

**Minutes of the National review meeting of cold chain officers held at Lucknow on 15-16<sup>th</sup> January 2008.**

A meeting of state cold chain officers/ in-charge cold chain of Orissa, Haryana, M.P, J&K, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, Chandigarh (UT) & Jharkhand held at Lucknow on 15-16<sup>th</sup> January 2008. All concerned officers except Chandigarh (UT) attended the meeting. CMO, MSD Karnal was also present. The list of the participants is enclosed at Annexure –I

The meeting started with welcome address by Dr. Naresh Goel, Assistant Commissioner (UIP). During the opening remarks, Dr. Rajendra Kumar, Director (MCH), GoUP highlighted the importance of cold chain, supply and distribution of vaccine in routine immunization program.

All the partners gave their opening remarks and stressed on the necessity of holding such review meeting to address the cold chain issues.

Dr. Naresh Goel, presented an overview of cold chain, new initiatives and achievements in RI during the year 2007-08 and future plan. He also stressed on the role of preventive maintenance of the cold chain equipments and proper storage of vaccines at different level.

Mr. Vikram Singh presented the procurement procedure in Government of India and their limitation in tender process. Mr Vikram Singh indicated that difference between evaluated and reported coverage, wrong calculation of BCG vaccine, late submission of vaccine requirement for immunization weeks and campaign disturbs the plan of procurement.

During the discussions with Mr. Vikram Singh, it was pointed out that a clarification regarding door delivery of the vaccine is required to be issued from GoI. States are required to submit the correct consignee and door delivery address to the GoI, so that manufacturers may be informed accordingly.

It was also pointed out that some times diluents are not supplied with the vaccine. GoI will take necessary action. States were also requested to inform such cases to Ministry immediately.

It has been pointed out that shortage of diluents remains in the field due to heavy breakage of ampoules. He suggested that the diluents be supplied in plastic ampoules and extra quantity of diluents be supplied to the states

It was also highlighted that since there is a difference between quality and cost factor, procurement is affected. He suggested that the specifications of the cold chain equipment should be strengthen so that only quality product is procured.

12 states presented the status of cold chain, progress and requirement of their state. The key excerpts from the states are as under:

- Some states do not have the funds for POL and repairs of vaccine van .
- The utilization of the funds allotted in the cold chain is too low; it is due to non-receipt of UCs from the field.
- There is no record of discard of vaccines due to expiry date, VVM at discarding point, freezing of vaccines, breakage of vials etc. in the State.
- MP requested a guideline for the visit of cold chain technicians in the field. Technicians should get some advance while on tour for repairs which will reduce the breakdown time.

- Frequent transfer of handlers affects the program.
- J&K indicated the requirement of solar refrigerator for the Doda district which is a remote area and power supply is not available.
- There are no cold chain technicians in Jharkhand. Equipments are being maintained through AMC but the performance of contractor is not satisfactory. The breakdown percentage is 8%.
- Few states do not provide AD syringes to private practitioners.
- Mobility support to the CCOs is not available.
- Cold chain handlers training should be the regular practice. All handlers should get training after every alternate year. The module for the training of cold chain handlers is also needs to be updated.
- Freeze indicators should be provided at every stage of storage of vaccine to assure quality vaccination.
- A job chart of the cold chain technicians should be circulated mentioning their responsibilities. The technicians should not be limited with repairs but he should be responsible for whole cold chain system.
- Dr. Srihari Dutta, suggested that the designation of the refrigerator mechanics should be changed as they are responsible for complete management of cold chain system of the district.
- States are not submitting quarterly report of cold chain; it is required for proper management.
- The after sales service of M/s Haier Appliances under warrantee for Haier ILRs is not satisfactory.
- The ToR of technical assistant attached with cold chain officers is required to be reviewed. It should be the technical person of the rank of supervisor.
- There is a shortage of tools with technicians. Dr. Satish Gupta informed that supply order for tool kits is placed by the Unicef.
- Few States do not have cold chain officers and technicians as the states/districts created after the sanction of posts by GoI. Some states had abolished the post of technicians.
- One new WIC is required to be installed in Chhattisgarh, the civil work is not started, it should be expedited. Cold Chain Consultant, New Delhi is required to visit Chhattisgarh to identify the problem.
- A cold chain assessment was done in Chhattisgarh state during 2005-06. The state need to submit action taken report to MoHFW, GoI, urgently.
- Few states demanded the refrigerated vehicle for the transportation of the vaccine. The possibility and requirement will be assessed.
- The name of the vendor for the supply of the basket will be shared with the states.
- The cold chain officer should be associated during the preparation of state PIP of the RI.
- All the cold chain reporting formats should be standardized.

Dr. Shri Hari Dutta, and Mr. Jena, presented the VMAT study carried out in Orissa. Dr. Dutta indicated that action plan is now prepared and it is required to be implemented immediately. He suggested that each equipment should have separate voltage stabilizers. Immediate action should be taken for the repairs of WIC located at Bhubneshawar.

Mr. Soren Spanner, presented the recent developments in cold chain, freeze study undertaken and EVSM assessment carried out in Indonesia MSD Karnal. It was recommended that assessment may be done in all MSDs and in few selected states ware houses.

Dr. Renu Paruthi, presented operation of RIMS and how it is helpful in the cold chain reporting system.

Dr Karan Sagar, Immunization Basics, New Delhi, presented on the monitoring of the cold chain and the logistics. He shared the relevant parts of the routine immunization monitoring checklist being proposed by Government of India. The participants proposed some changes to the list. These would be incorporated in the checklist.

To develop the capacity of the cold chain officers and technicians, training issues was also discussed during the meeting and decisions taken are:

1. An on job training on the maintenance of WIF/WIC along with Diesel Generator sets will be under taken at SHTO Pune during the year 2008-09 for the technicians who are posted on the equipment.
2. An on job training for the repairs of stabilizers will be held for all technicians. A detailed plan is to be workout.
3. A refresher course for the cold chain officers will be held on vaccine and cold chain management.
4. The technicians left for the non-cfc training will be included in forthcoming batches. The training schedule may be extended during the next financial year to cover the left-out technicians.
5. In the curriculum of the training following topics should be included:
  - a. Vaccine and logistics management.
  - b. Identification of spare parts.
  - c. Job chart of technicians.
  - d. Maintenance of cold chain in field.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks by Dr. Satish Gupta from Unicef.

## **Action Points:-**

### **1. At Government of India level.**

- a. Clarification regarding door delivery of vaccine.
- b. Monitor the supply of diluents with vaccine; explore the possibility of plastic vial diluents and supply of extra diluents as buffer stock.
- c. Norms for POL and annual maintenance of vaccine vans for transportation of vaccine up to the lowest level are to be worked out to incorporate in PIP part C.
- d. Exploring the possibility to provide solar refrigerator for Doda district in J&K.
- e. Clarification to provide AD Syringes to Private practitioners.
- f. Cold Chain handlers modules will be revised to include newer technology, including solar refrigeration system, vaccine and logistics management etc.
- g. Exploring the possibility to provide freeze tags.
- h. Providing job chart and responsibilities of cold chain technicians to the States.
- i. Providing terms of reference for cold chain officers and TA available with CCO to the States. The availability of CCO in all states and technicians in all districts should be reviewed and guidance is required to be issued.
- j. M/s Haier appliances ltd. may be contacted for after sales service under warrantee.
- k. Installation of new WIC/WIF as per states requirements.
- l. Exploring the utility of refrigerated vehicle over insulated vaccine van. Col. N. Pathak, consultant cold chain will conduct the study and report within fifteen days.
- m. Conducting training of technicians on WIF/WIC, Generators and Stabilizers.
- n. Conducting refresher course for cold chain officers.
- o. Extending on going training schedule for non-cfc equipment to cover the left out technicians.
- p. Sharing the name of vendor supplying baskets of ILRs.
- q. Standardization of reporting formats.

### **2. States level:-**

- a. State should post technical cold chain officer at State level and technician in each district.
- b. States should submit the realistic requirement of vaccine in time.
- c. States should indicate correct name and address of consignee and place of door delivery with their requirement.
- d. In case of non receipt of diluents with the vaccine immediate information to Ministry and supplier is required.
- e. UCs and SOEs should be submitted in time.
- f. A system is required to be developed to record quantity of vaccine and ampoules of diluents discarded due to breakage, expired, freezing, VVM beyond discarded point etc.
- g. Restrict frequent transfer of cold chain handlers.

- h. The CCO should be associated during the preparation of State PIP Part C and provision for the mobility support from part of state officers mobility should be incorporated in the PIP.
- i. Conducting cold chain handlers training regularly.
- j. States should submit the quarterly performance report regularly.
- k. Chhattisgarh should start civil work for installation of WIC immediately.
- l. RIMS should be used for the reporting of cold chain data.

**List of the Participants:-**

- 1 Dr. Naresh Goel, Assistant Commissioner (UIP), GoI, New Delhi.
- 2 Dr. Rajendra Kumar, Director (MCH), GoUP, Lucknow.
- 3 Dr. A. K. Saxena, JD(MH), O/o Director of Health & FW, Lucknow, UP.
- 4 Dr. Manju Singh JD (RI), O/o Director of Health & FW, Lucknow, UP.
- 5 Mr. Pawan Kumar, State Cold Chain Officer, O/O Director of Health & FW, Lucknow, UP.
- 6 Mr. Suresh Ch. Jena, CCO, O/o Director of (FW), BBSR, Bhubhneswar, Orissa.
- 7 Mr. Sanjeeb Mohan Palo, Consultant Cold Chain, O/o Director of (FW), BBSR, Bhubhneswar, Orissa.
- 8 Mr. Alok Ranjan, State Cold Chain Officer, O/o Director of Health & FW Services, SHSB, Patna, Bihar.
- 9 Mr. Neel Ranjan Singh, Cold Chain Officer, O/o Directorate of Health and FW, Namkum, Ranchi, Jharkhand.
- 10 Mr. R.K. Sharma, SCCO, Directorate of FW, Shimla, HP.
- 11 Mr. Jasvinder Singh, Cold Chain Officer, Directorate of Health and FW, Chandigarh, Punjab.
- 12 Mr. V.K. Srivastava, State Cold Chain Officer, Directorate of FW, Bhopal, MP
- 13 Dr. V.K Sharma, CMO (NFSG), GMSD, Karnal, Haryana.
- 14 Mr. AU Bhat, State Consultant and I/c Cold Chain, Directorate of FW, near sanik school, Nagrota, Jammu.
- 15 Mr S.P. Semwal, Cold Chain Officer, O/o Director General, MH and FW, 107, Chander nagar, Dehradun, Utrakhand.
- 16 Mr. Preetam Kumar Patro, Unicef, 8, Patliputra Colony, Patna, Bihar.
- 17 Mr. Kuldeep Rai, Refrigerator Mechanic, O/o Directorate General, Health, Panchkula, Haryana.
- 18 Mr. Vikram Singh, UNOPS, New Delhi.
- 19 Dr. Karan Sagar, Immunization basics, G-2, Green Park extension Delhi.
- 20 Dr. M. Vijai Kiran Immunization basics, G-2, Green Park extension Delhi
- 21 Dr. Satish Gupta, UNICEF, 73-Lodi Estate, New Delhi-110003.
- 22 Mr. Soren Spanner, Unicef, 73, lodhi estate, New Delhi.
- 23 Dr. Nupur Gupta, 110-B Mall Avenue, Unicef, Lucknow.
- 24 Col. N.B. Pathak, 110-B Mall Avenue, Unicef, Lucknow.
- 25 Dr. Subhash Pandey, SEPIO, Raipur, Chaittisgarh.
- 26 Dr. Sidhartha Shankar, Dutta, State RIO, WHO, NPSP, Lucknow, UP.
- 27 Dr. Renu Paruthi, WHO, NPSP, New Delhi.
- 28 Dr. Srihari Dutta, Health Officer, Unicef, Orissa, Bhubhneswar.
- 29 Mr. S.K. Saxena, Consultant, Cold Chain, Unicef, New Delhi.
- 30 Mr. S.K. Jain, Sr. Statistical Officer, MoHFW, New Delhi.
- 31 Mr. S . Chakrabarti, Assistant, MoHFW, New Delhi.
- 32 Mr. Chander Dhoundiyal, Unicef, New Delhi.

