventive mass vaccination support. Kenya has applied for support to scale-up its routine immunization programme.

3 Preventive mass vaccination campaigns are planned to take place in Nigeria, Sudan and Ghana over the year.