

Global Polio Eradication Initiative—Response to IMB’s 10th Report (October 2014) Status as of 19 March 2015

| Recommendation | Status |
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| <p>That the Prime Minister and Cabinet of Pakistan order the National Disaster Management Authority to take on the task of stopping polio in Pakistan, with immediate effect.</p> | <p>The Federal and provincial governments in Pakistan reviewed this recommendation and did not consider this an appropriate option for the current program context in Pakistan. Instead, the Government of Pakistan has established emergency operations centres at the national level and in each province (see below)</p> |
| <p>That the plan for Pakistan’s Emergency Operations Centre be strengthened, to provide intelligence and coordination functions in support of the National Disaster Management Authority’s work. If there is delay in adopting the National Disaster Management Authority recommendation, the EOC should be strengthened to have the capacity and power that they need to run a programme truly set on eradication.</p> | <p>There has been substantial movement on strengthening the Emergency Operations Centres (EOC) at the federal level and in the provinces. The government of Pakistan allocated permanent office space for provincial and the federal EOCs which has been renovated and offices fully equipped. Importantly full time staff from Government and partners have been assigned to the EOCs. At the national level the Prime Minister’s focal person and the federal EOC coordinator oversee the federal activities in coordination with the partners. Technical working groups such as communications, training, data management in addition to the technical unit are in place to support the development of guidelines and documents for the implementation of key strategies, provide analysis of programmatic data for decision making and continuous support to the provinces. Daily meetings are being held at the Federal EOC to guide program activities and review key decisions and weekly meetings with the provinces via video-conference have begun. The provincial EOCs are also functional with full time staff from government and partners however the provinces have not assigned full time EOC coordinators to lead the EOCs, instead they are being coordinated by staff with other responsibilities. It is clear the EOCs are making progress in this increasingly government led initiative and continued support from technical partners is appreciated.</p> |
| <p>A special meeting of the Independent Monitoring Board in early 2015 with those who will lead the eradication of polio from Pakistan, at federal level, in each province and in FATA. It is to be hoped that the government of the United Arab Emirates might play an important part in such a meeting.</p> | <p>Polio leaders at the national and provincial levels will be invited to the IMB meeting in Abu Dhabi in late April 2015.</p> |

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| <p>That the World Health Organization headquarters take over the management of the Central Africa outbreak from the World Health Organization African Regional Office, freeing the latter to focus on the Ebola crisis and simultaneously enabling a decisive Central Africa polio outbreak response.</p> | <p>The recommendation was discussed extensively in internal WHO meetings followed by consultation with GPEI partners. Considering the WHO’s organizational set-up and defined roles at various levels (HQ, Region and country), the management and implementation of an outbreak response plan necessitates the coordination role of regional offices and close collaboration of country offices with host Member States.</p> <p>Cognizant of the recommendation’s importance, WHO (HQ, Regional office) and GPEI partners provided additional technical support at national/sub-national levels, strengthened program management capacity and advocacy.</p> <p>Additional technical and staff support was provided to the Outbreak Coordinator for Central Africa nominated by the Regional Director. Two high level advocacy missions to Cameroon were undertaken by GPEI.</p> |
| <p>That the International Health Regulations Expert Committee make a recommendation that all countries receiving travellers from polio-infected countries should ensure that they have a valid vaccination certificate, as a condition of entry. That this should be implemented urgently.</p> | <p>The IHR Emergency Committee has continued to meet every three months and has considered entry requirements, but so far has decided not to include such requirements in the temporary recommendations under the IHR. The Committee has indicated that it might consider entry screening requirements, if implementation of temporary recommendations remains sub-optimal and international spread of poliovirus continues.</p> |
| <p>That the programme better integrate its work to strengthen routine immunisation with work to stop polio transmission. That Gavi is invited to become the sixth core partner, and its Chief Executive to join the Polio Oversight Board.</p> | <p>GAVI is a member of the GPEI’s Immunization Management Group.</p> <p>The GPEI and its Polio Oversight Board have close ties with GAVI and value the input they receive from GAVI. The POB has decided not to expand its membership at this point to ensure its decision-making remains effective.</p> |