

**7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Regional Certification Commission (RCC) for the Polio Endgame  
6-8 June 2017  
Final Report**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Regional Certification Commission (RCC) for the Polio Endgame was held on 7 and 8 June, 2017 in Brasilia, Brazil. RCC members, represents from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and USA, as observers participated a representative of Centers for Disease Control (CDC)-USA, a representatives of World Health Organization (WHO) and four representatives from Minister of Health of Brazil, and PAHO Secretariat. At this meeting, the RCC-Chair welcomed a new member, Dr. Rosa Alba Salas, a virologist specialist from Venezuela as well to Dr. Ana Elena Chevez new Regional Advisor FGL/IM.



The meeting was development in two parts, the first one 7-8 June, in this session in presence of the all participants and the second were a closed sessions 6-8 June (RCC members, PAHO Secretariat and as observers CDC and WHO representatives. The 7<sup>th</sup> RCC meeting agreements and final recommendations were presented at the end of the meeting in the presence of all participants.

The objectives of the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting - first session were to:

1. Review country reports on the containment of poliovirus (WPV/VDPV/Sabin2).
2. Present questions and recommendations to the National Poliovirus Containment Coordinators (NPCC).

Reports were shared with the RCC members prior to the meeting with the validation form to evidence and keep record the consistency and robustness of the information presented in the National Containment Reports Phase I – GAPIII.

The RCC received 19 out of the 23 expected reports corresponding to 18 countries and the Caribbean Sub-Region (includes 13 countries, 6 United Kingdom territories and 3 associate members).

In the first session 10 countries presented the advances related with the implementation of the national containment plans in the closed sessions RCC reviewed the other RCC country reports. The observations and recommendations on the reports were made beginning with the first reviewer, followed by the second reviewer, other RCC members, PAHO Secretariat and other participants, time dependent.

## Main Observations

### **Strengths**

#### **Poliovirus containment Reports**

- RCC recognizes the effort and commitment required, and challenges confronted, to complete the inventories.
- Although great variability in the quality of reports, RCC noted significant improvements in clarity of many containment reports.
- Additional efforts are needed by some countries to meet all requirements and deadlines.

### **Observations**

Country reports should be:

- dated (include date of most recent information in the report, completion date of the report), include page numbers, links to Annexes provided in the body of report.
- clearly indicate the total number of facilities (universe), and specify the source of this information.
- Presented a unique report with all information and annexes. New or updated information should be inserted into the updated report, and highlighted for ease of review.
- Indicate how many of these facilities were surveyed and what the inclusion/exclusion criteria were to survey these facilities.
- able to understand how and why a country went from a universe of laboratories to the number that were surveyed.
- provide evidence on the method and risk of follow-up of non-responding facilities.

### **RCC recommendations for Poliovirus containment Reports**

- Finalize the inventory of facilities with poliovirus infectious and potentially infectious materials.
- Countries should work with laboratories holding WPV/VDPV/Sabin2 infectious materials to complete destruction of unneeded materials and reduce the number of designated Poliovirus Essential Facilities (dPEFs).
- For countries with dPEFs, nominate a National Authority for Containment (NAC).
- Designated PEF should submit to NAC the application for the Certificate of Participation (CP) according with the Containment Certification Scheme (CCS).
- PAHO continue technical support to advance with implementation of GAPIII.

### **D. Agreements and action points**

- Each country will receive a letter from RCC advising on the outcome of the review of their containment report and/or presentation within 3 months, and expectations with respect to timing of next update of the containment report.
- All reports should be received *at least one month* prior to RCC meetings in order to be reviewed at that meeting; to enable translation some may be required several weeks earlier (this will be indicated in the letter from the RCC).
- Countries must reply in a separate letter to every question / recommendation posed by the RCC in its letter to NCC Chairs.
- Countries must follow and update the PAHO provided country report template in order to facilitate comprehension and facilitate a standardized evaluation for all countries