

SAGE Working Group on Vaccination in Humanitarian Emergencies

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Introduction

- Vaccine preventable diseases occurring in recent humanitarian emergencies have highlighted the need for a comprehensive and evidence based public health decision making framework for vaccination in humanitarian emergencies
- The SAGE Working Group on Vaccination in Humanitarian Emergencies (SAGE WGVHE) was formed in June 2011 to determine key scientific, ethical, economic, public health, operational and political criteria that should be part of such a decision making framework

Definition of Acute Emergency

- Sudden, unplanned displacement of people
- New or exacerbated conflict
- Rapid deterioration of nutritional status
- Natural or industrial disaster
- Severe, rapid disruption of critical services

Objective

- Broad objective:
 - To develop a framework for public health decision-making for vaccination in humanitarian emergencies
 - To determine key considerations (scientific, ethical, economic, public health, operational and political) and processes that should be part of such a decision making framework
- Specific objectives:
 1. Literature review of current guidelines, recommendations, and literature on recent experiences on vaccine use in humanitarian emergencies
 2. Case studies of decision making processes and considerations in recent or ongoing humanitarian emergencies to determine regarding vaccine use in humanitarian emergencies
 3. Review of ethical considerations in use of vaccines in humanitarian emergencies
 4. Development of the decision making framework on use of vaccines in humanitarian emergencies

Activities

- Phase One:
 - 3 sub-groups (SG) were formed to address the three key areas of work
 - SG1: (a). Review of guidelines and literature on experiences of vaccines use in emergencies; (b). Case studies of decision making experience in recent humanitarian emergencies
 - SG2: Review of literature and analysis of ethical considerations in use of vaccines in emergencies
 - SG3: Development of the decision making framework
 - 1st presentation to the SAGE in April 2012
- Phase Two:
 - Finalization of the draft decision making framework
 - Feedback from the SAGE
 - Feedback from key actors in humanitarian emergencies and WHO Regional offices
 - Field testing of the decision framework
 - Preparation of manuscripts for publication (e.g. Ethics paper is ready for submission)

Status

- Inputs and feedback received from this SAGE meeting by 15th May 2012 have been addressed
- Inputs and feedback from key humanitarian emergencies organizations completed
- Evidence from literature review, case studies and ethics document have been integrated in the decision making framework document
- Ethics review documents has been prepared for journal publication
- Field testing of the tool has been conducted and final draft prepared for the SAGE review on 8 November 2012

Thanks