



REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Committee of Experts on Immunisation (CoPI)

Second Meeting

Maputo, 14 to 16 de November 2011.

Recommendation on the EPI and Cold Chain Logistics (Including the transportation system)

Recommendation R002/02 /2011

Preamble

- A. The CoPI acknowledged that there are severe operational problems in the cold chain at the different levels, in particular:
- Indiscipline of workers who use the EPI cold chain for other purposes than the intended ones;
 - Shortage of maintenance technicians in the labour market;
 - Difficulties at MOH level, in the contracting and retention of maintenance technicians;
 - Lack of means to carry out efficient maintenance actions of the cold chain;
 - Variety of brands and models of fridges in the National Health System (NHS);
 - Lack of specific transportation for the distribution of vaccines;
 - Lack of human resources for the effective monitoring of the functioning of the cold chain.
- B. The CoPI noted with concern that the storage capacity of the cold chain (at central, regional and provincial level and in some districts) **has reached its full capacity**, which has an impact in the introduction of new vaccines (anti-pneumococci, rotavirus, and others) that, in the future, will be included in the EPI. Therefore, a great investment will be needed by the MOH or by the financing institutions such as GAVI and others or from the «National Fund for the introduction of new vaccines», already mentioned in R001/02/2011.
- C. The CoPI warns that the availability of the cold chain is a pre-requisite to obtain funding from GAVI for the introduction of new vaccines. However, the CoPI estimates that the proceedings for the huge expansion of the cold chain will require at least 32 months:
- Select a consultant to identify needs:.....4 months;
 - Elaborate a needs-driven programme:.....3 months;

- Select an architectural firm:4 months;
- Elaborate the architectural project:4 months;
- Hire the contractor:.....5 months;
- Carry out works in all provinces and districts:1 year;

Note: Acquisition of equipment occurring at the same time as the construction.

D. The CoPI notes with concern that the expansion of the cold chain will not be made in due time if immediate actions are not taken and if high priority is not given to it.

Operative Paragraphs

Under these conditions, the CoPI recommends:

1. That a national campaign is conducted to discipline Health workers in order to prevent the cold chain to be used for other purposes than the intended ones.
2. The contracting and training of cold chain maintenance technicians.
3. The reinforcement of working conditions for technicians (daily allowances and availability of transportation).
4. That an internal evaluation is conducted of the actual capacity and functioning of the EPI cold chain.
5. For the introduction of new vaccines, starting with rotavirus in 2013, urgent measures should be taken in order to complete all the installation process of the cold chain infrastructures, by the date of the introduction of each new vaccine.
6. That GAVI is contacted by the highest level of the MOH, to conduct a study on the needs of the cold chain in the next years, which should be started urgently. The CoPI identified the following advantages of using a consultant from GAVI: there is no need of tender (which speeds up the process), it does not incur in additional costs and it increases the possibility for GAVI to finance new vaccines.
7. The CoPI fears that the calendar for the expansion of the cold chain is too optimistic and recommends **that all efforts are made in order to speed-up the process so that deadlines are met without delays.**

Monitoring indicators

- » That, by the end of 2011 at the latest, a memo has been sent to Provincial Health Directors, Provincial Chief Medical Officers, Directors of District Health, Woman and Social Action Services, and District Chief Medical Officers, reminding of long time existing instructions that the cold chain should not be

used for other purposes and **making them accountable** for the compliance with this regulations:

Responsibility: National Director of Public Health, if needed, with the support of H.E. the Minister of Health.

- » That, over years 2012 and 2013, in each district, 4 district supervisions per year to Health Units have been carried, 3 Provincial supervisions per year to at least 1/3 of the province Health Units and 1 supervision at National level per year to at least 1/5 of the Health Units nationwide, to check whether instructions related to the use of the EPI cold chain are being followed, so that the cold chain is not being used for other purposes than the intended ones:

Responsibility: National Director of Public Health, Provincial Health Directors, Provincial Chief Medical Officers, Directors of District Health, Woman and Social Action Services and District Chief Medical Officers.

- » In 2012, increase the number of human resources in the area of EPI maintenance:

Responsibility: National Director of Human Resources.

- » In 2012, increase the number of trained cold chain technicians (existing and new ones):

Responsibility: Deputy National Director of Human Resources for Training.

- » In 2012, increase the number of the cold chain preventive maintenance activities:

Responsibility: EPI Manager.

- » That, up to 30 June 2012, a monitoring plan of the EPI logistics is initiated:

Responsibility: EPI Manager.

- » That, up to 30 June 2012, an internal evaluation of the actual capacity and functioning of the EPI cold chain is conducted.

Responsibility: Deputy National Director of Public Health for Health Promotion and EPI Manager.

- » That, by the end of the first semester 2012, the process of acquisition and distribution of fridges for the anti-pneumococci vaccine is completed:

Responsibility: National Director of Administration and Finances and EPI Manager.

- » Until the end of 2011, the MOH, at its highest level, should contact GAVI to conduct a study on the needs of storage and cold chain for the next years:

Responsibility: H.E. the Minister of Health.

- » Regular monitoring of the storage capacity and cold chain expansion process:
Responsibility: National Director of Public Health.
- » By the end of 2013, all provincial warehouses have been expanded with new cold chambers for the storage of vaccines:
Responsibility: National Directors of Planning and Cooperation and Administration and Finances, Deputy National Director of Public Health for Health Promotion.

Maputo, 16 November 2011