World Health Organization

Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals (IVB)

SAGE meeting

Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization
9-12 March 2026
Hybrid meeting, WHO Geneva, Switzerland

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All meeting material, including this document and list of participants can be found online at the following link:
https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2026/03/09/default-calendar/strategic-advisory-group-of-experts-on-immunization-march-2026

This interactive pdf contains all background documents for the corresponding meeting of the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization.

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Navigation is done via the interactive table of contents page. Each session landing page contains links to the executive summary and all background documents (tagged as either essential or additional). All session documents are open as new tabs in Adobe Reader (pdf attachments).

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Notes:
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World Health Organization

Meeting of the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization

9-12 March 2026

Hybrid Meeting
WHO HQ (Geneva)

Draft Agenda

Day 1: Monday, 9 March 2026 (time is Central European Time (CET))			
Time CET	**Session**	**Purpose of session, target outcomes and questions for SAGE**	**Duration**
9:00	**Closed SAGE meeting**	Preparation of the sessions of the day.	**1h 45 min.**
10:45	**Break**	**Break**	**15 min.**
11:00	**Opening** Dr Tedros. Director General. WHO **Welcome – introduction of participants** K. O'Brien. Director IVB, WHO. 5 min. A. Scott. SAGE Chair. 5 min. A. Wilder-Smith. SAGE Secretariat. WHO. 5 min.		**15 min.**
11:15	**Global and regional reports – Session 1** Report from the Director of IVB, K. O'Brien. WHO. 20 min. Update from Gavi, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. S. Nishtar. GAVI. 10 min. Discussion. 40 min.	**FOR INFORMATION**	**1h 15 min.**
12:30	**Lunch Break**	**Break**	**1h**
13:30	**Global and regional reports – Session 1 continued: Regional reports** Presentations from AFRO, EMRO, EURO. 10 min. each. Discussion. 10 min. Presentations from PAHO, WPRO, SEARO. 10 min. each. Discussion. 30 min.	**FOR DISCUSSION** Each Regional report focuses on one theme of particular importance for the Region	**2h**
15:30	**Break**	**Break**	**15 min.**
15:45	**From midterm IA2030 review to Future of Immunization – Session 2** Introduction. B. Millinchip, WHO. 5 min.	**FOR DISCUSSION**	**1h 30 min.**

	IA2030 reform – the role of SAGE. B. Millinchip, WHO. 10 min. Discussion. 20 min. Future of Immunization Policy Making. E. Lemango, UNICEF. 15 min. Discussion. 35 min. Conclusions and next steps. B. Millinchip, WHO. 10 min.		
17:15	**End of day 1**		

Day 2: Tuesday, 10 March 2026			
Time CET	**Session**	**Purpose of session, target outcomes and questions for SAGE**	**Duration**
9:00	**Closed SAGE meeting**	Development of recommendations of day 1. Preparation of the sessions of the day. Other important discussion items.	**1h 45 min.**
10:45	**Break**	**Break**	**15 min.**
11:00	**Vaccine Portfolio Optimisation and Prioritisation (VPOP) – Session 3** Background and progress on the VPOP approach, available tools and their implementation. J. Fihman, WHO. 20 min. Country presentation on optimization: • Experience from Iran – prioritization of NVI and perspective on future optimisation opportunities, A. Fotouhi, NITAG Chair. 15 min. • Experience from Ethiopia: prioritisation of NVI and perspectives on optimisation, TBC. 15 min. • Experience from Mozambique: considerations on portfolio optimization, J. Sacarlal, NITAG Chair, 15 min. Opportunities and challenges to support countries in NVI prioritization and portfolio optimization. Y. Berhane, SAGE member. 5 min. Discussion. 50 min.	**FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION** The purpose of the session is to update SAGE on ongoing efforts on VPOP and seek guidance on the role SAGE can take to guide countries in these efforts and protect country ownership in a context of increased financial constraints.	**2h**
13:00	**Lunch Break**	**Break**	**1h**
14:00	**Typhoid – Session 4** Opening, framing, and key policy questions. S. Omer, SAGE WG Chair. 10 min. Available TCV vaccines and market update. G. Stathopoulos. 10 min.	**FOR RECOMMENDATION** The purpose of this session is to review and assess new epidemiological, empirical, and modelling evidence relevant to optimal TCV dosing schedules. In light of updated data on duration of protection following a single dose, emerging evidence on booster doses, and	**(3h 45 min. total)** **1h 45 min.**

	Questions. 5 min. Global epidemiology of typhoid fever and burden of disease. J. Crump, University of Otago. 20 min. Discussion. 10 min. Overview of TCV safety, efficacy/effectiveness, duration of protection, and immunogenicity of a TCV booster dose . X. Liu. 30 min. Discussion. 10 min.	context-specific modelling analyses, SAGE feedback is sought on potential updates to WHO recommendations.	
15:45	**Break**	**Break**	**15 min.**
16:00	**Typhoid – Session 4 continued** Multi-model comparison of long-term typhoid conjugate vaccine (TCV) impact and booster scenarios. V. Pitzer, Yale School of Public Health. 20 min. Questions. 10 min. Country questionnaire on acceptability/ feasibility of TCV schedules. M. Carey. 10 min. Questions. 5 min. Draft recommendations. S. Omer, SAGE WG Chair. 15 min. Discussion. 60 min.	**FOR RECOMMENDATION** Specifically, SAGE advice is requested on: • whether evidence of waning protection following a single TCV dose supports consideration of alternative dosing strategies; • how modelling assumptions related to disease incidence, case fatality ratio, and cost of illness should inform context-specific recommendations; • how available data on booster doses, including immunogenicity and safety in the absence of direct efficacy data, should be interpreted for policy.	**2h**
18:00	**End of day 2**		

Day 3: Wednesday, 11 March 2026			
Time CET	**Session**	**Purpose of session, target outcomes and questions for SAGE**	**Duration**
9:00	**Closed SAGE meeting**	Development of recommendations of day 2. Preparation of the sessions of the day. Other important discussion items.	**2h**
11:00	**Break**	**Break**	**15 min.**
11:15	**COVID-19– Session 5** Opening remarks. S. Kochhar, Chair SAGE COVID-19 Working Group. 5 min. Global COVID-19 epidemiological update. A. Acma, WHO. 15 min. Overview of COVID-19 vaccine safety. J. Scott, Stanford University School of Medicine. T. Cherian, MMGH. 15 min. COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness. M. Deloria Knoll, IVAC, the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. M. Marti, WHO. 20 min. Cost-effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccination. A. Tuite, Public Health Agency of Canada. 10 min. Discussion. 40 min.	**FOR RECOMMENDATIO** The purpose of this session is to review the latest global COVID-19 epidemiological situation, evidence on COVID-19 vaccine safety and effectiveness by population group, and the cost-effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccination in the current context. SAGE will be asked to advise on the proposed recommendations from the SAGE Working Group on COVID-19 vaccines. SAGE's deliberations will inform the development of a WHO Position Paper on COVID-19 vaccines.	**(4h 30 min. total)** **1h 45 min.**

13:00	**Lunch Break**	**Break**	**1h**
14:00	**COVID-19– Session 5 continued** Discussion of proposed recommendations based on Evidence to Recommendation (EtR) tables by population group. S. Kochhar, Chair SAGE COVID-19 Working Group; A. Vilajeliu, WHO. • Older adults. 25 min. • People with comorbidities. 25 min. • Health and care workers. 30 min. • Healthy adults and children. 25 min.	**FOR RECOMMENDATION**	**1h 45min.**
15:45	**Break**	**Break**	**15 min.**
16:00	**COVID-19– Session 5 continued** Pregnancy and infant burden in the Omicron era. E. R. Smith/J.Minchin Reedy, Milken Institute School of Public Health, The George Washington University. 15 min. COVID-19 vaccine safety in pregnancy and infants. M. Berrueta/A. Ciapponi, IECS. 15 min. COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness in pregnant women and infants. M. Deloria Knoll, IVAC, the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. 15 min. Discussion of proposed recommendations for pregnant women based on EtR table. S. Kochhar, Chair SAGE COVID-19 Working Group; A. Vilajeliu, WHO. 15 min.	**FOR RECOMMENDATION**	**60 min.**
17:00	**End of the plenary meeting Day 3**		

Day 4: Thursday, 12 March 2026			
Time CET	**Session**	**Purpose of session, target outcomes and questions for SAGE**	**Duration**
9:00	**Closed SAGE meeting**	Development of recommendations of day 3. Preparation of the sessions of the day. Other important discussion items.	**1h 45 min.**
10:45	**Break**	**Break**	**15 min.**
11:00	**Polio - Session 6** Session overview by Z. Memish, SAGE member, 5 min. Update from the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) including brief on GPEI governance. J. Ahmed, WHO. 15 min. Questions. 15 min. Update on bivalent oral polio vaccine (bOPV) Cessation Planning. O. Mach, WHO. 5 min. Presentation of data on number of bOPV doses needed in routine immunization; O. Mach, WHO; R.	**FOR RECOMMENDATION** SAGE will be informed on the current status of the polio eradication program and on the implementation of the new polio action plan. SAGE will be informed about current status of bOPV Cessation Planning; and about development of novel OPV1 and 3. SAGE will be asked to review and consider for endorsement:	**2h**

	Lopez, WHO & A. Bandyopadhyay, Gates Foundation. 15 min. Questions. 20 min. Report from the SAGE Polio Working Group including update on novel OPV2 (nOPV2) development; use of nOPV2 outside vaccination campaigns, duration of IPV use post-bOPV-cessation, and proposed recommendations. Z. Memish, SAGE Member. 15 min. Discussion: 30 min.	• Recommendation on number of bOPV doses in routine immunization when >=3 IPV doses are included.
13:00	**Closing of plenary meeting**	
13:10	**End of the plenary meeting Day 4**	

SESSION 1: GLOBAL AND REGIONAL REPORTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
1.0	Executive summary: Global and regional reports

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (essential)	
-	None

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (additional)	
1.1	Meeting report of the Regional Immunization Technical Advisory Group (RITAG), Eastern Mediterranean Region, Cairo, Egypt 11 – 12 February 2026
1.2	Meeting report of the Regional Immunization Technical Advisory Group (RITAG), Eastern Mediterranean Region Cairo, Egypt 25 – 26 August 2025
1.3	Highlights from 25th Meeting of the European Technical Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization, 17-18 November 2025
1.4	Meeting Report of the Sixteenth WHO South-East Asia Regional Immunization Technical Advisory Group 16–18 September 2025 New Delhi, India
1.5	Meeting Report of the South-East Asia Regional Working Group on Immunization New Delhi, India, 7–9 July 2025
1.6	Main outcomes of the meeting of the WHO Expert Committee on Biological Standardization held from 13 to 16 October 2025

SESSION 2: IA2030/ FUTURE OF IMMUNIZATION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
2.0	Executive Summary: IA2030

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (essential)	
2.1	Immunization Agenda 2030 Mid-Term Review
2.2	Future of Immunization. SAGE Briefing Document, March 2026 SAGE Meeting.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (additional)	
-	None

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SESSION 3: VACCINE PORTFOLIO OPTIMISATION AND PRIORITISATION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
3.0	Executive Summary: Vaccine Portfolio Optimisation and Prioritisation (VPOP)

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (essential)	
3.1	VPOP toolkit and guidance on portfolio optimisation
3.2	Meeting report of the sixth Global NITAG Network (GNN) meeting 25-27 November 2025, Marrakech, Morocco
3.3	Prioritization of future new vaccines introduction: The experience of the Ethiopian National Immunization Technical Advisory Group, Vaccine, Volume 68, 2025,127932

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (additional)	
-	None

SESSION 4: TYPHOID

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
4.0	Executive Summary: Typhoid

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (essential)	
4.1	TCV SAGE background document
4.2	GRADE Tables TCV
4.3	Evidence to Recommendation Framework TCV-Part I
4.4	Evidence to Recommendation Framework TCV-Part II
4.5	Draft TCV recommendation
4.6	Draft typhoid incidence definitions document
4.7	SAGE modelling report manuscript

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (additional)	
4.8	Survey findings on feasibility, acceptability, equity, and implementation considerations associated with TCV schedule adaptations
4.9	Modelling report supplement
4.10	Table model characteristics

SESSION 5: COVID-19

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
5.0	Executive Summary: COVID-19

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (essential)	
5.1	SAGE background document on COVID-19 vaccines
5.2	Evidence-to-Recommendations (EtR) tables by population group
5.3	COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness certainty of evidence profiles

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (additional)	
-	None

SESSION 6: POLIO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
6.0	Executive Summary: Polio

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (essential)	
6.1	Report from polio SAGE WG meeting: Conclusions and Recommendations, 2-3 February 2026
6.2	Presentation outlining the evidence on the number of bOPV doses needed in routine immunization
6.3	Report from the meeting on bOPV Cessation Planning, 1 December 2025

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (additional)	
-	None