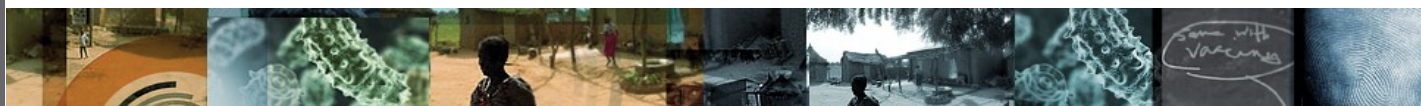


SUSTAINABLE IMMUNIZATION FINANCING

Summary Digest

Volume 3, Issue 2 | June 2011



In this issue:

- SIF Program Begins a New Round of Country-Specific Advocacy Activities
- Innovations Drive the SIF Program
- Post Colloquium, Madagascar Moves on Action Points
- Sri Lanka Implements Phnom Penh and Addis Action Points
- SIF News Highlights
- SIF Immunization Champion
- SIF Program Outputs This Period

Now in French!
Maintenant en français!
www.sabin.org/fr

Visit us online!
www.sabin.org/sif

SIF Program Begins a New Round of Country-Specific Advocacy Activities

A midterm evaluation has given Sabin and its partner agencies an in-depth look at the SIF Program and a set of recommendations for the coming three years. The study, conducted by the Boston Consulting Group during February-April 2011, assessed Program management and field advocacy activities in six of the fifteen SIF pilot countries. In all, eighty-one informants were interviewed by the four-person BCG team. On 9 May 2011, the BCG team presented its findings in a meeting at Sabin Headquarters in Washington, DC. Attending were senior Sabin staff, four of the five SIF Senior Program Officers and counterparts from GAVI, the World Bank and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Summarizing, BCG team leader Francois Rigoud stated that the SIF Program has established “proof of concept”. The countries value the new emphasis on advocacy that Sabin has brought. Particularly useful were the “game plans” the evaluators asked the Program Officers to prepare for their countries. In the BCG analysis, 10 of the 15 countries are moving toward the sustainable immunization financing goal.

With an SIF Program platform established, the BCG team recommended a more intensive, country-specific approach. Drawing from their game plans, the SIF Program Officers developed a new planning tool. They are using the tool with their national counterparts to tailor their next round of Sabin-supported immunization financing advocacy activities. The plans, which will be implemented from August 2011 to July 2012, depart from the action points each country formulated in the March, 2011 Sabin-organized Addis Colloquium. The Program Officers are using the tool to map those points onto the activities and milestones in the SIF Program protocol. The resulting activities are also being inserted into the respective comprehensive EPI Multi-Year plans (cMYPs). To help increase national immunization funding, Cameroon, DR Congo and Nepal will organize briefings for subnational elected officials on immunization financing. Taking a page from Uganda, Madagascar and Nepal will study existing health legislation. In most countries, parliamentarians are preparing new legislation that will establish new sources of immunization revenue. More peer exchanges among the legislators are being planned among the SIF countries. Sri Lanka, Nepal and Madagascar have formed inter-institutional committees to implement the action plans.



A photo from SIF's final review session with the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) assessing the Sabin program. From Left to Right: Violaine Mitchell (Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation); Santiago Cornejo (GAVI Alliance); Rama Lakshminarayanan (World Bank); Mike McQuestion, SIF Director (Sabin); Ciro de Quadros, Executive Vice-President (Sabin); James Joseph, Principal, (Arnold & Porter, LLP.)

Innovations Drive the SIF Program

An immunization manager looks at program expenditures along with vaccine coverage and epidemiological data. Her finance ministry counterpart, curious to see how efficiently the program is working, awaits her report. Down the street, members of the parliamentary health and budget committees consider recent immunization program performance data as they scrutinize next year's proposed health budget.

After years of delay, the president called on the health minister to jump start the national decentralization program. The minister starts with immunization. He realizes that financing for the immunization program is precarious. He needs to find new revenue sources. Elected officials from the country's ten provinces have agreed to co-finance the program but there is no revenue-sharing mechanism. Nor is there a way for private firms to invest. The ministry of finance develops a public-private partnership mechanism that will solve this problem. Immunization will be elevated from a program to an MoH division, thereby assuring a failsafe budget line. A single fund will receive and manage federal, subnational government and private funds. A public-private board of directors will oversee both fund and immunization program operations. (Cont'd on p.2)

Post Colloquium, Madagascar Moves on Action Points (cont'd)

(cont'd from p.2)

prepared to disburse more funds for immunization, he added, should the Ministry of Health request such an increase. In addition, there are now unused funds in the Ministry of Health that could be reprogrammed for EPI. Mr. RASOLOELISON encouraged the counterparts from the two ministries to continue working together to solve financial management problems.

Like other countries, Madagascar needs to find new long-term financing sources for immunization. Addis delegate and MP Dr. RAJOELINA Aro updated participants on a second Addis action point: Legislation (*projet de loi*) that will codify technical aspects and create a national immunization fund. The fund will permit a public-private financing arrangement so that private donors can contribute. The MPs are exploring new revenue sources, including a new mobile telephone tax and financial transaction fees. The Parliamentary Health Committee (*Commission de Santé*) is now drafting the legislation. The MPs intend to complete the work, introduce and pass the Immunization Law (*Loi de vaccination*) before the December 2011 elections.

The following day, the Ministry of Health hosted a planning meeting with the National Consultative Group and the Sabin team. Proposed advocacy activities for the coming year were discussed. Representing the Ministry of Finance and Budget were Social Sector Officer (*Charge de Secteurs Sociaux*) Mr. RANAIVOSON Harifidy Andriambala and Mr. TATAMIARISOA Landry. An important part of the advocacy plan will be analyzing and regularly reporting routine EPI program expenditures. The EPI team will use these results to show budgetary decisionmakers how efficiently the program is being managed. This will complement a new performance-based budgeting approach under development in the Ministry of Finance and Budget, commented Mr. RANAIVOSON. Other Sabin-assisted advocacy strategies will include semi-annual parliamentary briefings, briefings for media and private sector, a study of existing health laws and peer exchanges with other SIF pilot countries.

“Madagascar was the last SIF pilot country to begin but they have already caught up with the others”, commented Dr. Mambu. She plans two more visits to the country in September and December 2011.

Sri Lanka Implements Phnom Penh and Addis Action Points



Taken June 23, 2011 at the Parliament of Sri Lanka, during a briefing. Pictured from left to right, are: Hon. Dr. Ramesh Pathirana (MP); Dr. Paba Palihawadana (Ministry of Health); Deputy Health Minister Hon Lalitha Dissanayake; Dr. Devendra Prasad Gnawali (SIF Sabin); (MP); Hon. Wijeyadasa Rajapakse (MP); Hon. Dr. Sudarshini Fernandopulle (MP); Mrs. Nandini Ranawaka (parliamentary staff) and Mr. Murugiah Ramamoorthy (Ministry of Finance & Planning)

Sri Lankan SIF counterparts are moving to implement the action points they proposed in the Third Subnational Briefing on SIF (Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 21-22 October 2010) and the Addis Colloquium (28-29 March 2011), reports Senior Program Officer Devendra Gnawali. A new inter-institutional EPI monitoring committee was recently created by the Ministry of Health. Its members include parliamentarians representing Health and Finance Committees; representatives from ministries of health and finance; a customs official and a representative from a national private health provider association. The EPI Monitoring Committee will meet quarterly and will regularly update parliament on both technical and financial immunization program performance.

A second action point is to better regulate private sector immunization providers. The Ministry of Health is working with a private medical sector regulatory council to craft the regulations. Among other goals, the new regulations will give the Ministry of Health periodic reports on private immunization financing and expenditures.

Sri Lanka will also hold subnational briefings on immunization financing for elected provincial councilors, beginning with four of the country's nine provinces in August 2011. These will be complemented with a national briefing that will involve all 225 members of parliament. These Sabin-supported advocacy activities have been inserted into Sri Lanka's new 2012-2016 comprehensive Multi-Year Plan (cMYP) for immunization.

With the exception of 2007, Sri Lanka has financed ninety percent of more of its routine immunization program since 2000 (http://apps.who.int/immunization_monitoring/en/globalsummary/indicatorselect.cfm). The country is on track to be the first SIF pilot country to achieve the sustainable immunization financing objective.



SIF Sabin News Highlights

• From March 9-14, 2011, Senior Program Officers Clifford Kamara, Jonas Mbwangue, Helene Mambu-Ma-Disu and Devendra Prasad Gnawali convened in Washington DC for in-service training and a series of briefings at the Sabin Vaccine Institute's head office.

• This summer, the SIF Sabin DC office welcomes Emilie Koum Besson as its new intern. Originally from Cameroon, Emilie is a 23-year-old student at the University of Lyon. Emilie is updating the Program's websites, doing research on financing mechanisms and transcribing proceedings from SIF's recent colloquium in Addis Ababa.

• On 2-4 May 2011, SIF Director Mike McQuestion attended the "Global Vaccines 202X: Access, Equity, Ethics" Conference, at The Franklin Institute Science Museum in Philadelphia, PA, USA. His two-part presentation can be accessed [here](#) and [here](#).

• In January 2010, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced it would allocate an additional US\$10b to launch the Decade of Vaccines (DoV). Led by WHO, UNICEF, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the aim of the DoV Collaboration is to foster innovation for this priority health intervention. Working groups are developing strategies in four key areas: Delivery, Global Access, Public & Political Support and Research & Development. Sabin Executive Vice President Ciro de Quadros serves on the DoV Steering Committee. SIF Senior Program Officer Clifford Kamara and SIF Director Mike McQuestion are members of the Delivery Working Group. Click [here](#) for more on the DoV Collaboration.

SIF Immunization Champion



SIF Immunization Champion:
Hon. RAJOELINA Aro
Tafohasina Herinalinjaka

Honorable RAJOELINA Aro Tafohasina Herinalinjaka is a medical doctor and a member of the transitional parliament in Madagascar. He attended the Sustainable Immunization Financing (SIF) Colloquium in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in March. Since then he has become a key link in the country's SIF project. Hon. Dr Aro stated "Immunization has proved to be an effective method to protect the vulnerable groups against the most feared diseases."

In 2010, Madagascar's Expanded Program on Immunization reached about 80% of all children under the age of one. To improve and reinforce this program, legislation on immunization must be adopted, recognize Hon. Dr. Aro. He went on to say, that the Malagasy national immunization program should be supported by its government, so that it may contribute to its sustainability. "The sustainable implementation of the immunization program will increase the already felt benefits provided by vaccines," he added. It is because of his vision, and his dedication to sustainable immunization financing in Madagascar that we have chosen Hon. RAJOELINA Tafohasina Herinalinjaka Aro as this issue's recognized Immunization Champion.

Sustainable Immunization Financing Program Outputs This Period

Milestone/Activity (1.I.11 - 30.VI.11)	Achieved this quarter	Cumulative (1.IX.09–30.VI.11)	Details:
Visit to field countries	11	56	Kenya, Senegal (2), Mali (2), Liberia (2), Madagascar, Kenya, Sri Lanka (2)
National Parliamentary briefing	5	44	Cameroon, Senegal, Mali, Madagascar, Sri Lanka
Sub-regional Parliamentary briefing	0	10	None added this quarter
International Partners Meetings	5	39	Sabin Partners Meeting, Retraining (Washington DC, 6/11) • Decade of Vaccines (New York, 6/11) • Decade of Vaccines (Geneva, 5/11) • GAVI New Vaccines Proposal Independent Review Meeting (Geneva, 5/11)
Advocacy activities inserted into cMYP	7	19	Mali, Cameroon, Sierra Leone, Madagascar, Kenya, Nepal, Sri Lanka
Peer exchanges involving SIF target countries	0	28	None added this quarter
National routine EPI budget increased	7	16	Senegal, Cambodia, Mali, Cameroon, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Kenya

*Sustainable Immunization Financing is an initiative of the Sabin Vaccine Institute.
Funded by a generous grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation*



2000 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 7100
Washington, DC, USA 20006
www.sabin.org/sif — www.sabin.org/fr (en français)
sif@sabin.org