

## 6th Meeting of the Regional Certification Commission (RCC) for the Polio Endgame

5-6 December 2016

### Final Report

The 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Regional Certification Commission (RCC) for the Polio Endgame was held on 5 and 6 December, 2016 in Bogota, Colombia. Participants at this meeting included RCC members, US Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), one observer, and PAHO regional advisors.



In this meeting, the RCC manifested the official resignation of Doctor Esther Mary de Gourville, who has been appointed as PAHO/WHO Representative in the Bahamas and the Islands of Turks and Caicos.

The objectives of the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting were to:

1. Review the advancement on the poliovirus containment reports WPV2, VDPV and Sabin2: and
2. Review the pending final tOPV to bOPV Switch reports.

### **Summary of the WPV/VDPV/Sabin2 Reports:**

The RCC reviewed 17 out of the 23 expected reports corresponding to 16 countries and one Caribbean Sub-Region, which includes 13 countries, 6 United Kingdom territories and 3 associate members. The observations and recommendations to the reports were made beginning with the first reviewer, followed by the second reviewer, other RCC members and the PAHO Secretariat.

| Results of the reviewed reports | *IM<br>WPV2/ VDPV2 | **PIM<br>WPV2/ VDPV2 | IM<br>Sabin2 | PIM<br>Sabin2 |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Approved without modifications  | 13                 | 13                   | 9            | 0             |
| Approved with modifications     | 0                  | 0                    | 1            | 0             |
| Not Approved                    | 4                  | 4                    | 7            | 17            |
| No Report                       | 6                  | 6                    | 6            | 6             |

\* IM = Infectious Material \*\* PIM= Potentially Infectious Material

The RCC will send a letter to the NCC Presidents of each country with the results of the revision and the principal recommendations of the report.

### **Summary of the revision of pending Switch supervision reports**

The RCC reviewed a total of 12 country switch reports, five of which had been reviewed at the July 2016, but needed to provide additional information, and seven reports that had not been presented during the July 2016 meeting. During this meeting 8 of these reports were approved: Chile, Guatemala, Peru, Bahamas, Montserrat, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Bolivia. A total of 32 out of the 36 expected reports have been approved.

The RCC requested additional information to Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador and Haiti. These countries must send a letter informing that all tOPV was destroyed, the date and the method employed in destroying it. In addition, Haiti must send the report with the signature of the Ministry of Health and the National Certification committee that validated the final report.

### **Recommendations: Poliovirus containment Reports**

- Clarify the total number of existing laboratories in the country and specify the source of information; number of selected laboratories based on the survey and inclusion and exclusion criteria used for the selection; number of surveyed laboratories and analysis of material storage capacity in laboratories that did not answer the survey and follow-up strategies for these laboratories.
- Send the reports by the due date established to ensure that they are revised during the RCC meeting. (Two weeks prior to meetings)
- Develop the report in the format established by PAHO to facilitate comprehension and achieve a consistent evaluation in all countries of the Region.
- Include dates of analysis of the information presented, validation of the NCC (letter) and remittance date to PAHO.
- Number the pages of both the report and annexes; number the annexes, and refer to the annex that supports the information in the text and tables.
- Highlight new or updated information to facilitate the revision of the report.

### **Recommendations: Switch Reports**

- All four countries must provide the information requested by the RCC.

## Conclusions:

- The RCC recognized the extraordinary effort made by all countries to introduce the IPV and carry out the Switch.
- The RCC identified a significant improvement in the quality of the containment reports.
- It recognized that the containment process poses a challenge to the Member States and requires additional efforts to meet all the requirements in the established timeframe.
- The RCC requests that the presidents of the NCCs answer each of the communications of the RCC with a letter, separate from the report.
- PAHO will present a proposal of “suitable evidence of destruction” of materials containing poliovirus, for the consideration of the RCC and its dissemination to the countries.
- The next RCC meeting will take place during the first week of May 2017, the presidents of the NCC and the NPCC of some countries that might require significant improvements in the containment reports will be invited.
- The RCC President will write to the President of the GCC about the worries discussed that are impeding the finalization of GAPIII Phase 1, with respect to the containment of potentially infectious Sabin 2 material, indicating the pressing need for the *Guidelines to Finalize the GAPIII Phase 1* document, which will address these worries.
- During the 4<sup>th</sup> Regional Polio Meeting on 7-8 December, the RCC members:
  - Will present the advances with the switch and containment reports.
  - Will participate in the containment working group on 8 December.
  - Will meet with representatives from some countries to discuss recommendations on how to improve the containment report.