



Rostropovich - Vishnevskaya Foundation *for the health and future of children*

Summary of RVF Programs in Azerbaijan

Screening to Prevent the Transmission of Hepatitis B and HIV from Mother to Child

Partners: Azerbaijani Ministry of Health

- Launched in March 2009 the program includes prenatal screening of all pregnant women in the country – a total of about 150,000 women yearly – for HIV and hepatitis B using WHO prequalified rapid tests for these viruses.
- In the case of women found to be HIV positive, government resources are already available to perform confirmatory testing and to begin appropriate preventive treatment of mother and baby.
- For newborns of women found to be hepatitis B carriers, the program provides the immediate administration of hepatitis B immunoglobulin (HBIG) to complement the extant neonatal vaccination program of the government.



School girl at IDP Camp in Sabirabad, Azerbaijan

Sustainability: The program has been endorsed by the minister of health for continued funding by the government beginning in 2011.

Success Story: 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 1.1 million children have been vaccinated since the program began in 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 2.5 million individuals, including all children and adults aged 7 – 29 years and all women of childbearing age, were vaccinated against measles and rubella.

Sustainability: As of January 1, 2009 the Azerbaijani Ministry of Health is financing 100% of the program; thus, full sustainability has been achieved.

Deworming of Impoverished School Children

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

- Pilot campaign in 2007 treated 16,000 school children and reduced rate of infestation from 31% to 3%
- De-worming campaign in launched in September 2007 covered 150,000 school children in 17 districts to improve learning and school attendance
- Expanded de-worming campaign in 2008 – 2009 covers an 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 by 2010

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 and timely reporting on infectious diseases burden and rapid response has been deployed throughout the country for testing. System to be fully operation by the end of 2009

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
- All participating laboratories have been upgraded with freezers, microscopes, incubators, and the necessary medical supplies.
- Microbiologists are undergoing training 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
- All children aged 1-5 years will be screened for Haemophilus influenzae type b by the spring of 2009.

Sustainability: MOH will begin vaccinating all children against Hib in 2010