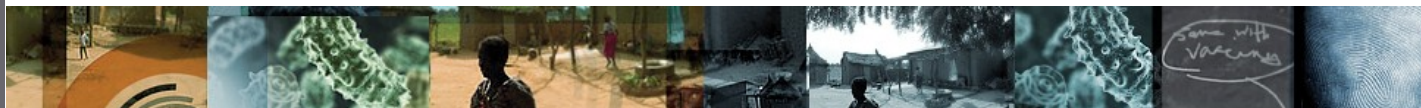


SUSTAINABLE IMMUNIZATION FINANCING

Summary Digest

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Sustainable Immunization Financing Program Progress

Since late 2008, SIF has been operating in twelve African, and three Asian pilot countries.

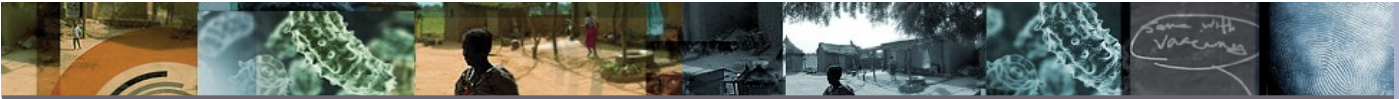
Using a collective action approach, SIF invites key stake holders- especially parliamentarians, and senior officials from ministries of health and finance- to come up with innovative immunization financing solutions. Here is an update on the Program. As shown in the table below, SIF has collaborated in fourteen of its fifteen pilot countries to carry out parliamentary briefings. Ten pilot countries have participated in SIF-supported international peer exchanges. Outputs from these activities range from declarations and action plans with strategic aims to revenue generation proposals to legislation creating national immunization trust funds.

To date, 10 out of the 15 pilot countries have increased their routine immunization budgets. Immunization legislative projects are underway in **Cameroon, DRC, Kenya, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka and Uganda**. The proposed legislation will assure that a budget line dedicated to immunization financing will be visible to parliament and protected by law.

In the past year, advocacy activities have become more country-specific. SIF has helped organize 7 sub-national immunization financing briefings in four countries. Specific advocacy activities have been inserted into the cMYPs of ten pilot countries. Three countries have developed few or no SIF advocacy activities: Nigeria, Rwanda and Ethiopia.

SIF program progress disaggregated by country, August 2009 - July 2011

Country				International peer exchanges:			Annual national routine EPI budget increases	Insertions of advocacy activities into cMYP
	Visits to field countries by SIF SPOs	Sub-national briefings	National parliamentary briefings	Sub-regional (cluster) briefings	International partners meeting	Individual peer exchanges among SIF target countries		
Cambodia	11	1	6	3		3	1	0
Cameroon	Resident	2	9	3		6	1	3
DR Congo	Resident	3	2	0		2	1	2
Ethiopia	7	0	1	0		0	0	0
Kenya	10	0	2	0		0	1	1
Liberia	9	0	1	0		4	0	0
Madagascar	4	0	2	0		0	0	1
Mali	10	0	6	2		4	1	2
Nepal	Resident	1	9	3		4	1	4
Nigeria	3	0	1	0		0	0	0
Rwanda	3	0	0	0		0	0	0
Senegal	12	0	6	2		3	1	1
Sierra Leone	Resident	0	2	0		3	1	3
Sri Lanka	9	0	1	3		4	1	1
Uganda	Resident	0	2	0		1	1	1
TOTAL	78	7	50	16	41	34	10	19



European Region countries moving toward sustainable immunization financing

On 5-8 July 2011, SIF Program Director Mike McQuestion participated in a WHO/EURO workshop on immunization financing. The meeting, held in Istanbul, Turkey, drew twenty-two participants from eleven WHO/EURO Member Countries. Participants analyzed immunization program costs using the WHO comprehensive Multi-Year Plan costing tool, considered ways to make their programs more efficient and prepared advocacy presentations they can use in their national health budget deliberations. In his presentation, McQuestion described how the SIF Program supports advocacy efforts in its African and Asian pilot countries. The EURO Region must find sustainable financing solutions soon. Four of the eleven participating countries are about to graduate from GAVI eligibility because their per capita GDPs have passed US\$1500.



Delegates from Moldova, Ukraine, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Albania discuss ways to make their immunization programs more efficient.

Bas Congo – one of four DRC provinces co-financing the national immunization program

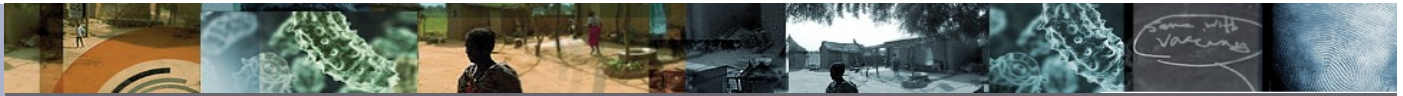
In a recent example of sub-national advocacy, SIF Director Mike McQuestion and Senior Program Officer Helene Mambu-Ma-Disu traveled to Matadi, capitol of DRC's Bas Congo Province in August 2010 to brief provincial parliamentarians about immunization financing. Earlier, Governor Simon Floribert Mbatshi-Mbatsha, whom SIF met earlier in Kinshasa, had pledged to finance kerosene for the cold chain and vaccine transport costs for the province. These welcome budget increases, however, were soon overshadowed by polio and measles outbreaks which affected four DRC provinces, including Bas Congo. The outbreaks caused 19 polio cases and hundreds of measles cases in the province. On 8-10 August 2011, Dr. Mambu-Ma-Disu returned to Matadi for a two-day semiannual review of the provincial immunization program. Some participants wanted to blame the outbreaks on insufficient external partner funding. "I disagreed", recalls Dr. Mambu. "I told the 30 district medical officers that they were too dependent on others. I explained to them that the province needs to increase its own immunization budget. They need to own their own EPI program!" Indeed, in 2011 the Bas Congo provincial parliament approved an even bigger immunization budget. But in the turmoil of the outbreaks, the funds had not been disbursed. Dr. Mambu brought this to the attention of Governor Simon Floribert Mbatshi-Mbatsha and the funds were soon disbursed. Today Bas Congo is one of four DRC provinces co-financing the national immunization program.

SIF Participation in the Sub-regional Working Group Meeting in Abidjan

Senior Program Officers of the SIF Program, Helene Mambu and Clifford Kamara, participated in the second Sub-Regional Working Group meeting in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, 25th 26th August, 2011. Funded by GAVI and hosted by WHO and UNICEF, the primary goal of this WG was to support the GAVI eligible countries in Central and West Africa to achieve and maintain high immunization coverage rates, with optimal utilization of the available GAVI windows of support.

During the meeting, Helene and Clifford presented a brief overview of the Colloquium on Sustainable Immunization Financing organized last March by the Sabin Vaccine Institute in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Over a hundred participants attended the meeting, including delegates from the SIF program countries (Parliamentarians and senior officials from Ministries of Health and Finance), representatives of the partner agencies (WHO, UNICEF, the World Bank, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and GAVI), as well as two Parliamentarians from Latin America who shared their experiences on how sustainable immunization financing was achieved in their countries, emphasizing the crucial role played by immunization-related legislation. This culminated in the signing of the Addis Ababa Declaration, which emphasizes the need to strengthen the role of parliamentarians, explore innovative financing mechanisms, and encouragement of the enactment of relevant SIF-related legislation.

Participants at the SRWG meeting lauded the efforts of the SIF program, and agreed that this first-of-its-kind colloquium could prove useful in our efforts to achieve sustainable immunization financing in the countries of Central and West Africa. The SRWG committed to continue, and to further strengthen cooperation with the SIF program to achieve this important goal.



SIF Program participates in WHO South-East Region immunization meetings

On August 2nd, SIF Senior Program Officer Devendra Gnowali represented Sabin at a High Level Ministerial Meeting on routine immunization, in New Delhi, India. The meeting, organized by WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia, brought together health ministers, parliamentarians, development partners and journalists from the Region's eleven Member States. The meeting focused on the need to intensify routine immunization programs in the year 2012. Last year, immunization programs failed to reach about 23.5m children worldwide. Of these, 10m live in SEARO Member Countries. Only five SEARO Member Countries have met the target of reaching 90% coverage nationally and at least 80% coverage in all health districts. Inadequate financing is one factor limiting immunization program performance.

Among the participants were delegates from two SIF pilot countries, Nepal and Sri Lanka, several of whom had earlier participated in SIF-sponsored briefings in Kathmandu, Nepal, Colombo, Sri Lanka, Phnom Penh, Cambodia and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. During the panel discussions, Hon. Ms. Dharmashila Chhapagain, Nepal's State Minister for Health & Population, described how parliamentarians from her country are working with the government to write a new National Immunization Act that will secure immunization as a right for all Nepali children and guarantee an adequate budget for the national immunization program. H.E. Mr. Maithripala Sirisena, Health Minister of Sri Lanka, informed the group that Sri Lanka will carry out national and provincial level parliamentary briefings to secure sustainable immunization financing and intensify routine immunization during the coming months. Notably, a joint inter-ministerial and parliamentary committee has been created to focus specifically on immunization budgets and performance. A series of Sabin-assisted provincial parliamentary briefings began on 25 August with participation of peers from Cambodia and Nepal. The High Level Ministerial Meeting generated a six-point "Delhi Call to Action", in which SEARO Member Countries agreed to intensify their routine immunization programs in 2012. Participants committed to providing high-level political advocacy and oversight for the intensification effort and ensure financial sustainability thereafter.

On 3-4 August, Gnowali attended a follow-up meeting of the SEARO Regional EPI managers. Among the themes addressed was sustainable financing for routine immunization programs. In the discussions, Gnowali described how Sabin works with its SIF countries to achieve this goal, first by targeting high-level advocacy briefings for parliamentarians and other elected officials and then by encouraging the development of locally appropriate financing solutions. Working in small groups, participants highlighted the challenges faced by routine immunization programs. They agreed that immunization could be used as an advocacy tool for increasing health system financing in their respective countries.

SIF update from Liberia



Sabin SPO Clifford Kamara meets with Liberian Ministry of Finance officials, Monrovia, Liberia 2010

Six delegates represented Liberia at the Sabin SIF Colloquium in Addis last March. They formulated four short-term action points:

1. Develop legislation for sustainable immunization financing
2. Conduct advocacy and awareness at the executive, legislative, country and district levels for sustainable immunization financing
3. Create a line item to be included in the fiscal year budget to support immunization
4. Complete introduction of health insurance bill that will support immunization processes in Liberia

In a follow-up visits last May and August to Monrovia, Senior SIF Program Officer Cliff Kamara met with the Liberian delegates to see how best to insert the action points into the country's 2011-2012 SIF game plan. Regarding Point #1, Congressional SIF champion Hon. Edwin Gaye and his fellow members of the Standing Health and Social Welfare Committee have begun drafting a proposed law that will guarantee the government's routine immunization budget. They are also considering ways to engage the private domestic sector in immunization financing.

On the Ministry of Health side, a series of five sub-national advocacy workshops is planned for later this year. Participants will include immunization managers and local officials from Liberia's 15 counties. "Decentralization is a big priority now in Liberia", commented Kamara. "Funds are being transferred to the counties for the first time. Each one will be making its own EPI budget. The SIF advocacy workshops will add more energy to that decentralization process."



SIF Sabin News Highlights

- A Sabin-commissioned study completed last December showed that several Ugandan districts have their own immunization laws. The Ugandan Ministry of Health and Ministry of Local Government are currently considering strategies to codify and harmonize immunization legislation at national and local government levels.
- Senior Program Officers Helene Mambu-Ma-Disu and Clifford Kamara participated in the second WHO/GAVI Sub-Regional Working Group meeting in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, 25th-26th August, 2011. Their presentation summarized the proceedings of the Sabin Colloquium on SIF, which took place last March in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- On 13-15 September 2011, Senior Program Officers Helene Mambu-Ma-Disu and Jonas Mbwangue participated in a UNICEF/GAVI regional consultation on the role of civil society organizations in immunization in francophone Africa.
- On 17-19 September 2011, Senior Program Officer Devendra Gnawali represented the SIF Program at the 32nd ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary General Assembly, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
- On 13-14 September 2011, SIF Director Mike McQuestion represented the Program at the Measles Advocacy 10th Annual Meeting, at the Red Cross International Headquarters in Washington, DC. His presentation can be found [here](#).

SIF Immunization Champion



Hon. Bintu Myers

For this Summary Digest, we would like to highlight **Hon. Bintu Myers, Chairlady, Parliamentary Health Committee, Sierra Leone** as our immunization champion. As Chairlady of Sierra Leone's Parliamentary Health Committee, Hon. Bintu Myers has collaborated with the Sustainable Immunization Financing program in Sierra Leone since its introduction in 2008. Hon. Myers has attended SIF parliamentary briefings and participated in SIF peer exchanges in her own country as well as neighboring Liberia. She led the Sierra Leone delegation at the Sabin Colloquium on SIF in Addis last March. From the onset, Hon. Myers recognized the benefits of immunizations and the need to ensure that the national immunization program is sustainably financed. She is no stranger to the difficulties associated with financing health services in a post-conflict country like Sierra Leone, where there had been a virtual collapse of the government and devastation of the country's economy. Hon. Myers has led efforts to increase government funding for immunization and has been instrumental in ensuring an increased budgetary allocation to the national immunization program, thereby ensuring that the program could meet its GAVI vaccine co-financing obligations. Currently, Hon. Myers is advocating for the introduction of immunization-related legislation and the analysis and dissemination of immunization financing data from the country's thirteen health districts. The SIF program is pleased to recognize Hon. Bintu Myers as a Champion for SIF. We know she will continue to support efforts to achieve SIF in Sierra Leone and other countries in the sub-region, bringing countries closer to their sustainable immunization financing goals.

Sustainable Immunization Financing Program Activity and Outputs This Period

Milestone/Activity (1.VII.11 - 30.IX.11)	Achieved this quarter	Cumulative (1.IX.09–30.IX.11)	Details:
Visit to field countries	8	64	Mali (2), Cambodia (2), Sri Lanka, Liberia, Madagascar, Senegal
National Parliamentary briefing	4	48	Sri Lanka, Cameroon, Mali (2)
Sub-regional Parliamentary briefing	1	11	Sri Lanka
International Partners Meetings	5	44	ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Meeting (Phnom Penh, 8/11) • WHO Workshop on Immunization Financing (Istanbul, 7/11) • WHO/SEARO Ministerial Meeting (New Delhi, 9/11) • WHO South East Asia Regional Meeting of EPI Managers (New Delhi, 9/11) • WHO Sub-regional Working Group (for Central and West Africa) (Abidjan, 9/11)
Advocacy activities inserted into cMYP	4	23	Sri Lanka, Nepal, Mali, Cameroon
Peer exchanges involving SIF target countries	1	29	Sri Lanka (Nepalese and Cambodian peers participated in the "Symposium for Elected Members of local Government Bodies on Sustainable Immunization Financing", Colombo, Sri Lanka, 25-26 August 2011)
National routine EPI budget increased	0	16	None added this quarter

*Sustainable Immunization Financing is an initiative of the Sabin Vaccine Institute.
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