

Summary of RVF Programs in Azerbaijan

Elimination of Measles and Prevention of Congenital Rubella Syndrome (CRS)

Partners: Azerbaijani Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF, U.S. Department of Agriculture and USAID

- Routine vaccination of all children aged 12 months and six years against measles, mumps and rubella (MMR):
- Approximately 1 million children have been vaccinated since 2003. Vaccination coverage rates are > 95%.
- To accelerate the eradication of measles and the prevention of congenital rubella syndrome (CRS), the RVF supported a mass immunization campaign against measles and rubella in March 2006. A total of 2.9 million individuals, including all children and adults aged 7 – 29 years and all women of childbearing age, were vaccinated against measles and rubella.
- The number cases of measles and rubella has declined sharply from 1238 cases in 2005 to 5 cases in the first half of 2007



School girl at IDP Camp in Sabirabad, Azerbaijan

Sustainability: The Azerbaijani Ministry of Health is financing 60% of the MMR vaccination program in 2008 and will finance 100% of the program in 2009.

Deworming of Impoverished School Children

Partners: Azerbaijani Ministry of Health, U.S. Department of Agriculture, World Food Program

- Pilot campaign in 2007 treated 16,000 school children and reduced rate of infestation from 31% to 3%
- De-worming campaign in September 2007 covered 150,000 school children in 17 districts to improve learning and school attendance
- De-worming campaign in September 2008 will cover additional 100,000 school children in 29 districts
- Treatment with the drug mebendazol is safe, highly effective and inexpensive
- Laboratory diagnoses to identify pre- and post-treatment disease burden
- Training in personal hygiene for children, families, and teachers, including provision of hand washing supplies, to reduce rate of re-infection

Sustainability: Azerbaijani Ministry of Health will assume 100% financial responsibility for administrative expenses in 2009.

Electronic Integrated Disease Surveillance System for Rapid Response to Disease Outbreaks

Partners: Azerbaijani Ministry of Health, U.S. Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), World Health Organization (WHO), U.S. Department of Agriculture

- RVF is supplying computers, software, internet communication capacity and printers to district medical centers for the deployment of an electronic integrated disease surveillance system throughout the country
- Training of health personnel on basic computer knowledge and Electronic Integrated Disease Surveillance System (EIDSS) is ongoing
- System for reliable reporting on infectious diseases burden and rapid response is to be in place by end of 2008

Sustainability: Azerbaijani Ministry of Health will assume 100% responsibility for operation and maintenance of system

Strengthening of Vaccination Cold Chain Infrastructure

Partners: Azerbaijani Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF, U.S. Department of Agriculture

- Vaccine Cold Chain Equipment has been provided throughout country: refrigerators, generators, voltage regulators
- Two model regional central vaccine storage facilities were completed in 2008 and are now fully operational.
- National guidelines on proper vaccine storage were developed according to WHO recommendations and national training seminars for medical and technical personnel have been conducted

Sustainability: The Azerbaijani Ministry of Health is replicating the model central vaccine storage facilities in other parts of the country and maintaining all cold chain equipment.

Hib Epidemiological Surveillance Program

Partners: Ministry of Health, Republican Center of Hygiene and Epidemiology, WHO

- According to MOH statistics, close to 300 suspected meningitis cases are registered every year
- Children aged 1-5 years will be screened for Haemophilus influenzae type B
- All participating laboratories have been upgraded with freezers, microscopes, incubators, and the necessary medical supplies.
- Microbiologists will be trained on techniques of isolating Hib, thus improving the diagnostic capability of laboratories, and clinicians will be trained on Hib to coordinate their work with microbiologists
- The program is scheduled began in July 2008

Sustainability: MOH will begin vaccinating all children against Hib in 2009.