



GLOBAL TASK FORCE ON CHOLERA CONTROL

Oral Cholera Vaccine WG virtual webinars 2020

Since the creation of the Oral Cholera Vaccines (OCV) stockpile in 2013, OCV has now become available in larger quantities and is a game-changer in the fight against cholera. It is also a key element of the Global Roadmap and play an important role in outbreak prevention and control, and in long term control of cholera. To date, over 69 million doses of OCV have been delivered in 23 countries, including 23.5 million doses in 2019. This year, containment of outbreaks has been possible with the implementation of reactive campaigns in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Mozambique, Uganda and Cameroon. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the Global Task Force on Cholera Control (GTFCC) has received vaccine requests for preventive campaigns from DRC, Yemen, Zambia, Uganda and Zanzibar representing 22 million of doses and preventive campaigns are planned to be implemented before the end of the year in several countries. OCV is also a point of entry to engage countries in developing their NCP and for the identification of hotspots using the tool developed by GTFCC: thus, Sudan, Zambia are in the process of identifying their hotspots for cholera in order to- among others -implement or review their vaccination plans.

However, the current pandemic of COVID-19 also lead to the disruption of routine immunization in the world and several OCV campaigns were impacted. Campaigns were delayed in Malawi and Mozambique and second round cancelled in Bangladesh. Furthermore, producers downgraded their production of OCV and only 18 million doses were produced this year compared with 30 million last year. Finally, the COVID-19 slowed down or even interrupted research projects on cholera vaccines that were planned and discussed last year.

As the COVID-19 pandemic has precluded any real chance of hosting the usually engaging annual OCV Working Group meetings in person, we have opted for a series of 3 webinars (90 minutes) that will give the working group at least a relatively brief chance to review, debate, and propose next steps for the use of OCV. This year, the OCV working group will discuss on the impact of covid-19 on the OCV use, address critical issues in the implementation of the campaigns, review the supply availability and demand forecast, and provide an update on the research projects conducted or planned.

An overview summary of the 3 planned webinars for this topic is as follows:

Session 1 (Thursday 19th November): Updates on campaigns conducted in 2020- discussion on challenges of implementation (time of implementation, M&E...). The **goal** is to address and recommend solutions to specific issues that will permit better quality of campaigns.

Session 2 (Thursday 3rd December): Demand forecast and supply update. The goal is to provide an update on the current production of vaccines and discuss the needs of production for the coming years.

Session 3 (Thursday 10th December): Research update. **The goal** is to discuss the outcomes of the conducted research projects and discuss on the priority for research agenda for next year.