

17.3 Poliomyelitis

SRI LANKA

Thank you Chair

The report of the Director General is noted

Poliovirus type 2 withdrawal has been initiated as a globally synchronized procedure, in which Sri Lanka also was in par with the global strategies. New Polio Endgame strategic plan developing for 2019-2023 expected to address remaining gaps targeting for global eradication.

- The Epidemiology Unit in the Ministry of Health is the central coordinating agency for the Poliomyelitis Eradication Initiative in Sri Lanka, in which National AFP Surveillance, receives information about all AFP cases from clinicians in curative institutions.
- Above 95% uniform Oral Polio vaccination (OPV) coverage is maintained in the country for past 10 years. Supplementary immunization with OPV, in National Immunization Days, Sub National Immunization Days and Mopping up campaigns were conducted since 1995-2003 in achieving and maintaining polio free status in the country.
- Sri Lanka has successfully completed the “Polio Switch” procedure to withdraw poliovirus type 2 on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2016.
- Inactivated Polio Vaccine (0.5 ml intramuscular) has been successfully introduced in June 2015 ahead of “Polio Switch” procedure to maintain Poliovirus type 2 immunity.
- In response to address the global scarcity and the short supply of IPV, Sri Lanka is the first country nationally introduced fractional dose (0.1 ml dose intradermal) IPV schedule throughout the country and faced the challenges successfully to maintain population level polio type 2 immunity.
- Serological assessment was done in 2018 to compare PV type 2 immunity to one full dose with 2-fractional doses ensured adequate population level immunity.

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- Under the guidance of the National laboratory containment committee, Sri Lanka was certified as not having any wild poliovirus (WPV) or potentially WPV infectious material in 2005. Therefore, as specified under phase 11b of Global Action Plan for Poliomyelitis 111 (GAP111) of WHO, the task ahead is to ensure that laboratories holding any material collected prior to August 2016, (three months from the switch) which can potentially contain OPV2 viruses be destroyed at the earliest.
  
- Sri Lanka is intensely and closely monitoring the country poliomyelitis eradication situation, with all other member states in the region in par with global strategies and recommendations.

**Polio transition and post-certification**

- Polio Transition plans are not applicable to Sri Lanka as National Polio Eradication programme in Sri Lanka is totally funded and implemented by the Ministry of Health.
  
- All intra structure facilities for Polio Eradication Programme is totally provided by the Ministry of Health throughout the country and already integrated with National Immunization and National surveillance programmes