

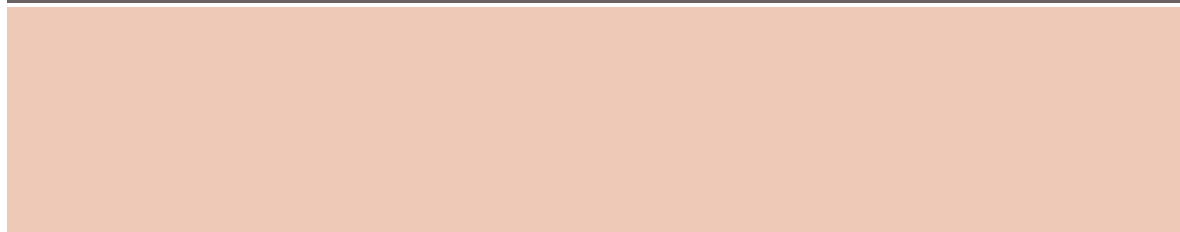


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Network for Education & Support in Immunisation

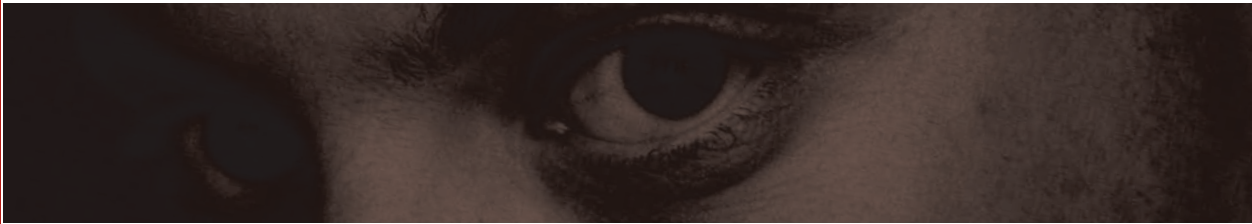


**Annual Report 2005**

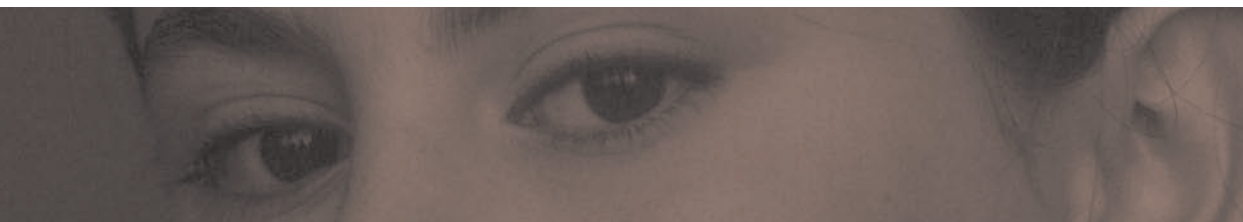




Network for Education & Support in Immunisation



Annual Report 2005

**Network for Education & Support in Immunisation**

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## List of abbreviations

<b>CATR/ARIVA</b>	Cellule d'Appui Technique Régional/Appui au Renforcement de l'Indépendance Vaccinale en Afrique
<b>CDC</b>	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<b>CVP/PATH</b>	Children's Vaccine Program/Program for Appropriate Technology in Health
<b>DQA</b>	Data Quality Audit
<b>EPI</b>	Expanded Programme on Immunization
<b>FSP</b>	Financial Sustainability Plan
<b>GAVI</b>	Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization
<b>GIVS</b>	Global Immunisation Vision and Strategy
<b>GSK</b>	GlaxoSmithKline
<b>ICP</b>	Inter-Country Programme
<b>MLM</b>	Mid-Level Management
<b>MYP</b>	Multi-Year Plan
<b>NESI</b>	Network for Education and Support in Immunisation
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organisation
<b>RED</b>	Reaching Every District
<b>RTAG</b>	Regional Technical Advisory Group
<b>SAVIC</b>	South African Vaccination and Immunisation Centre
<b>TFI</b>	Task Force on Immunization
<b>ToT</b>	Training of Trainers
<b>UCT</b>	University of Cape Town
<b>UNF</b>	United Nations Foundation
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UNICEF/MENARO</b>	UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office
<b>UNICEF/WCARO</b>	UNICEF West and Central Africa Regional Office
<b>UNRWA</b>	United Nations Relief and Works Agency
<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>VPD</b>	Vaccine Preventable Diseases
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>WHO/AFRO</b>	WHO Regional Office for Africa
<b>WHO/EMRO</b>	WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean
<b>WHO/HQ</b>	WHO Headquarters

## Network for Education & Support in Immunisation



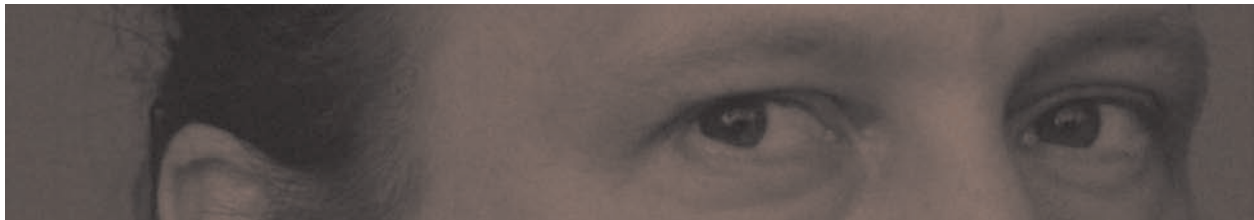
### Introduction

This third annual report provides an informative overview of the year 2005 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 many training and partnership-building activities the network has engaged in during 2005.

This report for NESI shows clearly that the network is still 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 three training activities, provided technical support for five activities and attended four network and partnership meetings.

Activities still mainly focused at inter-country and regional levels, but in most countries of the AFRO and EMRO Regions, capacity building of the teaching/training institutions progressed considerably. National teams of expertise for training in immunisation were further established.

We do hope you will find our Annual Report 2005 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 Programme for Appropriate Technology in Health (CVP/PATH), the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) and the GAVI 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 personnel, pharmacists, and other related professionals.

A Memorandum of Understanding between NESI and the WHO Regional Office for Africa (WHO/AFRO) clearly defines the overall goals and actions of NESI in the area of capacity building and 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 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 professionals 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 national and 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.

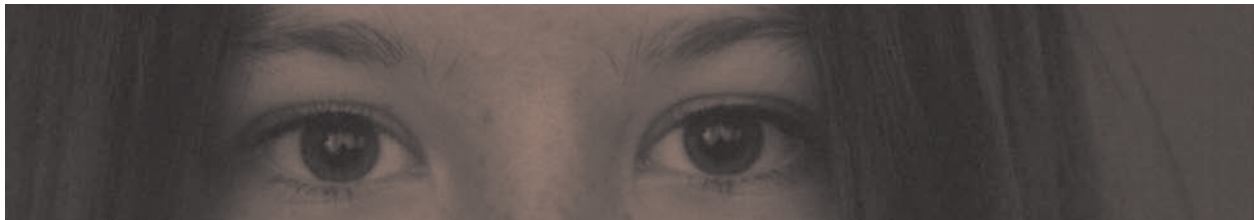
The Executive Secretariat is required to report to the 10-member Oversight Committee, which advises on strategy and budget allocation, and reviews outcomes. The Oversight Committee is composed of representatives from the public/private partnership as well as of representatives from international health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

During the past year, a total of 550,000 EUR was spent on the implementation of training activities and other interventions and in supporting the work of the Executive Secretariat.



## Activities in 2005

### Education and training

#### **1. Inter-country EPI Mid-Level Management (MLM) Course, Ouidah, Benin, 23 May-3 June 2005**

The Mid-Level management course aims at providing a clear framework for public health managers, specifically those in the Immunisation Programme, so that they can better conduct their day-to-day managerial activities and resolve problems that arise in the achievement of their national and district EPI plans.

The inter-country course for French-speaking African countries was hosted by the Republic of Benin and organised by WHO/AFRO in collaboration with UNICEF, CATR/ARIVA, UNF, USAID, NESI, and other GAVI Partners.

This MLM inter-country course targeted new EPI managers and supervisors at national or district levels, as well as teachers/professors and WHO/UNICEF EPI focal persons and other EPI staff coming from the following 20 countries: Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Chad, and Togo. The course was facilitated by a pool of experts: WHO/AFR (8), WHO/ICP/West (2), WHO/ICP/Central (3), WHO/HQ (2), UNICEF/WCARO (2), EPI Benin (1), ARIVA (1), University Cotonou (1) and NESI (2).

As standard for an MLM course, also this course comprised of a two-days session for training of trainers (ToT), followed by eleven days for the actual MLM training. The aim of this course was to enable participants to manage immunisation services within the context of the Global Immunisation Vision and Strategy (GIVS), the 2001-2005 EPI Regional Strategic Plan, and the RED strategy. This course was also used to validate the content and to test two new MLM modules on Transport management and Financing.

#### *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. NESI's specific contribution, namely to invite key academics from nursing and medical schools was recognised as an important contribution towards strengthening the pre-service capacity building for EPI.

## 2. Developing vaccinology expertise for Sub-Saharan Africa, Cape Town, South Africa, 26 June-1 July 2005

This vaccinology course was organised by the University of Cape Town (UCT - Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine) in collaboration with tropEd, Charité, NESI and GSK.

The course was intended for clinicians, public health practitioners and scientists in Sub-Saharan Africa who are involved in any aspect of vaccinology from vaccine development through immunisation programme planning, implementation and evaluation.

The goal of the course was to introduce participants to the various disciplines associated with vaccinology including vaccine development, the relevant basic sciences such as immunology, microbiology and molecular biology, clinical trials, vaccine safety, vaccine economics, vaccination strategies and evaluation of vaccines. For researchers and scientists the main objective was to build sustainable research capacity to develop vaccines and/or conduct quality standard phase I to phase IV vaccine trials. For clinicians and public health specialists the main objective was to provide them with the necessary expertise to support public vaccination programmes and related activities.

The course was attended by 50 participants from the following countries: Benin (1), Botswana (1), Burundi (2), Cameroon (1), Congo Brazzaville (1), Gabon (1), Gambia (1), Ghana (2), Kenya (2), Mauritius (2), Malawi (2), Madagascar (1), Mozambique (2), Namibia (2), Nigeria (4), Rwanda (2), Tanzania (2), Uganda (3), Zambia (3), South Africa (15).

### *Achievements*

NESI staff contributed to the course through (a) presentations on: 'Experiences and perspectives with implementation of Reaching Every District (RED) in the African Region'; 'Vaccines to prevent viral hepatitis'; and 'Introduction on GIVS (Global Immunisation Vision and Strategy)'; 'Introduction of New Vaccines - guiding principles'; (b) facilitation of workgroups; and (c) discussions with individual participants.

## 3. Inter-country Mid-Level Management (MLM) Course, Lusaka, Zambia, 1-12 August 2005

The Mid-Level management course aims at providing a clear framework for public health managers, specifically those in the Immunisation Programme, so that they can better conduct their day-to-day managerial activities and resolve problems that arise in the achievement of their national and district EPI plans.

The inter-country training course on the Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) Mid-Level Management was organised for English-speaking African countries in the Western, Eastern and Southern epidemiological blocks.

This MLM inter-country course targeted new EPI managers and supervisors at national or district levels, as well as teachers/professors and WHO/UNICEF EPI focal persons and other EPI staff coming from the following countries: Botswana, Gambia, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Namibia, Malawi, Mauritius, Uganda, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and Zambia.

The general objective of this MLM course was to manage immunisation services within the context of GIVS, the 2001-2005 EPI Regional Strategic Plan, and the RED strategy. The 2005 inter-country courses provided an opportunity to update all facilitators and participants on GIVS. Most importantly, participants were trained on how to use the guidelines to develop/revise a multi-year plan (MYP) in line with GIVS. A new MLM module on Financing was tested during this course; draft country plans for capacity building in immunisation were developed by country teams.

### *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 participants from training institutions for health professionals to attend the workshop.

## Activities in 2005

### Technical support

#### **1. Development of Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) Curriculum Prototype for Pre-Service Institutions (medical schools and nursing/midwifery schools)**

Human resources development in health care, which is a dynamic and evolving process, is fundamentally important for the satisfactory delivery of health services, including immunisation services, and is essential towards achieving self-reliance and sustainability in Africa. It is therefore essential that a health workforce sufficient in numbers, well educated, trained and motivated, is available to provide immunisation services of good quality. The education and training of health workers has become a key strategy for human resources development in Africa. The incorporation of EPI into undergraduate medical education, nursing/midwives and other health professional training programmes is a logical step towards improving and strengthening immunisation service delivery, logistics, surveillance, communication, and management in practice. In the African Region, many health professional schools have initiated revisions of their curricula during the past decade, and have made efforts to incorporate EPI into their teaching agendas. However, training needs assessments conducted during the past five years have pointed out that health curricula often do not reflect the changing needs of health services. For example, even as the number and complexity of new vaccines continues to grow, EPI content is rarely outlined or is incomplete or outdated in the curricula of the majority of the pre-service institutions.

As a way to address this deficient situation, WHO/AFRO and NESI initiated a curricula revision/adaptation process in collaboration with multiple professional bodies. Two draft EPI prototype curricula, one for medical schools and one for nursing/midwifery schools have been developed. These documents will serve as a working document to develop the WHO/AFRO (regional) prototype. A bilingual workshop will be organised in 2006 to get a consensus on the EPI prototype curricula and to make recommendations on how to incorporate EPI into the pre-service training agendas.

#### **2. Twenty-second Inter-country Meeting of National EPI Managers, Cairo, Egypt, 4-7 July 2005**

The 22nd Inter-country meeting of National Managers of the Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) was organised by WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (WHO/EMRO) and UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office (UNICEF/MENARO).

The meeting was attended by the national EPI managers and WHO and UNICEF field staff (coming from Afghanistan, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen), WHO and UNICEF Regional Office staff and Headquarters staff. Members of the EPI Regional Technical Advisory Group (RTAG) also participated in the meeting.

The objectives of the meeting were:

- to review national and regional progress, achievements and constraints of the Expanded Programme on Immunisation;
- to discuss and introduce new concepts and recent advances in respect to new vaccines, immunisation and target diseases control, elimination, and eradication strategies and activities;
- to discuss and recommend activities to improve access to high quality and safe routine immunisation services and to strengthen national and regional vaccine preventable diseases control, elimination, and eradication initiatives.

During the session on 'Routine immunisation' Dr Amr Abbassy (Alexandria University) and Dr Najwa Khuri Bulos (Jordan University Hospital) acted as technical advisers for NESI and presented on 'NESI report on collaboration between academia and national EPI since last year's meeting'. This presentation gave an overview of what has been done in the countries of the Eastern Mediterranean region since last inter-country meeting for EPI Managers and should therefore be considered as a follow up activity of the NESI session on 'Pre-service training aspects of EPI' convened on 27 June 2004 during the 21st Inter-country meeting for EPI Managers. During this activity one of NESI's primary activities, to stimulate awareness about the importance of EPI training in pre-service health training institutions, was reinforced.

### **3. Workshop for peer technical review of three Mid-Level Management (MLM) Modules and finalization of MLM Modules handouts, Harare, Zimbabwe, 25-29 April 2005**

This workshop was organised by WHO/AFRO and participants were co-opted from countries, ICP, the Regional Office, and Headquarters. Additionally, various partners (CVP/PATH, NESI, and vaccine manufacturers) attended the meeting.

The objectives of this workshop were: to conduct a peer technical review of the MLM modules on Transport management, Maintenance, and Financing; and to finalize handouts for the 16 priority MLM modules.

Since most health professionals have competing demands and often have little time to prepare slides for their trainings and lectures, a set of PowerPoint slides with lecture notes that summarise the main points in each module were created.

Three new MLM modules were pilot tested during the 2005 inter-country MLM courses for Anglophone countries and Francophone countries. The finalised set of PowerPoint slides was used during the two inter-country MLM courses organised in 2005. Users can present each set separately and add or delete slides from the sets to comply with their local requirements/conditions. Where necessary, notes have been added so that presenters can have more information than what is revealed on the slide.

### **4. Internal and External Evaluation of MLM Training provided in Countries from 2000 to 2004, September 2004-July 2005**

The Mid-Level Management (MLM) training is a relatively short but labour-intensive course providing managers of immunisation programmes at national, regional and district levels with new, advanced skills in planning, management, monitoring and evaluation. From the 1980s until 1995, EPI training in the African Region was provided vertically and ad hoc, to meet immediate needs. No training materials were tailored to the local needs. External support and resources diminished and the MLM training frequency dropped considerably and between 1995 and 1999 no MLM courses were organised. Training Needs Assessments conducted in 12 countries, identified the needs for management training, bottlenecks between pre- and in-service training, poor coverage of EPI topics in the curricula, and other gaps. This situation has necessitated the broader collaborative efforts from partners (WHO, UNICEF, USAID, UNF, NESI, CVP/PATH) to revive the MLM training. Significant progress in EPI MLM training at inter-country and country levels started in 2000.

While course specific evaluation is included in the syllabus of the MLM course itself, there is a need for a summative evaluation in order to assess the role of MLM training in the improvement of the immunisation programme management in the African Region. The objective of the evaluation was to assess the effectiveness and the impact of inter-country and national EPI MLM training (2000-2004) and its contribution to the management of EPI services at country level.

The initial phase constituted an internal evaluation at the AFRO Inter-country and Regional offices. The internal evaluation team was represented by VPD staff, inter-country office staff and a consultant. The second, external phase of the evaluation was conducted by a multidisciplinary team composed of experts from WHO, UNICEF, UNF, USAID and NESI. The external evaluation included work at the AFRO Regional Office and in five countries (Ethiopia, Ghana, Lesotho, Senegal and Zambia).

The methods of the evaluation included: desk review of the information on inter-country and in-country EPI MLM courses; review of MLM syllabus at regional and country levels; visits to countries for qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis; interviews with MLM course participants, facilitators, supervisors, Ministry of Health officials, and other partners; focus group discussions with course participants and facilitators; and questionnaires.

During 2000-2004, 11 MLM courses were held and 642 participants were trained. Of the 151 course participants interviewed, 85% rated the course as very useful and 15% as useful. During focus group discussions, participants indicated the relevance of the MLM course: e.g. updates on new developments in EPI; enhanced performance in data management; comprehensive and systematic way of implementing EPI; harmonisation of theory taught in schools with field practice; improved supervising. Modules on new vaccines, immunisation safety, cold chain and vaccine management, communication and problem solving were most appreciated by participants. According to supervisors, the MLM training contributed to significant improvements in the performance of the MLM participants: e.g. improvements in technical competence and updated EPI knowledge, management, planning and social mobilisation. There was also benefit to the supervisors themselves as they could now share important responsibilities with the newly trained staff. The trend in immunisation coverage (using DTP3 as indicator) in catchment areas where staff was trained was compared between training stagnation and training activity period: DTP3 regional coverage was 49% in 1991; 53% in 2001 and 69% in 2004.

### Activities in 2005

MLM training has increased the performance of trained staff and contributed to the improvement of EPI coverage in the African Region. Based on the MLM training evaluation there is need to: strengthen the teaching in EPI in the basic training of health personnel to equip the new graduates with the necessary skills and knowledge; institutionalisation of the MLM course in three public health training centres in the African Region for English, French and Portuguese speaking countries; due to cost-efficiency of in-country training, partners should increase their support to MLM training at country level; countries should be encouraged to integrate EPI training at district level harmonising training content, material, approaches and methods with other training programmes.

The findings from the internal evaluation and individual country evaluations is consolidated into an overall evaluation report 'Mid-Level Management Training in Immunization in the African Region 2000-2004' reflecting regional trends, strategies, historical evolution and achievements as well as diversities and common grounds in MLM training in various country situations. It is planned to present the results of the MLM evaluation at the next TFI meeting of WHO-AFRO.

#### 5. Inter-country meeting on measles/rubella control/elimination, Cairo, Egypt, 10-13 December 2005

The Inter-country meeting on measles/rubella control/elimination was hosted by WHO/EMRO. The meeting was attended by EPI managers and other representatives from 21 countries of the EMRO region: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. In addition a number of participants from UNRWA, CDC, GAVI, UNICEF, WHO/EMRO, WHO/AFRO, WHO/HQ and NESI attended the meeting.

The main objectives of the meeting were:

- to discuss new advances and strategies related to measles elimination and rubella control;
- to follow-up on the progress made in participating Member States in implementing measles elimination and rubella control activities;
- to review, update, and revise national plans for measles elimination and rubella control;
- and to discuss and recommend activities to strengthen national measles elimination and rubella control programmes.

NESI provided a significant financial contribution to this inter-country meeting, by funding 28 participants (including technical experts from training institutions), and a contribution to programme support cost.

## **Networking and advocacy**

### **1. Southern Africa EPI Managers' Meeting, Windhoek, Namibia, 2-4 March 2005**

The Southern African EPI managers' meeting was organised by WHO, UNICEF, and the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MOHSS) of Namibia.

The participants consisted of EPI managers, logisticians, and surveillance officers of the 14 Southern African Block countries (Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe).

The overall objective of the meeting was to provide a forum for technical orientation and exchange of experiences between countries in the southern block and partners.

The specific objectives were:

- to share preliminary country experiences in launching the Reaching Every District (RED) initiative;
- to provide technical guidance on logistical issues including vaccine management, cold chain, and injection safety;
- to present and discuss GAVI issues including GAVI board decisions and country achievements and challenges;
- to provide guidance on reporting and monitoring requirements;
- to provide feedback on activities relating to accelerated disease control activities, including polio eradication, accelerated measles control and neonatal tetanus elimination.

NESI participated in this meeting to learn more on the progress and challenges of Southern African countries in strengthening their routine EPI, to meet and discuss with all stakeholders, and to hold satellite meetings with the EPI managers, WHO and UNICEF focal points, as well as other GAVI partners.

### **2. Eastern Africa EPI Managers' Meeting, Zanzibar, 7-11 March 2005**

NESI attended this meeting of EPI managers and stakeholders to discuss progress of EPI programme activities supported by WHO, UNICEF, and EPI partner agencies in Eastern Africa as well as to exchange knowledge and experiences and identify constraints and perspectives in implementing such activities (particular emphasis was also put on planning joint initiatives in capacity building). All participants formulated recommendations on routine vaccination, Multi-Year Planning, GAVI and GAVI related issues, accelerated disease control, and social mobilization and communication.

### **3. Fourth Immunization Training Partnership Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland, 10-11 October 2005**

In an effort to create a forum for discussion and exchange of information amongst partners, The World Health Organization organised the fourth Immunization Training Partnership Meeting at WHO headquarters in Geneva on 10 and 11 October 2005. The meeting was attended by 59 participants.

The main objectives of the meeting were to:

- identify partners' involvement in capacity building activities needed to implement the Global Immunization Vision and Strategy (GIVS);
- update on partner training activities in 2004-2005 and lessons learnt on conducting training needs assessment, evaluation and distance learning;
- gain partner feedback on draft Mid-Level Management (MLM) modules in development by WHO/HQ;
- develop a plan for finalizing and testing these MLM modules and discuss partner support;
- identify areas of collaboration on training activities.

At the meeting NESI gave a presentation on 'MLM Training evaluation in the AFRO Region: process, findings, and next steps'. The meeting also enabled NESI to receive and provide a detailed overview of ongoing activities related to immunisation programmes.

## Activities in 2005

### 4. 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of EMRO Regional Working Group on GAVI, Cairo, Egypt, 14-15 December 2005

The meeting was attended by EPI managers and other representatives of GAVI eligible countries of the EMRO region: Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan and Yemen. There was no representation from Djibouti. In addition a number of participants from the African Development Bank, CDC, GAVI, UNICEF, WHO/EMRO, WHO/HQ and NESI attended the meeting.

The main objectives of the meeting were to:

- discuss country progress and constraints in implementing GAVI process and related activities (disbursement situation, expenditure rate, FSP, progress report, DQA, etc.);
- review country progress in implementing Reach Every District (RED) Approach and monitoring and evaluation of district performance;
- discuss new vaccine introduction in Sudan (HepB) and Yemen (Pentavalent);
- discuss outcome of progress review round and discuss other issues such as updating country multi-year plans.

### 5. South African Vaccination and Immunisation Centre (SAVIC)

The South African Vaccination and Immunisation Centre (SAVIC) is a network of partners in the field of vaccination, immunisation and vaccine-preventable diseases, and is an academic-public alliance between the University of Limpopo-Medunsa Campus, and the University of Antwerpen, Belgium, with the South African Department of Health.

The mission of SAVIC is to improve the health of future generations by strengthening immunisation programmes and services in South Africa. In order to achieve this, SAVIC advocates improved education and training in the fields of vaccination, immunisation programmes and services, and disseminates information on the epidemiology of vaccine-preventable diseases, nationally and abroad.

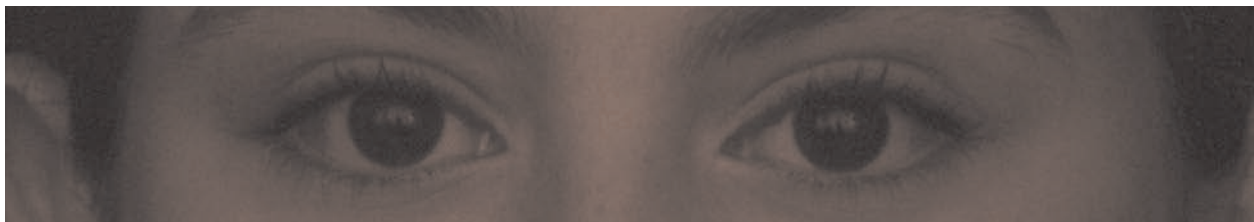
NESI has established links with SAVIC to develop joint activities with geographical focus on South and Southern Africa.

**Governance: Second NESI Oversight Committee Meeting, Brussels, Belgium, 17 June 2005**

The Executive Secretariat reported for the second time to a 10-member committee, which advises on strategy and budget allocation, and reviews outcomes. Specifically, the committee:

- shapes a strategic vision and direction for NESI;
- advises on the strategy to follow;
- defines priorities;
- stimulates/fosters participation of GAVI partners and others in the implementation of NESI activities;
- reviews the plans, 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;
- ensures the academic freedom of NESI in planning and implementing its activities;
- verifies the independency of the activities organised by NESI in relation to its sponsors.

The second Oversight Committee meeting was held in Brussels on 17 June 2005. At the meeting the members of the committee approved the NESI work plan 2005 and the related budget allocation. They also verified the extent of implementation of the recommendations of the first NESI Oversight Committee Meeting. Additionally, the committee formulated a number of recommendations to guide NESI's work in the coming year.

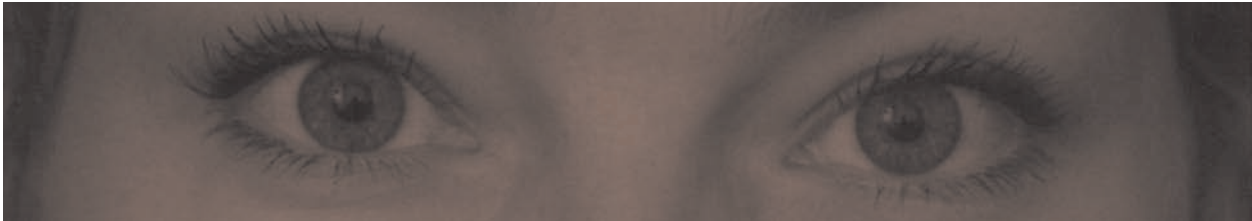


## Documents, event-related documents and website

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
<b>Development of Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) Curriculum Prototype for Pre-Service Institutions (medical schools and nursing/midwifery schools)</b>	Draft EPI prototype curriculum for medical doctors and nursing/midwifery schools are available in hard copy.
<b>Workshop for peer technical review of three Mid-Level Management (MLM) and finalization of MLM Modules handouts</b>	MLM Modules handouts are in the process of editing.
<b>Internal &amp; External Evaluation of MLM Training provided at inter-country and country level from 2000 to 2004</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Internal evaluation 'Internal evaluation report on the EPI Mid-Level Management course'</b></li> <li>• <b>External evaluation: 5 county evaluation reports Ethiopia, Ghana, Lesotho, Senegal and Zambia</b></li> <li>• <b>Overall evaluation report 'Mid-Level Management Training in Immunization in the African Region 2000-2004'</b></li> </ul>	Report available in hard copy.  Report available in hard copy.  Report available in hard copy and website on <a href="http://www.nesi.be/downloads/MLM_Summative_Evaluation.pdf">www.nesi.be/downloads/MLM_Summative_Evaluation.pdf</a>
<b>Overall evaluation of Training Needs Assessments in the African Region, 2002-2004</b>	Mutabaruka, E., Nshimirimana, D., Goilav, C. and Meheus, A. EPI Training Needs Assessment in 12 African Countries, 2002-2004. Communicable Diseases Bulletin, WHO Regional Office for Africa, 2005; 3(2): 1-4.

Network for Education & Support in Immunisation



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During the year, Dr. Christian Goilav, Ms. Anke Lambin and Ms. Els Vergauwen have taken up other responsibilities outside NESI. Credit for drafting this annual report should go to them.

**NESI**

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