



**Global Health Council's
36th Annual International Conference on Global Health
Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, DC
26-30 May 2009**

**ADB, GlaxoSmithKline and Save the Children and Workshop:
New Horizons for Partnership: The Voice of Civil Society in Immunization
28 May 2009, 2.30-4pm**

SUMMARY

PURPOSE

This summary note reports the highlights from an auxiliary workshop held at the recent Global Health Council Annual Meeting entitled *New Horizons for Partnership: The Voice of Civil Society in Immunization*. (see attached flyer)

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Share and promote the outcomes of the Asian NGO consultation of Feb 2009; (The Asian NGO workshop proceedings was launched at this workshop. All copies were distributed to participants.)
- Catalyse a broader debate on the critical and unique role of Civil Society in immunization advocacy;
- Deepen the understanding of and encourage broader Civil Society advocacy support for immunization as part of overall efforts to improve health; and
- Encourage strong collaboration between global and regional non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to ensure effective advocacy for health and immunization.

PARTICIPANTS

With a room capacity of +50, at workshop peak, there was standing room only. There was a good cross-section of participants, including global NGOs, health technology development partners, donors, implementers, academia, and government agencies.

The noted participants included:

Global NGOs

- CARE
- CORE
- PATHFINDER
- WORLDVISION
- Save the Children



- Rotary International
- Intrahealth International
- Immunisation Basics
- Safepoint Trust
- Family Health International
- African Missions

PDPs/Donors/Agencies/Academics

- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- PATH
- USAID
- US CDC
- PAHO
- Johns Hopkins University
- Georgetown University

SESSION FLOW

Opening Session

Moderator: **Robert Steinglass**, MPH, Technical Director, IMMUNIZATIONBasics Project, John Snow, Inc (Dr Steinglass's Biography is included in Annex 1)

Expanding Advocacy: Voices from the Asian NGO Workshop

Speakers: **Robert Schoellhammer**, Principle Liaison Specialist, Asian Development Bank North American Representative Office, Washington, DC

Dr. Edwin Ylagan, Health Manager, Philippines Country Office, Save the Children

Drawing from the Asian NGO consultation and proceedings, the speakers from ADB and Save the Children addressed the following:

- ADB outlined the innovative partnership model between ADB, GSK and Save the Children, the unique workshop concept, and selected regional participants.
- ADB also shared how NGOs' ability to mobilize resources and deliver effective programming depends on good data, analysis, and advocacy efforts involving communities in all stages of this process.
- Drawing from the outcomes of the breakout sessions, Save the Children shared how information and advocacy featured specifically in four different country-specific scenarios relating to immunization challenges.

Making the Case: the Value of Vaccines

Speaker: **Dr. Kate Taylor**, Vice President, GSK Biologicals, Belgium

Dr. Taylor focused on the value of vaccines broadly, drawing from evidence based peer reviewed literature to demonstrate the types of compelling analysis and arguments that are within reach of those who wish to advocate for greater support for immunization.



***The Benefits of Collaboration:
What could be gained from a Global NGO Coalition?***

Speaker: **Dr. Leslie Mancuso**, President and CEO, JHPIEGO

Dr Mancuso highlighted the benefits of collaboration and noted that models are changing and need to change. NGOs need to have a much broader view and look to the private sector and see what each party can bring to finding solutions. The ADB, Save the Children and GSK partnership was a good example of a new model. Integrated programmes including immunization, with no silos, are critical to ensure a continuum of family health.

Speaking as an NGO representative, Dr. Mancuso stated we (NGOs) need to move beyond what we do already and look at how we do things, how to communicate more effectively, how do we look at immunization, what do we have already and what is missing, how do we leverage what we have already.

Dr Mancuso suggested that it is not about the technology itself (a proven strategy) but how we get it into the system. Who is championing immunization? Why is immunization not included in MNCH more broadly? What are the stories? Who is talking about them? Dr Mancuso also referred to the MCHIP¹ award to JHPIEGO that targets best practice. She also talked about quality assurance mechanisms and the need to be driven by countries to measure their progress.

Challenging the participants, she asked how should NGOs collaborate? What are the existing groups? What are the benefits of an NGO network?

Dialogue and Q&A Session

Moderator: Robert Steinglass

Closing Session

Moderator: Robert Steinglass

HIGHLIGHTS OF Q&A SESSION

Dr Mancuso's preceding remarks focused on laying the groundwork for the Q&A session. She challenged the audience with a lot of questions. Participants were engaged throughout the session and gave positive feedback on the Asian initiative and the workshop itself during and after the workshop. Highlights of the Q&A session follows:

- Participants agreed there was a need to work more broadly and to work within countries and at regional level across countries.
- There was also consensus on the need for improved communication and information flow between NGOs. Virtual communication platforms are considered as a means.

¹ **MCHIP** is the USAID Bureau for Global Health's flagship maternal, neonatal and child health (MNCH) program, which focuses on reducing maternal, neonatal and child mortality and accelerating progress toward achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 4 and 5. Awarded to Jhpiego and partners in September 2008, MCHIP works with USAID missions, governments, nongovernmental organizations, local communities and partner agencies in developing countries to implement programs at scale for sustainable improvements in MNCH. <http://www.jhpiego.org/whatwedo/mchip.htm>

- There are groups that are involved in child health but not involved in immunization. Child health should include immunization as a key intervention.
- Quality data from communities at country level is important to ensure that there are evidence based arguments and messaging.
- Many different NGOs should be included: women's groups, faith based groups, men's groups, rotary groups and grass roots groups. The collaboration could be much broader than NGOs to also include private sector. Getting businesses such as the IT sector and also getting the education sector involved as well as the health sector is important.
- It was recognised that NGOs are an important link to communities they serve.
- Funding was available from USAID and GAVI for CSOs to become involved in immunization.
- There was consensus that there was a need for more collaboration and interest in generating a "constituency" of NGOs. GAVI was looking at how to build such a constituency for Lower Income Countries (LICs).

NEXT STEPS

In summary, the dialogue concluded and suggested next steps:

- There is a need for good data, including evidenced-based arguments and messaging, from country level;
- Partnership is valuable;
- There is a need for integration of immunisation into MNCH and the linkages between all interventions should be identified;
- In moving forward to expand advocacy for immunisation and collaboration between NGOs, a gap analysis is required of what already exists, what are the barriers and how can existing collaborations be leveraged more broadly?

These actions further reinforced the follow-up actions generated at the February NGO Workshop in Manila:

- Establish a regional network of NGOs as a means to improve inter-NGO communications and collaboration;
- Step up lobbying efforts in order to induce governments to better address MNCH, particularly for the poor
- Develop an advocacy toolkit on MNCH and immunization; and
- Broadly disseminate the case studies and the workshop proceedings.

In June 2009, the original partners (ADB, GSK, and Save the Children) will reconvene via conference call and in-person, when possible, to consider the outcomes of the two meetings, the range/type/extent of interest generated, and the possibilities moving forward to decide upon near-term follow-up activities and next steps.



ANNEX 1

Bio for Robert Steinglass

R. Steinglass's career in international public health began during the early 1970s, when he became involved in efforts to eradicate smallpox. Since then, he has been an advisor to Ministries of Health and international organizations in the field of child immunization in over 50 countries. Prior to assuming his current position as Technical Director for the IMMUNIZATIONBasics Project, he was in charge of immunization programs for both USAID's BASICS and BASICS II Projects (1993-04), and served as Acting Technical Director of BASICS (1998-99), Technical Director of USAID's REACH II Project (1990-93), and Senior Technical Officer for immunization of REACH (1987-90). For 10 years, he was the WHO resident advisor for child immunization programs in North Yemen, Oman and Nepal (1978-87). He served for three years on the Independent Review Committee of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI). Mr. Steinglass holds a Masters in Public Health from The Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health. Areas of expertise include: All elements of support to routine immunization programs in developing countries including: advocacy, vaccine logistics and cold chain, monitoring, supervision, disease surveillance, health policy formulation, training of health workers and evaluation.