SAGE Working Group on Vaccine Hesitancy

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The field of Vaccine Hesitancy is rapidly evolving.

Reasons behind decisions to delay or refuse vaccination are highly variable and context specific.

One important factor are tectonic shifts in the production and consumption of information (democratization of digital publishing and widespread adoption of social media).

Many potentially promising tools are currently under development; testing, further refinement and validation of the tools is needed.
“Vaccine hesitancy refers to delay in acceptance or refusal of vaccines despite availability of vaccine service.

Vaccine hesitancy is complex and context specific varying across time, place and vaccines.

It includes factors such as complacency, convenience and confidence”
Deliverables presented to SAGE in October 2014

- Definition of vaccine hesitancy
- Matrix for vaccine hesitancy and its determinants
- Literature review on vaccine hesitancy
- Indicators on vaccine hesitancy
- Draft landscape analysis of organizations working in vaccine hesitancy
- Reaching out to partners initiatives
- Literature review on strategies and review of reviews to address vaccine hesitancy
- Immunization managers survey
- Revised indicators on vaccine hesitancy
- Matrix of determinants and linked list of sample survey questions to assess vaccine hesitancy
- Landscape analysis of organizations working in vaccine hesitancy
General recommendations

Following conclusions should be acknowledged and disseminated widely:

- Vaccine hesitancy is a complex and rapidly changing global problem that requires monitoring.
- No single intervention strategy addresses all instances of vaccine hesitancy.
- In low vaccine uptake situations, where lack of available services are the major factor, hesitancy can be present but is not the priority to address; improving services is the priority.
Specific recommendations to

- WHO, UNICEF and/or other partners
  - Cross-linkages between programs
  - Work to develop, validate and promote methods and tools to address vaccine hesitancy
  - Share lessons learned

- Regional and country immunization advisory committees

- Member states
  - Education and training of health care workers
  - Involve civil society
  - Share country information and lessons learned
Special issue: WHO Recommendations Regarding Vaccine Hesitancy

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