

IMMUNIZATION BUDGET COUNTERPARTS DEVELOP SUB-REGIONAL BUDGET TRACKING FRAMEWORK



Above: The EPI delegates aggregate their data in preparation for a presentation on public financing trends.

Nine national immunization counterparts from Senegal, Mali, and Cameroon gathered at a Sabin-organized [Peer Exchange Workshop on the Establishment of Resource Tracking Mechanisms for Immunization](#), in Dakar, Senegal on 19-20 June. The objectives were to cross-analyze budget tracking practices and to develop a common approach to monitoring immunization expenditures.

The workshop followed up a recommendation produced by the [4-6 December 2014 Francophone Africa Peer Review Workshop on Sustainable Immunization](#).

Dakar delegations were EPI Managers **Dr. Ousseynou Badiane** (Senegal), **Dr. Alimata Naco Diallo** (Mali), and Permanent Joint Secretary for Immunization **Dr. Désiré Nolna** (Cameroon). Accompanying them were the data specialists who produce financial reports for their immunization programs, Monitoring & Evaluation Officer **Dr. Boly Diop** & Budget Tracking Office Director **Mr. Cheikh Ahmadou Bamba Ndiouck** (Senegal), Internal Controller **Mr. Tobie Fridolin Yannick Mvogo** & Database Management Unit Leader **Mr. Yves Alain Omgba** (Cameroon), and Database Management Officer **Mr. Seydou Kouyate** and Database Management Accountability Officer **Mrs. Sitan Bagayoko Coulibaly** (Mali). Sabin Senior Program Officer **Mr. Jonas Mbwangue** and SIF Program Coordinator **Mr. Andrew Carlson** served as workshop moderators.

Day One centered on financial management. In the first two sessions, delegates identified a set of common budget tracking indicators and used these to formulate an “Optimal Flow Budget Tracking Flow Chart” which could be modified to guide each country’s expenditure monitoring process. Working in two groups, the delegates elaborated distinct but complementary tables. “It’s as if you’ve worked magic!” exclaimed **Mbwangue** upon seeing the results.

The third and fourth small group sessions on Day Two were geared towards budget advocacy. Using the JRF and their own data, the peers produced aggregate immunization expenditure reports for 2009-2014 and used them to formulate specific advocacy messages. The peers critiqued each other’s presentations and refined them for final “primetime” performance in which each

delegation carried out a simulated budgetary negotiation with their respective health and finance ministers.

Each team then elaborated an action plan to implement the common financial management and advocacy approaches conceived through the workshop. At this writing, Senegal has already completed its first task: they presented the advocacy case they produced in the workshop to their Finance Minister. Shortly thereafter, observed **Mbwangue**, the Minister ordered a doubling of the immunization budget for 2016.

SIF CHAMPION SPOTLIGHT: YVES ALAIN OMGBA



Working mainly behind the scenes is a cadre of information specialists who keep immunization managers informed on financial matters. In Cameroon, **Mr. Yves Alain OMGBA** currently serves that role.

Yves hails from Arrondissement Mbalmayo in Nyong-et-So'o Province in Central Cameroon. Yves completed a master's degree in informatics in 2008 at the University of Yaounde. Married with three children, he lives in Yaounde where his favorite pastimes include football, astronomy and music.

Prior to joining the EPI Program in February 2010, Yves worked as a planner and information specialist in three other government ministries. In his current position as EPI database manager, Yves helps fashion the Program's multi-year plans (cMYPs) and prepares the annual WHO/UNICEF Joint Reporting Form reports. He also participates frequently in training and evaluation activities.

In a recent Sabin-organized workshop in Dakar, Yves shared Cameroon's EPI resource tracking innovations with peers from Mali and Senegal who hold similar positions [see related article, this issue]. Together, they are helping to build sustainably financed immunization

programs. The editors salute SIF Champion Yves Alain OMGBA for his valuable contributions to the cause.

CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE PARLIAMENTARIAN JOINS SUB- NATIONAL ADVOCACY MISSION IN DRC

DRC has moved another step towards securing sustainable immunization financing by engaging the provincial level. Following a visit by the Parliamentary Support Network for Immunization (REPACAV) on 2-6 June, Katanga marks the eighth Congolese province to have officially pledged to increase funding for its immunization program. Parliamentarians in neighboring Republic of Congo (Brazzaville), are also mulling provincial-level advocacy work. To observe firsthand, **MP Hon. Alain Pascal Leyinda**, Chair of the National Assembly Health Committee, crossed the Congo River and joined the REPACAV Katanga mission. It was the first Sabin-organized peer exchange between the two Congos.

In Katanga, **Hon. Leyinda** actively participated in all facets of the REPACAV mission, meeting with Provincial Governor **His Excellency Moise KÀTUMBI CHAPWE**, Lubumbashi Mayor **Mr. Jean-Oscar SANGOUZA**, Provincial Minister of Health and Social Affairs **H. E. Augustin ILUNGA NDJOLOKO**, non-government organization representatives and university students. Again the parliamentarians were effective. Provincial Finance, Economy, & Trade Minister **H.E. Christian MWANDO-SIMBA-KABULO** instructed his staff to begin treating immunization as a mandatory expense within the provincial treasury. The Governor pledged to increase the provincial immunization budget and to urge DRC's other provincial governors to do the same.

Back home, **Hon. Leyinda** has already begun mobilizing his committee members for subnational immunization financing advocacy work, reports Sabin Senior Program Officer **Helene Mambu-Ma-Disu**, who works with both Congos and with Madagascar.

LIBERIAN AND SIERRA LEONEAN PEERS COME TOGETHER IN FREETOWN

During 20-23 May, Sierra Leone and Liberia took another step on the road to Ebola Virus Disease recovery when a delegation of Liberian parliamentarians and government officials traveled to Freetown on a SIF-sponsored peer exchange. Representing the Liberian Senate was **Hon. Matthew Jaye**. He was joined by two counterparts from the House of Representatives, **Hons. Johnson Chea** and **William Dakel**. On the government side, Deputy Immunization Program Manager **Adolphus Clarke** completed the delegation. Hosting the visiting Liberians were: **Hon. Ibrahim Bundu**, Majority Leader of Government Business and Head of Delegation to ACP/ EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, Brussels, and Chairman of the Health and Sanitation Committee; **Hon. ABD Sesay** and Committee members **Hon. Mabinty**, **Hon Veronica Sesay**, and **Hon. Mansaray**. On the government side were Financial Secretary **Edmund Koroma**, Senior Assistant Secretary **Peter Sam-Kpakra**; and Deputy Financial Secretary **Mrs. Josephus Williams**, all of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. They were joined by national immunization program manager **Dr. Denis Marke**, Ministry of Health and Sanitation.

The last such exchange took place in November 2013. A briefing scheduled for December, 2014 had to be postponed due to the Ebola outbreak, which went on to devastate both countries [see related story, *Immunization Financing News*, Vol. 6, Nos. 3-4]. Though recently declared Ebola-free, both continue to report sporadic cases of the disease.

During their stay, the Liberians caught up with their Sierra Leonean peers and attended a parliamentary symposium on immunization financing. In preliminary meetings, the peers discussed the ongoing measles outbreaks which have followed the Ebola crisis and the need to rapidly restore routine immunization budgets and public trust in the health systems of both countries.

Deputy Leader of the House, **Hon. Leonard Fofanah**, opened the parliamentary symposium, challenging the peers to produce well-defined recommendations for immediate action. Financial Secretary Edmund Koroma expressed his continuing support for Sierra Leone's immunization program, acknowledging its contribution to the country's ongoing child mortality decline. This was followed by presentations by Dr. Denis Marke and visiting peers Hon. Mathew Jaye and deputy immunization manager Adolphus Clarke. Speaking on behalf of the external partners, WHO Country Office EPI Focal Point **Dr. Pamela Mitula** commended the peers for partnering to strengthen immunization following the gravest public health threat either country has faced in recent decades. **Mr. Jonathan Abass Kamara**, Public Relations Officer, Ministry of Health and Sanitation, subsequently presented the government's strategies for rebuilding public faith in the health services.

"In my presentation, I tried to tie all the pieces together", reported Sabin SPO **Dr. Clifford Kamara**, who works with both countries and organized the peer exchange and symposium. "Parliamentarians in both countries are contributing to country ownership, which is again the goal now that we are leaving Ebola behind".

Among the symposium recommendations, Sierra Leonean MPs agreed to resuscitate their Parliamentary Forum for Immunization and to accompany Ministry of Health and Sanitation counterparts on visits to their respective constituencies to reengage the public and to induce more local government support for the immunization program. Government counterparts recognized the need to work more closely and consistently with parliamentarians, including the regular reporting of immunization expenditures and advancement of Sierra Leone's draft immunization law. All participants recognized the need to actively engage traditional tribal chiefs and religious leaders in the effort. The next peer exchange was tentatively scheduled for July, in Liberia.

VISUALIZING SIF PROGRAM INPUTS AND OUTPUTS

Over the past year, the SIF program team has been analyzing the monthly reports produced by the seven field-based Senior Program Officers. The aims have been to construct accurate chronologies and to link program inputs to observed outputs in each of the currently active SIF countries. The chronologies have been compiled in the **SIF Institutional Catalogue** (see [Immunization Financing News](#) 6.4, pp. 2-3). The material has been organized into five “buckets”, or areas of work, which were derived from the peer review exercise during the second SIF Colloquium (Dakar, August 2013):

- **Legislation** creating federal immunization financing and protecting it against institutional, political, or economic shocks
- The emergence of inter-institutional or parliamentary **advocacy coalitions** within the countries and their efforts to influence budget decision-makers
- New **financing mechanisms** which ensure adequate, predictable domestic funding for national immunization programs
- New budgeting and **resource tracking** practices by national counterparts
- The integration of **GVAP** Strategic Objectives #1 and #5 into national immunization work plans

The accompanying SIF Tracking Table illustrates the number and distributions of instances in which an output was reported that was associated with a prior SIF Program input. The input could have occurred in that quarter or in previous years. The most active bucket overall was budget and resource tracking, averaging 3 instances per country over the past year. Next most common were local advocacy coalitions, with a mean 3.2 instances observed across 14 countries. The third most active bucket was legislation. Twelve countries scored an average of 4.4 instances, making this the most intense of the five domains. In the area of financing innovations, outputs were observed in just six countries (mean 3.5 instances per country). Outputs specific to

GVAP were observed in three countries (Nepal, Cambodia, Cameroon) over the period.

Nepal				
SIF Domain	2014		2015	
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Legislation	••	•••	••••••••	••••••••
Advocacy Coalition				•
Financing Mechanism	••	•	•	••••
Resource Tracking				••
GVAP			•	
Sri Lanka				
SIF Domain	2014		2015	
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Legislation				
Advocacy Coalition				
Financing Mechanism				
Resource Tracking		•		•
GVAP				
Cambodia				
SIF Domain	2014		2015	
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Legislation	•	••	•	
Advocacy Coalition				
Financing Mechanism				
Resource Tracking				
GVAP		•		
Mongolia				
SIF Domain	2014		2015	
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Legislation				
Advocacy Coalition		•		
Financing Mechanism				
Resource Tracking		••	•••	••
GVAP				
Vietnam				
SIF Domain	2014		2015	
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Legislation				
Advocacy Coalition				•
Financing Mechanism				
Resource Tracking	••			•
GVAP				

Indonesia				
SIF Domain	2014		2015	
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Legislation	•			
Advocacy Coalition	•			
Financing Mechanism				
Resource Tracking	•			
GVAP				
Cameroon				
SIF Domain	2014		2015	
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Legislation	•	•	•••	•
Advocacy Coalition	••	••		••
Financing Mechanism		•	•	
Resource Tracking	••		••	••
GVAP	••	•	•	•
Mali				
SIF Domain	2014		2015	
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Legislation		•		
Advocacy Coalition		•		•
Financing Mechanism				
Resource Tracking	•		•	•
GVAP				
Senegal				
SIF Domain	2014		2015	
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Legislation				
Advocacy Coalition		••	•	•••
Financing Mechanism				
Resource Tracking			•	•
GVAP				
DRC				
SIF Domain	2014		2015	
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Legislation			•	
Advocacy Coalition	••	••	•••	••••
Financing Mechanism				
Resource Tracking			•••	•
GVAP				

Madagascar				
SIF Domain	2014		2015	
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Legislation		•		•
Advocacy Coalition				
Financing Mechanism				
Resource Tracking				
GVAP				
Congo				
SIF Domain	2014		2015	
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Legislation				
Advocacy Coalition		•		•
Financing Mechanism		•		
Resource Tracking				
GVAP				
Uganda				
SIF Domain	2014		2015	
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Legislation	•	•	•	
Advocacy Coalition	•	•		••
Financing Mechanism	•	•		•
Resource Tracking		•	••	
GVAP				
Kenya				
SIF Domain	2014		2015	
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Legislation	•	•	•	•
Advocacy Coalition	••		•	
Financing Mechanism		•		•••••
Resource Tracking				
GVAP				
Sierra Leone				
SIF Domain	2014		2015	
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Legislation				••
Advocacy Coalition	•		••	••
Financing Mechanism				
Resource Tracking			••	••
GVAP				

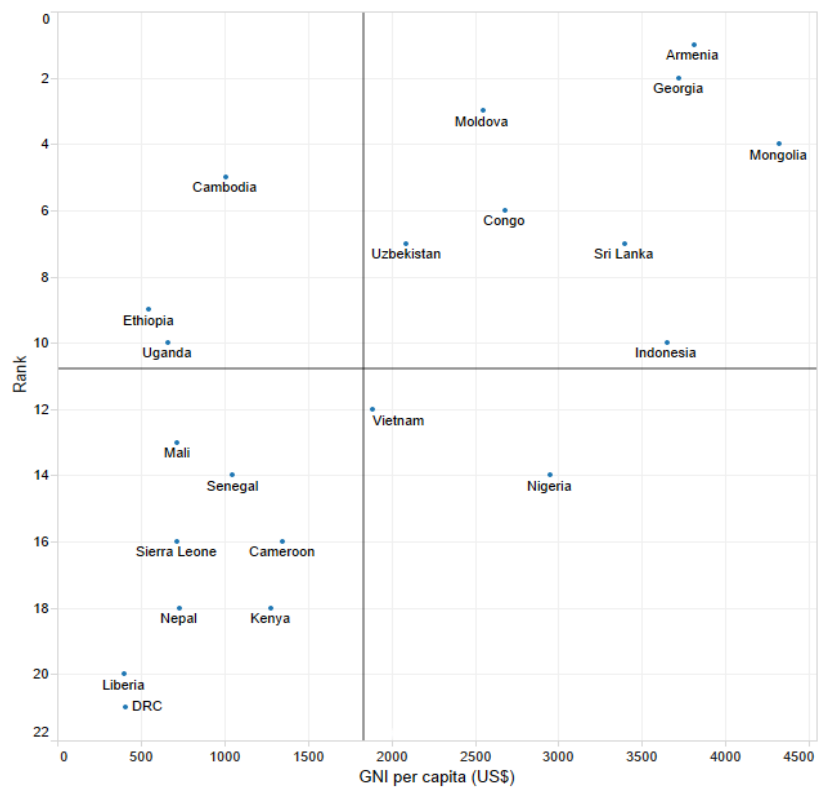
Liberia				
SIF Domain	2014		2015	
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Legislation				
Advocacy Coalition			•	
Financing Mechanism				
Resource Tracking			••	
GVAP				
Nigeria				
SIF Domain	2014		2015	
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Legislation				
Advocacy Coalition		•		
Financing Mechanism		•		
Resource Tracking			••	
GVAP				
Georgia				
SIF Domain	2014		2015	
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Legislation			••	•••
Advocacy Coalition				
Financing Mechanism				
Resource Tracking		•	•••	
GVAP				
Armenia				
SIF Domain	2014		2015	
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Legislation			••	
Advocacy Coalition				
Financing Mechanism				
Resource Tracking			•	
GVAP				
Moldova				
SIF Domain	2014		2015	
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Legislation				
Advocacy Coalition				
Financing Mechanism				
Resource Tracking				
GVAP				
Uzbekistan				
SIF Domain	2014		2015	
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Legislation				
Advocacy Coalition				
Financing Mechanism				
Resource Tracking				
GVAP				

Legislation				•
Advocacy Coalition				
Financing Mechanism				
Resource Tracking				
GVAP				

AN ANALYSIS OF 2014 COUNTRY ROUTINE IMMUNIZATION EXPENDITURES

A second analysis was performed on reported government routine immunization (RI) expenditures per surviving infant are an important measure of the size and success of country immunization ownership.

Figure 1: GNI versus Ranking of Countries' Routine Immunization Expenditures, 2014



Twenty-one of the 22 SIF countries reported their 2014 RI expenditures through the WHO/UNICEF JRF. In Figure 1, the SIF countries are ranked from highest to lowest RI expenditures per infant. To account for economic differences, the rankings are graphed against 2014 gross national income (GNI).

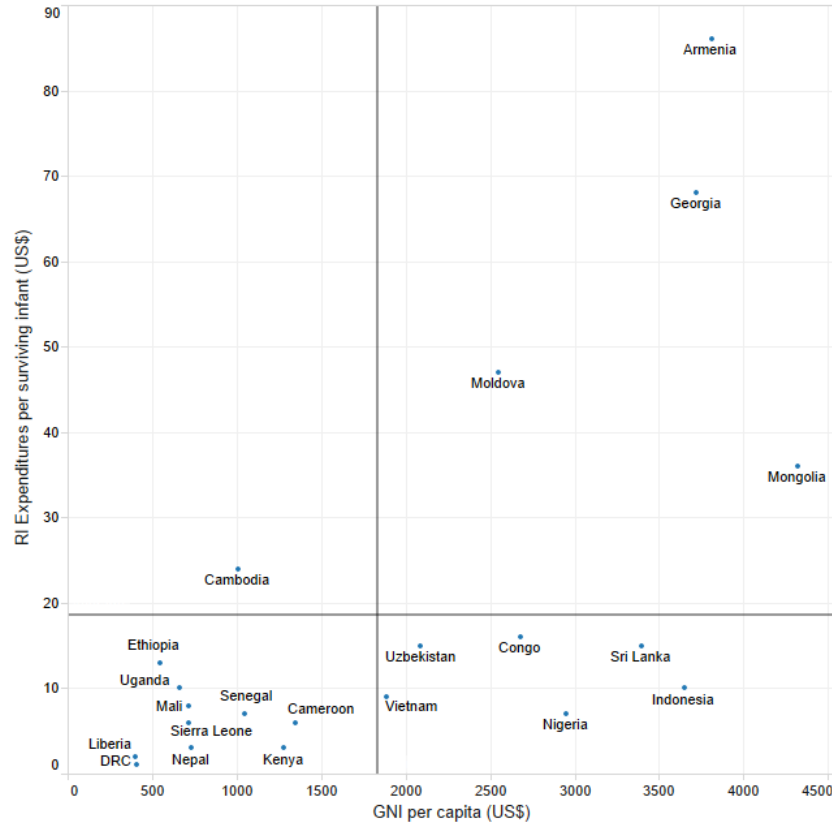
The graph is divided into quadrants based on mean (average) GNI and RI expenditures. As shown, Cambodia, Ethiopia, and Uganda are performing better than expected, based on their GNI, while Nigeria and Vietnam are underperforming. The remainder of the SIF countries are performing closer to expectations.

However, the rankings only tell part of the story. When absolute monetary amounts for RI expenditures are compared instead of ranks, many SIF countries are clustered together within a small range. As shown in Figure 2, 16 out of the 21 reporting countries spent between \$1 and \$16 per surviving infant in 2014. Of the remaining five countries (Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Mongolia, Cambodia), only Cambodia performs better than expected, based on its GNI.

In summary, the graphs show that GNI, as expected, is correlated with both ranked and absolute RI expenditures. Certain countries are performing above or below expected levels. However, it must be noted that countries generally underreport their JRF expenditures. With continued economic growth and reporting improvements, R.I. expenditures should continue increasing in the coming years.

In future analyses, the SIF team will examine relationships between technical program indicators and government RI expenditures.

Figure 2: GNI versus Countries' Routine Immunization Expenditures, 2014



OTHER SIF UPDATES AND HIGHLIGHTS



FAREWELL: ALICE ABOU NADER, SENIOR PROGRAM OFFICER

Alice Abou Nader, Senior Program Officer with the SIF Program, left Sabin in April to take a position with John Snow, Incorporated where she will be providing technical support to USAID-funded maternal and child survival programs. During her three years with SIF, Alice made many important contributions. We wish her all the best in this next career step.



NEW SIF PROGRAM OFFICER

We are pleased to welcome Ms. Dana Silver to the SIF team. A Washington, DC-area native, Dana is a recent graduate of the Masters of Public Health program at Johns Hopkins University, where she focused her studies on health systems and health economics. Dana worked most recently as a Graduate Research Assistant at Hopkins' International Vaccine Access Center, and spent several months of 2014 working for the Women's Microfinance Initiative in rural Uganda. She also spent several years working as a Research Coordinator for infectious disease clinical trials at the DC VA Medical Center and the National Institutes of Health.

April

- 30 March- 1 April 2015, Pretoria, South Africa. SIF SPO Alice Abou Nader attends WHO/AFRO/IST/ESA JRF peer review meeting.
- 6-8 April, Kinshasa, DRC. SIF Senior Program Officers Alice Abou Nader and Helene Mambu-Ma-Disu work with EPI team to refine immunization expenditure tracking methods.
- 10 April, Kathmandu, Nepal. SIF-supported parliamentary briefing on pending immunization legislation.
- 14 April, Bethesda, MD USA. At Sabin's Gold Medal Dinner, NIH researcher Roger Glass is recognized for his work on rotavirus vaccine.

May

- 4-5 May, 2015, Hanoi, Vietnam. SPO Khongorzul Dari follows up, plans advocacy work with national counterparts.
- 5-6 May, Jakarta, Indonesia. SPO Khongorzul Dari follows up, plans advocacy work with national counterparts.
- 5-7 May, Seattle, WA USA. Sabin CEO Michael Marine, Executive Vice President Jon Andrus, CaT Director Imran Khan and SIF Director Mike McQuestion attend Gates Foundation Global Partnership Forum.
- 27-31 May, Colombo, Sri Lanka. Sabin SPO Devendra Gnawali follows up, plans advocacy work with national counterparts.

June

- 8-12 June, Manila, Philippines. SIF Director Mike McQuestion and SPO Khongorzul Dari attend WHO/WPRO TAG meeting
- 9-10 June, Kathmandu, Nepal. Sabin SPO Devendra Gnawali and national counterparts organize a workshop on national immunization fund regulations
- 12-13 June, Kathmandu, Nepal. Sabin SPO Devendra Gnawali and national counterparts organize a workshop on resource tracking
- 15-17 June, Hanoi, Vietnam. SIF Director Mike McQuestion and SPO Khongorzul Dari elaborate advocacy work plan with national counterparts
- 15-19 June, New Delhi, India. Sabin VAE Executive VP Jon Andrus and Sabin SPO Devendra Gnawali attend WHO/SEARO ITAG meeting
- 22-24 June, Nairobi, Kenya. Sabin SPO Diana Kizza Mugenzi addresses the East African Regional meeting on Pneumococcal Vaccine: Evidence for vaccine policy.
- 23-24 June, Barcelona, Spain. Sabin VAE Executive VP Jon Andrus and Special Projects Director Ana Carvalho represent Sabin at the WHO/HQ/IVB organized Global immunization meeting: Protect, Innovate, Accelerate (PIA)

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Milestone/Activity	Achieved this quarter	Cumulative (1.IX.09– 30.VI.15)	Details:
Visits to field Countries	8	188	Vietnam, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Sierra Leone, Kenya, Armenia, Mongolia, Senegal
National Briefings	3	116	Nepal (2), DRC
Sub-regional briefings	1	26	Mongolia
International Partners Meetings	10	130	WHO/AFRO/IST/ESA JRF peer review meeting Gates Foundation Global Partnership Forum WHO/WPRO TAG meeting WHO/SEARO ITAG meeting WHO/HQ/IVB Global immunization meeting: Protect, Innovate, Accelerate (PIA) East African Regional meeting on Pneumococcal Vaccine: Evidence for vaccine policy WHO cMYP Workshop (Copenhagen) EPI Technical Coordinating Committee, Sierra Leone Gavi Graduation Assessment, Armenia
Workshops/Capacity Building Meetings	8	45	DRC (2), Nepal (3), Vietnam, Georgia, Madagascar
Peer Exchanges Involving SIF Target Countries	2	68	Sierra Leone/Liberia, Senegal/Cameroon/Mali
Number of ICC Meetings (measured since April 2013)	5	55	Uganda, DRC (2), Senegal (2)



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