



R E S O L U T I O N

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR
THE WESTERN PACIFIC

COMITE REGIONAL DU
PACIFIQUE OCCIDENTAL

WPR/RC44.R4
16 September 1993

ERADICATION OF POLIOMYELITIS IN THE REGION

The Regional Committee,

Recalling resolutions WPR/RC39.R15, WPR/RC41.R5, WPR/RC42.R3 and WPR/RC43.R3, which call for the eradication of poliomyelitis in the Western Pacific Region by the year 1995, resolution WHA46.33, and the deliberations of the Executive Board in January 1993;

Having considered the progress report of the Regional Director on the eradication of poliomyelitis in the Region;¹

Noting the decrease in the number of reported poliomyelitis cases in 1992 to 2087, the lowest ever reported to the Western Pacific Regional Office;

Noting the continued progress towards poliomyelitis eradication made during the last year, with increased supplies of vaccine, widespread supplementary immunization activities, improved surveillance, and continued high Expanded Programme on Immunization coverage in the Region;

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¹Document WPR/RC44/7.

Appreciating the increased level of activities for poliomyelitis eradication as countries implemented their national plans of action, in particular the Philippines, where the Government successfully conducted the first national immunization days in the Region;

Recognizing, however, that there continues to be a shortfall of resources, including the supply of poliovirus vaccine, to achieve the 1995 poliomyelitis eradication goal;

Emphasizing the critical need for countries to conduct national immunization days during the months of low transmission in 1993-1994 in all countries where poliomyelitis is still endemic to achieve the 1995 target;

1. **REAFFIRMS** that experience over the last year has continued to show that poliomyelitis eradication in the Western Pacific Region by 1995 is achievable and will serve to further improve routine Expanded Programme on Immunization activities;
2. **URGES** all Member States reporting poliomyelitis cases:
 - (1) to conduct national immunization days during the months of low transmission each year until 1995 with proper planning and monitoring of activities;
 - (2) to implement acute flaccid paralysis surveillance and further improve the timeliness and completeness of reporting, including collection and analysis of stool specimens;
 - (3) to evaluate systematically poliomyelitis eradication activities, to document achievements and to identify issues hindering further improvement of activities;
 - (4) to continue to mobilize national and international support for poliomyelitis eradication, particularly for the procurement of oral poliovirus vaccine;

3. **URGES also all Member States reporting no poliomyelitis cases:**
 - (1) to remain vigilant for the possible importation of poliomyelitis cases and to develop plans and systems to rapidly detect and control imported or any other cases;
 - (2) to further increase financial support of poliomyelitis eradication activities for those countries which are still reporting cases, particularly procurement of oral poliovirus vaccine for supplementary immunization;
 - (3) to follow the recommendations of the EPI Global Advisory Group on the use of injectable poliovirus vaccine;

4. **THANKS** the many partners who have continued to collaborate in the Expanded Programme on Immunization and the poliomyelitis eradication initiative, particularly UNICEF, the Governments of Australia, Japan, and the United States of America, Rotary International, Rotary Japan and other nongovernmental organizations, and **URGES** them to continue and intensify their support;

5. **REQUESTS** the Regional Director:
 - (1) to continue to support Member States in improving their acute flaccid paralysis surveillance systems, conducting properly planned and implemented supplementary immunization activities and systematically evaluating activities;
 - (2) to continue also, in collaboration with all partners concerned, to mobilize additional resources for poliomyelitis eradication, particularly for vaccine supply;

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- (3) to share experiences on poliomyelitis eradication with other regions in order to strengthen the interregional poliomyelitis eradication effort;**
- (4) to report on the safety and efficacy of poliovirus vaccine to the Regional Committee in 1994.**

Seventh Meeting, 16 September 1993
WPR/RC44/SR/7