

# **Opportunities for Vaccine Introduction and Identifying Knowledge Gaps**

Ad-hoc Working Group  
SAGE  
11 April 2012

Narendra Arora  
SAGE Member

# **Grasp opportunities for improving Immunization and Health Systems**

- Broadly strengthen laboratory, surveillance and health information management systems
- Provide more supportive supervision
- Improve timeliness of other vaccinations
  - Identify hard-to-reach populations
  - Track defaulters
- Explore/implement joint delivery of vaccine with other appropriate disease prevention and control efforts
- Strengthen waste management

# Planning for Vaccine Introduction (I)

- Consideration and planning are often inadequate
  - All requirements of vaccine introduction
  - Collateral non-vaccine costs of vaccine introduction
- Properly planned and prepared vaccine introduction should strengthen immunization and health systems

# Planning for Vaccine Introduction (II)

- Vaccine delivery through campaigns is effective in reaching population in timely fashion but can potentially harm routine vaccine coverage and other primary health care services
- Planning should take into account anti-vaccine lobby
  - Ensure appropriate social mobilization
- Delayed/inadequate funding can severely compromise all aspects of implementation

# Gaps in Knowledge (I)

- Integration with immunization delivery
  - What are the most appropriate synergistic health interventions?
  - Under what circumstances?
  - What additional resources are needed?
- Is there a redirection of resources from other health programs (to meet co-financing requirements)?
- What can be done to improve equity of access and health benefits when a vaccine is being introduced?

# Gaps in Knowledge (II)

- What are the true costs of vaccine introductions on the peripheral health workforce and infrastructure?
- Does current donor/partner support to countries facilitate country efforts to prepare for the vaccine introduction?

# Gaps in Knowledge (III)

- How can the success of a vaccine introduction be appropriately measured?
- What are the health system determinants of success?
- What specific measures can be incorporated into policy and programme architecture to enhance accountability?

# Gaps in Knowledge (IV)

- Is providing the updated WHO document “Principles and considerations for adding a vaccine to a national immunization programmes” adequate to facilitate vaccine introductions that also strengthen immunization and health systems?