



Wilton Park

Provisional programme

Vaccine literacy: immunisation training for community-based health workers and immunisation professionals

Wednesday 22 July 2020 | WP1811

COVID-19 has led to a reduction in vaccination rates, threatening health gains made through vaccination for diseases from measles through to meningitis. A recent [joint report](#) from WHO, UNICEF and GAVI estimates at least 80 million children under one are at risk of diseases like diphtheria, measles and polio. Circumstances created by COVID have made access to vaccination services challenging. However, critical to maintaining immunisation uptake are community-based health workers and immunisation professionals. They are also critical to ensuring uptake of any new COVID-19 vaccines when they are available. Health workers face numerous challenges in their work, from vaccine hesitancy due to numerous drivers including lack of trust, bad experiences of the health system, lack of information and support and lack of resources. Training and support for these critical pillars of the health system, which is context specific and develops a community of practice is paramount to reversing the downward trend in vaccination and also addressing COVID-19 for the future.

In association with Ariadne Labs, the Community Health Academy at Last Mile Health and the Sabin Vaccine Institute

Wednesday 22 July

1600-1615

Welcome and introduction

Nancy Lee

Programme Director, Wilton Park, Steyning

Lesley-Anne Long

Independent Consultant, Washington DC

Rebecca Weintraub

Director, Global Health Delivery Project and Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School, Boston

In association with:



LAST
MILE
HEALTH



1615-1705

1a. Overview - impact of COVID-19 on community-based health workers and immunisation professionals: current state

Training and capacity strengthening for health workers is critical to ensuring they are able to impactfully do their work of helping the hard to reach and most vulnerable. COVID-19 has significantly impacted the climate and environment in which health workers and immunisation professionals now find themselves. This is an opportunity to hear where people are at. What challenges are people now facing that training, capacity strengthening, and support networks/ partnerships can address?

Jennifer (Fluder) Siler

Director, Global Community Engagement, The Sabin Vaccine Institute, Washington DC

Magnus Conteh

Executive Director, Community Health Academy, Last Mile Health, Boston

Adolphus Clarke

Programme Manager, Expanded Programme on Immunisation, Ministry of Health, Monrovia

Francis Dien Mwansa

National EPI Manager, Ministry of Health, Zambia

1b. Breakout groups

- What are the challenges you are facing in delivering vaccine and immunisation services?
- What do you need - focusing on training, capacity strengthening (from technical through to operational and managerial) and support - to help address these challenges?

1c. Feedback in plenary

1705-1755

2a. Funding models to support training, capacity strengthening and networks

Given the critical need to support community-based health workers and immunisation professionals in the current and post COVID-19 environment, what financing frameworks and funding mechanisms are there to support training, capacity building and networks? Are these still fit for purpose? What other opportunities might/could exist for support?

Susan Mackay

Head, Demand, Communities and Gender, GAVI The Vaccine Alliance, Geneva

Lori Sloate

Senior Director, Global Health, UN Foundation, Washington DC

2b. Breakout groups

- What are the existing modalities and funding mechanisms to support training, capacity building and support networks?
- What are the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) of each of these modalities and mechanisms? How could these modalities be improved?

2c. Feedback in plenary

1755-1800

Break

1800-1850

3a. What training, capacity strengthening and support networks are needed to move forward: preparing for COVID-19 vaccine/s

Global efforts are currently focused on developing, trialling, manufacturing and distributing safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines to curb the impact of the virus on lives and livelihoods across the globe. Community-based health workers and immunisation professionals will be again at the forefront of ensuring populations everywhere are able to access and choose to take up vaccines. They will be critical to the successful trials being carried out and populations being kept abreast of information related to new COVID-19 vaccines as well as dealing with the concerns of populations regarding vaccines. What are different multilateral organisations and others doing to prepare populations for new COVID-19 and the challenges these might entail?

Robert Kanwagi

Programme Coordinator, EBODAC, World Vision, Dublin

Lisa Menning

Team Lead, World Health Organisation (WHO), Geneva

3b. Breakout groups

- What are the priority requirements of training, capacity strengthening and support networks in preparation for COVID-19 vaccines?
- What longer term requirements and challenges might COVID-19 vaccine trials and new vaccines present? Eg reaching populations many countries have not previously engaged with in immunisation, including the elderly and health workers; supporting clinical trials with short lead in time, lessons from Ebola?
- Are more information/toolkits to support engagement required around safety, how vaccines work, guidance on how to respond to mis- and disinformation, claims of poor health systems experiences/lack of trust in governments etc.
- How accessible are training and capacity strengthening initiatives and can digital platforms support training and capacity- strengthening?

3c. Feedback in plenary

1850-1855

4. Next steps

- Who else needs to be engaged in these discussions?
- How can actions be taken forward?
- What would this group like to see happen next?

Jennifer (Fluder) Siler

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Magnus Conteh

Executive Director, Community Health Academy, Last Mile Health, Boston

Rebecca Weintraub

Director, Global Health Delivery Project and Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School, Boston

1855-1900

5. Summary and conclusion

Nancy Lee

Programme Director, Wilton Park, Steyning

Lesley-Anne Long

Independent Consultant, Washington DC

This is a preview programme and as such may be subject to change.

This is an invitation only conference.

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