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Network for Education & Support in Immunisation



Annual Report 2004



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List of abbreviations

AEFI	Adverse Events Following Immunisation
ARICC	Africa Regional Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee
CATR/ARIVA	Cellule d'Appui Technique Régional/Appui au Renforcement de l'Indépendance Vaccinale en Afrique
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CVP/PATH	Children's Vaccine Program/Program for Appropriate Technology in Health
DTP-Hib	A combination vaccine containing DTP and <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b vaccines
EPI	Expanded Programme on Immunization
FSP	Financial Sustainability Plan
GAVI	Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization
HepB	Hepatitis B vaccine
MLM	Mid-Level Management
MYP	Multi-Year Plan
NESI	Network for Education and Support in Immunisation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OLS	Operation Lifeline Sudan
RED	Reaching Every District
TFI	Task Force on Immunization
TNA	Training Needs Assessment
UCT	University of Cape Town
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WHO	World Health Organization
WHO/AFRO	WHO Regional Office for Africa
WHO/EMRO	WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean
WHO/HQ	WHO Headquarters
WHO/V&B	WHO Department of Vaccines and Biologicals

Network for Education & Support in Immunisation



Introduction

This second annual report provides an informative overview of the year 2004 for the Network for Education and Support in Immunisation (NESI), a partner in training and education in immunisation for the African Region and increasingly for the Eastern Mediterranean Region. In the following sections, more details about NESI and its activities during the reporting period are provided. These include numerous training and partnership-building activities the network has engaged in during the period.

This report for NESI shows clearly that the network is progressing and is on its way to becoming a valuable partner in and organiser of immunisation training activities in Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean Region. Among its accomplishments this year, NESI helped organise and facilitate seven trainings, provided technical support for four activities and attended six network and partnership meetings.

This reporting period was an important one in which NESI established its governance and oversight. The Oversight Committee for NESI was established in June 2004 and is composed of 10 international vaccines and immunisation experts from both the public and private sectors.

We do hope you will find our Annual Report 2004 informative and look forward to receiving your comments, suggestions or requests for more detailed information on our work.



About NESI

NESI, established in 2002, is the continuation, but much broader in scope and geographical focus, of a collaborative network for the introduction of new vaccines, the International Network for Eastern and Southern Africa on Hepatitis B Vaccination, which was established in 1999 by local universities and ministries of health in Africa and the University of Antwerpen. As this network did in the past, NESI closely coordinates its activities with the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Children's Vaccine Program at the Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (CVP/PATH), the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), the Vaccine Fund, the private sector, and other immunisation stakeholders.

Due to its links with universities and other health professional training institutions, which are vital to achieving sustainable capacity and competence building in the field of vaccinology, NESI is unique in its attention on pre-service training, particularly on the development of curricula and training for nurses, medical doctors, pharmacists, and other related professionals.

The Memorandum of Understanding between NESI and the WHO Regional Office for Africa (WHO/AFRO), which clearly defines the overall goals and actions of NESI in the area of capacity building, validates NESI's position as an integral partner within the African Region.

Objectives

The mission of NESI is to improve the development, quality, and sustainability of immunisation programmes and services in low- and middle-income countries through the development of and advocacy for immunisation education and training. NESI aims to build the capacity of Ministry of Health managers and staff working in the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) in their respective countries as well as to improve pre-service training for the different university faculties involved in immunisation, which include medicine, nursing, pharmacy, and public health.

Services

NESI engages in a number of activities to accomplish its mission, which are grouped into three main service areas: education and training, technical support, and networking and advocacy. NESI offers the following in each area:

Education and training

- Organises training events in collaboration with other organisations;
- Monitors and evaluates currently implemented education and training programmes;
- Validates the content of educational materials; and
- Develops up-to-date, high-quality training materials for different audiences involved in immunisation programmes.

Technical support

- Performs needs assessments for education and training in collaboration with academic and other partners;
- Provides support to universities to improve the curriculum of health-care workers involved in immunisation and advises on regular refresher courses in collaboration with ministries of health;
- Assists countries in developing comprehensive training plans as part of their Multi-Year Plans (MYPs);
- Provides support to country staff to implement training activities; and
- Improves regional capacity to deliver education and training.

Networking and advocacy

- Facilitates a forum to discuss and coordinate actions related to education, training and support for immunisation programmes in low- and middle-income countries;
- Maintains a network of specialists drawn from international organisations, universities in both industrialised and developing countries, national immunisation programmes, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), industry, and other relevant stakeholders, to deliver high-quality training in all aspects of immunisation and at different stages of implementation of immunisation programmes;
- Collaborates with local, regional, and global training initiatives to advocate for better education and training; and
- Offers a website that houses on-line training materials and links to other relevant sites.

Structure

NESI is a public-private partnership between the University of Antwerpen and the private sector. An Executive Secretariat of 2.5 full-time equivalent staff coordinates and implements activities for the network. The Executive Secretariat is based at the Department of Epidemiology and Social Medicine, University of Antwerpen, Belgium.

The Executive Secretariat is required to report to the 10-member Oversight Committee, which advises on strategy and budget allocation, and reviews outcomes. The Oversight Committee is composed of representatives from the public/private partnership as well as of representatives from international health organisations and alliances.

NESI has full operational and scientific independence.

Funding

NESI is currently supported by an unrestricted educational grant from GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals and by funds from the University of Antwerpen. Additional funding, participation, or support from other national or international agencies or partners is considered.

During the past year, a total of 550.000,00 EUR was spent on the implementation of training activities and other interventions and in supporting the work of the Executive Secretariat.



Activities in 2004

Education and training

1. Malaysia Public Health Society – Ministry of Health Vaccinology Workshop, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 9-10 February 2004

The Malaysian Public Health Medicine Association and the Ministry of Health organised this workshop to review developments and achievements to date for the national EPI, and to consider and discuss further developments. Malaysia has an immunisation programme very similar to that of industrialised countries and has some experience with DTP-Hib combination vaccines, but financial sustainability is an issue. Participants placed a particular emphasis at the workshop on the advantages and disadvantages of combined vaccines including economic aspects.

Achievements

Professor André Meheus, head of NESI, contributed to the workshop through his presentation on vaccine planning and management, which included a discussion of training needs assessments. The workshop was a unique opportunity for experts from Thailand and Bangladesh to engage in a cross-country dialogue about the immunisation situation in their respective countries.

2. Twenty-first Intercountry Meeting of National EPI Managers, Cairo, Egypt, 26-29 June 2004

One of NESI's primary activities is to stimulate awareness about the importance of EPI training in pre-service health training institutions. As such, NESI works in close collaboration and coordination with WHO and other GAVI partners to raise awareness, advocate, develop curricula, and perform other actions in the area of immunisation education in the African and the Eastern Mediterranean Regions.

An example of this collaboration was the joint organisation by WHO/EMRO and NESI of the twenty-first intercountry meeting of national EPI managers in Cairo from 26 to 29 June. NESI worked with WHO/EMRO to establish an agenda for the plenary session and to convene a parallel session with academics on pre-service issues. This half-day parallel session, 'Pre-service training aspects of EPI', on 27 June explored the current situation of EPI training in several countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region and ideas to improve such training. The session drew 27 representatives from seven countries (Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Sudan, and the Republic of Yemen) in addition to selected representatives from WHO/HQ, WHO/EMRO, and industry. The participants included academic and training directors, deans, and professors from allied health, nursing, and medical schools.

The objectives of this parallel session were to:

- Build awareness of the need for EPI training in pre-service institutions;
- Stimulate integration of EPI training in curricula for health professional schools;
- Describe the status of immunisation training and identify potential EPI needs in pre-service institutions;
- Familiarise participants with the modules of 'Immunization in practice: A practical guide for health staff' (2004 update) by the WHO Department of Vaccines and Biologicals (WHO/V&B) and with the document 'Increasing Immunization coverage at the health facility level' (WHO/V&B/02.27); and
- Generate next steps to improve EPI training in health training institutions.

Achievements

Besides funding some of the logistics of organising both the wider meeting and the parallel session, NESI raised awareness about the importance of pre-service EPI training among a diverse group of stakeholders from the Eastern Mediterranean Region. NESI also documented the findings of the parallel session in the report 'Pre-service training aspects of EPI'.

3. In-country EPI Mid-Level Management (MLM) Course, Lusaka, Zambia, 10-17 July 2004 and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, July 2004

During the year, NESI assisted both WHO Zambia and WHO Ethiopia in conducting a national Mid-Level Management (MLM) training for EPI managers and pre-service training instructors. With the goal of reducing morbidity and mortality due to vaccine-preventable diseases, MLM courses are designed to strengthen effective management of immunisation programmes in countries that are implementing 5-year strategic plans for EPI in the context of ongoing health sector reforms.

The training objectives of both national 8-day MLM training courses were to:

- Build capacity in health training institutions;
- Equip tutors from health institutions with up-to-date knowledge and skills in EPI for continuity of services; and
- Train national EPI managers in EPI management.

The MLM course was offered as part of the continuing education (in-service training) of EPI professionals. The pedagogical approach was based on adult learning principles, using active problem solving and continuous validation and testing.

During the session in both countries, it was revealed that tutors from training institutions lagged far behind their EPI manager counterparts in knowledge on EPI. Accordingly, one of the key recommendations was to extend EPI training to all pre-service training institutions.

Achievements

NESI funded the organisation for both national training courses. During these courses, national and sub-national EPI managers built their capacity to better manage EPI, and instructors gained expertise in training students in EPI principles and management. Through the large attendance to the courses in both countries, there is now at least one trained staff person in each of the facilities in each country with knowledge of and competency in EPI Management.

4. Intercountry Mid-Level Management (MLM) Course, Maputo, Mozambique, 14-24 September 2004

To extend the MLM course for Portuguese-speaking countries and to ensure sustainability of EPI training, WHO/AFRO, UNICEF, and NESI jointly funded an intercountry MLM course for EPI managers, WHO/UNICEF focal points, and pre-service training instructors from Portuguese-speaking countries from 14 to 24 September in Maputo. The aim of the course, which was hosted by the Government of Mozambique and organised by WHO/AFRO, was to enable immunisation managers at all levels to acquire skills in planning, management, monitoring, and evaluation of EPI activities. This course was also used to validate the content and to test AFRO MLM modules.

Forty-seven (47) participants and eight facilitators attended the course. Participants came from the following five countries: Angola (17), Cape Verde (5), Guinea Bissau (5), Sao Tome & Principe (6), and Mozambique (14).

Achievements

NESI's funding of this training was an important contribution towards strengthening capacity building for EPI. As a result of the training, participants gained a clear and common understanding of the responsibilities and roles to be played by the EPI managers when they are implementing the 'Reaching Every District' (RED) approach in the context of on-going countries' health sector reforms. Additionally, participants gained important skills in problem solving, EPI communication, strategic and micro-planning, data management, supervision, monitoring and evaluation, and resources (human, financial, and logistics) management. They also gained knowledge about new vaccines, supplemental immunisation activities, and integrated disease surveillance. Teachers/professors also received updated EPI content and were prepared to revise their lessons and curricula accordingly.

Activities in 2004

5. Introduction of New Vaccines into the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) in Southern Africa Public Health, Educational and Economical Aspects, Cape Town, South Africa, 13-15 October 2004

This 3-day meeting on the public health, educational, and economical aspects of introducing new vaccines into EPI in Southern Africa was organised by the University of Cape Town (UCT) and NESI in collaboration with WHO/AFRO, CVP/PATH, and other GAVI Partners. This meeting was imbedded in the MLM course for English-speaking countries (see Activity 6).

The meeting included more than 100 participants from 15 Eastern and Southern African countries (Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe), with approximately 60 percent of attendees coming from academia (nursing and medical schools) and 40 percent from government services.

In addition, a number of representatives from international organisations (WHO/Headquarters/Regional Offices/Country Offices, UNICEF/Headquarters/Regional Offices/Country offices and CVP/PATH) and vaccine manufacturers attended the meeting.

The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Become acquainted with the health economics of immunisation, particularly stressing financing options and financial sustainability of immunisation programmes within and outside the GAVI context;
- Review scientific aspects of current and future childhood vaccines and related diseases;
- Reinforce team building among national immunisation experts from the health professional schools (nurses, doctors, public health workers, and other related professionals) and from the EPI programmes; and
- Review draft pre-service curricula and training documents for nurses and medical students.

A number of key topics and issues were reviewed and discussed during the meeting:

- Health economics;
- EPI and new vaccine introduction;
- Future vaccines (rotavirus vaccine, pneumococcal and conjugate meningococcal vaccine);
- Selected topics of major interest in current EPI (measles and the interaction of HIV and childhood vaccines); and
- Training needs of EPI programmes.

Following the presentations, group work was conducted on Adverse Events Following Immunisation (AEFI), financial sustainability, e-learning, and the evaluation of a HepB immunisation programme.

Achievements

This meeting helped to establish NESI as an important partner for training activities in Southern Africa and strengthened its working relationship with WHO/AFRO and other GAVI partner organisations. Among the outcomes, the building of personal relationships with the international and national experts from Southern Africa was a major achievement. The meeting was also a very useful platform for exchanging information and experiences among the national EPI managers and staff, representatives from medical and nursing schools, members of the GAVI partners, and other international vaccination experts.

6. Intercountry Mid-Level Management (MLM) Course, Cape Town, South Africa, 11-22 October 2004

NESI joined WHO and UNICEF in organising this MLM course for professors and nurses of medical schools and newly appointed EPI focal points in English-speaking African countries.

A total of 75 participants attended the course from 16 countries (Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Somalia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe). The participants included national and provincial EPI managers and staff (18), professors and other teaching/training staff (37), representatives of WHO, UNICEF, CVP/PATH, and NESI and international, regional, and country-level EPI focal points (20).

Achievements

NESI provided both technical assistance and a significant financial contribution to this training course. NESI staff acted as facilitators using active coaching and teaching with participants to help them to achieve their learning objectives. NESI's financial contribution enabled academic experts to attend the workshop.

7. Intercountry Mid-Level Management (MLM) Course, Saly, Senegal, 1-12 November 2004

This 2004 MLM course for French-speaking countries in Africa was organised by WHO/AFRO in collaboration with UNICEF, CATR/ARIVA, CVP/PATH, NESI, and other GAVI Partners.

NESI participated as co-facilitator, supported the participation of several academics from medical and nursing schools, and co-funded the local costs of the meeting.

Achievements

NESI provided both technical assistance and a significant financial contribution to this training course. NESI staff acted as facilitators, using active coaching and teaching with participants to help them to achieve their learning objectives. NESI's financial contribution was used to cover the expenses of the training materials and to invite academic experts.

Technical support

1. Training Needs Assessment (TNA) in Uganda (April 2004) and Niger (June 2004)

A Training Needs Assessment (TNA) is an important but often overlooked component of education and training. A TNA is used to determine skills or knowledge deficiencies among staff involved in immunisation coverage at all levels and can provide an overview of what is the state of training in a country to address those gaps. Using these findings, a country is able to develop a multi-year training plan.

Within the framework of enhancing the performance of national programmes on immunisation, NESI provided technical and financial support to conduct a TNA in 2 of 12 WHO/AFRO target countries during 2004. NESI co-conducted the two TNA's in Uganda and Niger to describe the status of immunisation training in each country, documenting previous EPI training activities, identifying any potential new EPI training needs based on the assessments, and preparing recommendations for actions to improve and harmonise pre- and in-service EPI training.

The assessment teams were composed of international and national experts, and the study population included: planners and managers from national and sub-national levels; EPI focal point persons from regional, district and hospital levels; supervisors and health workers; and trainers and trainees from pre- and in-service training institutions. Data was collected using semi-structured interviews based on a tool developed by WHO/AFRO, as well as focus group discussions, workshops, direct observation of service delivery points, and a desk review of records and EPI training curricula in both countries.

Most of the national programme reviews and TNA missions conducted from 2001 onwards indicate that there are serious bottlenecks in and between pre-service and in-service training.

Activities in 2004

2. Development of Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) Curriculum Prototype for Pre-Service Institutions

Human resources development in health care, which is a dynamic and evolving process, is fundamentally important to the satisfactory delivery of health services and is essential towards achieving self-reliance and sustainability in Africa.

The education and training of health workers has become a key strategy for human resources development in Africa. However, evidence shows that education and training in Africa is inadequate, with health curricula often not reflecting the changing needs of health services. For example, in EPI training, even as the number and complexity of new vaccines continues to grow, EPI content is rarely outlined in the curricula of the majority of pre-service institutions.

As a way to address this issue, WHO/AFRO and NESI initiated a curricula revision/adaptation process in collaboration with multiple professional bodies and proposed a prototype curriculum for in-country adaptation which has to be discussed among all parties involved.

The elaboration of a draft pre-service manual for nurses and medical doctors has been initiated. This document will serve as a working document to develop the WHO/AFRO (regional) prototype.

3. Development of PowerPoint presentations of MLM modules

The MLM course for EPI managers consists of 25 modules divided into eight blocks, which may be used together or separately during a facilitated training, self-tuition, or as on-the-job reference for health professionals.

Since most health professionals have competing demands and often have little time to prepare slides for their trainings and lessons, NESI, along with GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals created a set of PowerPoint slides with lecture notes that summarise the main points in each module. Users can present each set separately and add or delete slides from the sets to comply with their local requirements. Where necessary, notes have been added so that presenters can have more information than what is revealed on the slide.

This collection of slides is currently under review by WHO/AFRO and will then be reviewed by other GAVI partners. NESI will make this series publicly available as soon as the review process is completed.

4. Evaluation of MLM Training provided in countries from 2001 to 2004

All stakeholders clearly stressed that there is a need for a comprehensive, region-wide evaluation to record the effectiveness and efficiency of MLM training. While course-specific evaluation is included in the syllabus of the MLM course itself, there has not been an evaluation conducted regionally to assess the role of MLM training in the improvement in EPI coverage. The '2001-2005 Policy and Strategic Plan for Immunization Capacity Building' (WHO/AFRO) clearly recommended that 'Each EPI training programme will have a midterm evaluation and an end programming cycle evaluation'.

To address this need, WHO/AFRO has initiated an internal and external evaluation documenting findings from TNA studies and the entire MLM training process. The internal evaluation was conducted in October 2004. NESI provided technical support and funding to the internal evaluators during the mission, and the evaluation's findings are featured in the report 'Internal evaluation report on the EPI Mid-Level Management course'. The internal component of the evaluation will provide a basis for the external evaluation, which will be conducted in 2005 on MLM courses conducted from August 2000 to November 2004.

Networking and advocacy

1. Workshop on Bacterial Meningitis, Cairo, Egypt, 19-21 January 2004

NESI joined this workshop to discuss the current situation of bacterial meningitis surveillance and control in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. Participants of this meeting noted that surveillance and control of bacterial meningitis needs to be improved. Accordingly, all participants formulated a list of recommended actions, with one of the most important recommendations being the need to establish in as many countries as possible a national reference laboratory that could provide clinicians with the precise aetiology of bacterial meningitis, serve as reference centre for monitoring antibiotic resistance, and act as a training centre for lab technicians.

2. Seventh Meeting of the Regional Working Group on GAVI, Cairo, Egypt, 2-3 March 2004

NESI attended this seventh meeting of the Regional Working Group on GAVI from 2 to 3 March in Cairo. EPI managers and WHO immunisation officers from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan, and the Republic of Yemen together with representatives from Operation Lifeline Sudan (UNICEF/OLS) attended the event. Additionally, a number of participants from WHO, UNICEF, the GAVI Secretariat, CDC, the World Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, and vaccines manufacturers attended the meeting.

At the meeting, participants discussed regional and country progress in implementing GAVI-related activities, received updates on new GAVI policies, and discussed how to improve the reporting system to better identify and address the technical assistance requirements of countries. They also discussed how to improve communication and streamline efforts in support of GAVI and the Vaccine Fund processes.

3. Eastern Africa EPI Managers' Meeting, Nairobi, Kenya, 8-10 March 2004 and Southern Africa EPI Managers' Meeting, Gaborone, Botswana, 10-12 March 2004

NESI attended these two meetings held in Nairobi and Gaborone of EPI managers and stakeholders to discuss progress of EPI programme activities supported by WHO, UNICEF, and EPI partner agencies in Eastern and Southern Africa as well as to exchange knowledge and experiences and identify constraints and perspectives from each of the regions concerned in implementing such activities. Participants at both meetings also gained an update on GAVI's policies and board decisions, reporting requirements, and global activities.

4. Immunization Financial Sustainability Planning (FSP) Process Orientation Meeting, Pretoria, South Africa, 4-7 May 2004

Through GAVI (via funding from the Vaccine Fund), countries have access to initial catalytic support to strengthen their immunisation programmes, and where appropriate, introduce new and underused vaccines. GAVI commitments are provided to governments with the understanding that after 5 years of support, countries must replace the GAVI contribution with new sources of funding.

To facilitate this transition from external GAVI funding to other sources, GAVI is encouraging countries to undertake financial sustainability planning and explore ways of phasing in other resources. The emphasis of the planning process is to have countries gain a better understanding of the financial realities within which an immunisation programme is operating and plan activities to ensure the continuity of the programme's outputs. GAVI has been providing support to countries in the development of Financial Sustainability Plans (FSPs) through the development of guidelines and tools, training workshops, and technical assistance, encouraging high-level country and partner involvement in the process.

During this workshop, NESI joined 25 participants from countries (Eritrea, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe) in Eastern and Southern Africa to understand the importance of financial sustainability planning, identify key country specific components of FSPs, and adapt and use appropriate tools for the country context.

The outline of the meeting programme was based on the content of the GAVI's Financing Task Force document 'Guidelines for preparing a national immunization program financial sustainability plan (April 2004)'.

Activities in 2004

5. Third Immunization Training Partnership Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland, 1 June 2004

This third meeting of the Immunization Training Partnership brought together all stakeholders organising capacity building activities in Africa to get an update on training activities in 2003 and the first half of 2004, prioritise training activities by region and by country, identify areas of collaborative work, share knowledge and experiences on RED training and supportive supervision, and introduce and disseminate new WHO training materials, including 'Immunization in Practice: A practical guide for health staff' (WHO/V&B/2004 update).

Key issues and recommendations from the meeting included:

- Partners should do all they can to coordinate training activities and pool resources so that training is more efficient and not duplicative and does not reduce the amount of time that EPI managers spend away from their jobs.
- Partners should include follow-up as part of any training activity since it can help measure impact of training.
- Partners should focus on evaluating the impact of training. The training partnership should explore effective evaluation strategies and share information on training impact.
- Partners need to make sure that their training content is consistent with the material produced by WHO.
- The training partnership should focus on effective ways to integrate immunisation training and supervision with other health services.

6. Twelfth Meeting of the Task Force on Immunization (TFI) and Eleventh Meeting of the Africa Regional Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee (ARICC), Bamako, Mali, 7-9 December 2004

The annual Task Force on Immunization (TFI) meetings began as a way to strengthen national immunisation systems in Africa through the review of lessons learnt in implementing various EPI initiatives in the region and the creation of recommendations to guide priority actions.

The annual TFI meeting on 7-8 December was followed by the meeting of the 'African Regional Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee' (ARICC) on 9 December. This committee's objective is to obtain the commitment and support of EPI partners for identified priority actions.

TFI and ARICC meet each other once a year in December. These meetings provide an important venue where different partners meet to review progress and make recommendations for the ensuing year and pledge commitments that are integrated in to an annual action plan for the WHO/AFRO Department of Vaccines and Biologicals, which guides all training activities for Africa.

At the meeting NESI prepared a statement regarding any assistance that it will provide in 2005 and beyond to support immunisation activities in Africa and gave a presentation in the session 'Capacity Building'.

Governance: NESI Oversight Committee Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland, 1 June 2004

During this reporting period, the NESI Oversight Committee was established. The Executive Secretariat now reports to this 10-member committee, which advises on strategy and budget allocation, and reviews outcomes. Specifically, the committee:

- Shapes a strategic vision and priorities for NESI;
- Endorses the work plan and the related budget allocation;
- Stimulates participation of GAVI partners and others in the implementation of NESI activities;
- Evaluates the postulated goals and endorses the work plan and the related budget allocation;
- Facilitates networking and collaboration with other bilateral and multilateral stakeholders engaged in the area of capacity building for immunisation programmes; and
- Ensures the academic freedom of NESI in planning and implementing the activities.

The first Oversight Committee meeting was held in Geneva on 1 June 2004. At the meeting the members of the committee approved the NESI work plan 2003-2004 and the related budget allocation. They concluded that NESI has established itself as a reliable partner within the GAVI structure and has created the legal framework for its collaboration with WHO/AFRO (in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding). Additionally, the committee formulated a number of recommendations to guide NESI's work in the coming year, including the need to actively look for more sponsors for improved sustainability and to obtain a financial commitment from GlaxoSmithKline covering at least a 2-year period.



Event-related documents and websites

NESI aims to identify and document lessons from its activities and share these with the wider public. The Executive Secretariat took several steps in the past reporting period to produce a number of documents related to the activities it organised. These are featured in the following table.

Event	Documents and websites
Training Needs Assessment in Uganda April 2004	Final report available in hard copy
Training Needs Assessment in Niger June 2004	Final report (in French) available in hard copy
NESI parallel session: 'Pre-service training aspects of EPI' Cairo, Egypt 27 June 2004	Final report available in hard copy
Meeting: 'Introduction of new vaccines into the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) in Southern Africa – public health, educational and economical aspects' Cape Town, South Africa 13-15 October 2004	All information distributed and/or presented during this meeting is available on CD-Rom and on-line at www.nesi.be/en/conf_capetown.php
Evaluation of MLM training provided to countries from 2001 to 2004 (Phase 1: internal evaluation): 'Internal evaluation report on the EPI Mid-Level Management course (version 1)' October 2004	Report (version 1) available in hard copy

To order a hard copy or a CD-Rom of these reports, send an e-mail to Ms Els Vergauwen at els.vergauwen@ua.ac.be with the name of the applicant, organisation, address, city, state/province, country, postal code, and daytime telephone.

Network for Education & Support in Immunisation



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NESI

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