



The Meningitis Vaccine Project Closure Conference Ending and New Beginnings

A satellite meeting of the Ministerial Conference on Immunization in Africa

This is a draft agenda and is subject to change. Please check back for updates.

BACKGROUND

The Meningitis Vaccine Project (MVP), a partnership between PATH and the World Health Organization (WHO) was launched in June 2001 and formally ended in December 2014. The goal of MVP was to eliminate epidemic meningitis as a public health problem in sub-Saharan Africa through the development, testing, licensure, and widespread introduction of meningococcal conjugate vaccines. The MVP partnership achieved great success. To ensure continued progress, the successful transition of key interventions into existing routine immunization programmes must occur. Mass vaccination campaigns with MenAfriVac will continue in the meningitis belt countries until December 2016 and the introduction of the vaccine in routine programmes will begin in early 2016. This project closure conference is convening representatives from all 26 meningitis belt countries as well as all key MVP partners to share and celebrate accomplishments, and to plan for the next steps for the meningitis belt countries. The conference will take place on 22-23 February 2016 at the Addis Ababa Sheraton hotel, as a pre-satellite meeting to the Pan African Ministerial Conference on Immunization in Africa taking place on 24-25 February at the African Union Commission (AUC). All MVP partners and representatives of the 26 countries of the meningitis belt are invited to both the MVP Closure Conference and the Ministerial Conference.

Note: In light of the WHO recent announcement of the Zika virus as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC - currently graded 2), a special session has been added to the agenda. The session intends to present and discuss Zika preparedness and response activities to be instituted in the African Region in line with the WHO guidelines recently distributed to Member States.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the conference include:

1. Celebrating MVP's success and recognizing contributions
2. Sharing results, experiences and lessons learned
3. Planning the next steps to ensure continued support for the remaining vaccination campaigns and a smooth transition into routine immunization programmes

Monday, 22 February 2016

Describing the MVP experience and its public health results

Tuesday, 23 February 2016

Ensuring an effective transition into routine immunization programmes

Wednesday, 24 February 2016

Ministerial Conference on Immunization in Africa

Evening - 19:00-22:00

Ministerial Conference cocktail reception and MVP Celebration, recognition awards

Thursday, 25 February 2016

Ministerial Conference on Immunization in Africa

The Meningitis Vaccine Project Closure Conference - A satellite meeting to the Ministerial Conference on Immunization in Africa - Ending and new beginnings



MONDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2016

08:00-08:30 ARRIVALS AND REGISTRATION

08:30-09:30 INAUGURAL CEREMONY

- Administrative announcements, security briefing
- Welcome address
- Opening
- Objectives of the conference and agenda

(Group photo)

09:30-12:30 SESSION ONE, Part 1

The Meningitis Vaccine Project: results and experiences

09:30-09:50 KEYNOTE

Project lifeline and highlights

Creation, evolution and key decisions, product development partnership

09:50-10:45

Vaccine development

- A new meningococcal A conjugate vaccine

Discussion and Audience Q&A

10:45-11:15 MORNING BREAK

11:15-12:00

Vaccine Development

- Regulatory pathways
- Ethics and community perspectives
- The role of communication

Discussion and Audience Q&A

12:00-12:30

Vaccine introduction

- Vaccine rollout
- Country introduction experience

Discussion and Audience Q&A

12:30-13:30 LUNCH BREAK

13:30-18:00 SESSION ONE, Part 2

The Meningitis Vaccine Project: results and experiences

13:30-14:50

Meningitis surveillance in the African meningitis belt

Public health impact of MenAfriVac: the first four years

Impact of MenAfriVac on meningococcal carriage

MenAfriCar

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Discussion and Audience Q&A

14:50-15:45

Pharmacovigilance and vaccine safety

Immune persistence and protection

Discussion and Audience Q&A

15:45-16:00 AFTERNOON BREAK

16:00-16:30

An anti-tetanus vaccine

Discussion and Audience Q&A

16:30-18:00

Transition to routine vaccination

- Clinical research results
- Modelling of strategies
- Economic impact
- Recommendations

Discussion and Audience Q&A

19:00-22:00 RECEPTION

Cocktail and Dinner

TUESDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2016

08:30-12:00 SESSION TWO, Part 1

The Future: routine immunization, surveillance and impact, next generation vaccines

08:30-09:00 KEYNOTE

09:00-10:30

Forward plans

- Sera and Data Access programme
- Antibody persistence studies
- MenAfriNet, a regional catalyst
- A country experience for sustainable surveillance
- Multivalent conjugate vaccines for the African meningitis belt

Discussion and Audience Q&A

10:30-11:00 MORNING BREAK

11:00-12:00

Sharing the Ethiopia experience: plans for routine vaccine introduction and disease surveillance, building on lessons learned

Discussion and Audience Q&A

12:00-13:00 LUNCH BREAK



13:00-18:30 **SESSION TWO, Part 2**

The Future: routine immunization, surveillance and impact, next generation vaccines

13:00-15:00

Transitioning the MenA conjugate vaccine in routine immunization programmes

KEYNOTE

Gavi's role in strengthening immunization systems and reducing meningitis burden in Africa

Discussion and Audience Q&A

- Overview of plans in the meningitis belt
- Gavi programme management, policies and processes
- Waiting for an affordable multivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine

Discussion and Audience Q&A

15:30-16:00 **AFTERNOON BREAK**

16:00-16:30

Special session on Zika virus as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern

- Zika virus preparedness and response activities to be instituted in the African Region

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Discussion and Audience Q&A

16:30-18:30

Planning for the next meningitis epidemic season

- Revised Standard Operating Procedures for meningitis control
- Risk of group C outbreaks and preparedness in the Belt for 2016
- Meningococcal serogroup C outbreak in Niger, 2015
- Preparedness for 2016 meningitis epidemics in Nigeria
- ICG emergency meningitis vaccine stockpile for 2016

Discussion and Audience Q&A

WEDNESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2016

Ministerial Conference on Immunization in Africa

Draft agenda <http://immunizationin africa2016.org/agenda/>

19:00-22:00 **SESSION THREE**

Ministerial Conference cocktail reception and MVP Celebration, recognition awards

THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2016

Ministerial Conference on Immunization in Africa

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