

RVF Programs in Russia

Modernize the Russian National Vaccination Calendar for children by introducing the vaccine against *Haemophilus influenzae type b* (Hib) disease

Partners: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Moscow Central Institute of Epidemiology, Total, USAID

Phase 1: Pilot Vaccination programs in European Russia to prove the safety and efficacy of the Hib vaccine



RVF President Elena Rostropovich visits a children's hospital in Yaroslavl, Russia

- The RVF is conducting two pilot vaccination programs against *Haemophilus influenzae type b* (Hib), which causes intrusive infections of infants such as meningitis and pneumonia. One pilot program is taking place in the city of Yaroslavl, an ancient city near Moscow, and another in the Murmansk region. Murmansk is the largest city above the Arctic Circle. Meningitis and other serious infections caused by Hib can lead to brain damage and death.
- The project was requested by Chief Sanitary Physician of the Russian Federation, Dr. Onishenko, because research on Hib in European Russia sponsored by the RVF in 2005- 2006 showed high rates of infection in children in Yaroslavl and Murmansk
- All children aged 2 months to 2 years – a total of 50,000 children – are being vaccinated during 2007-2008.
- RVF received a grant from the French energy company Total to finance the pilot vaccination programs.

Phase 2: Research on the prevalence of Hib infection in the Russian Far East to complete the national epidemiological picture of this serious infection

- Hib research by the RVF has been extended to the Russian Far East – Vladivostok, Ulan Ude, Irkutsk and Yakutsk - thanks to grant from USAID. Results of this research will create clear national picture of looming public health problem.
- All participating laboratories have been upgraded with freezers, microscopes, incubators, and necessary supplies
- Microbiologists have been trained on techniques of isolating Hib, thus improving their capacity; clinicians have been trained on Hib to coordinate work with microbiologists

Phase 3: Pilot vaccination program in the Russian Far East (Vladivostok)

- In 2008 the RVF launched a third Hib vaccination pilot program in Vladivostok in the Russian Far East for children aged <2 years to provide further evidence on the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine.

Sustainability: It is expected that by 2009 the Hib vaccine will be included in the Russian National Immunization Calendar and all children in Russia under 2 years of age will be vaccinated against Hib at the expense of the Ministry of Health.

Automate the collection and analysis of immunization data by introducing standardized software

Partners: Local Departments of Health, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

- RVF has financed the development of software approved by the Russian Ministry of Health to process vaccination data
- 392 computers with standardized immunization software have been provided to hospitals and polyclinics in 14 regions in European Russia and Siberia
- Personnel at hospitals and polyclinics are being trained on the use of the immunization software in their work on the vaccination of children
- Instantaneous availability of salient data is enabling health authorities to maximize vaccination coverage rates and plan immunization strategy

Sustainability: Local Health Departments are financing 100% of the sustainability costs.

Provide Medical and Social Outreach to Street Children and Youth

Partners: St. Petersburg Municipal Government; Russian Orthodox Church, Russian NGOs

- Program coordinates public and private sector services to street children to prevent overlap, maximize effectiveness and create mechanisms of sustainability
- Approach is based on proven model used in other countries, including France and the United States
- Launch Date: Fall of 2008

Sustainability: Pilot Program expected to be a model replicated and financed by local partners