Fact Sheet
AIM e-Learning Pilot
June –December 2002

How did people like the pilot?

We sent out an electronic evaluation to our training resource group (including WHO, UNICEF, national immunization managers, technical groups) and we did face-to-face interviews with selected national immunization managers.

Technology	Content & Methodology
• High marks on access to URL	• Interesting and novel approach
	• Content needs developing and targeted to audiences
Design & Usability	• Access to up-to-date information
• High marks but more content needs to be developed	• Debate of use on web vs. CDROM
• Useful training module	• Translation needed
• Concerns about speed of Internet connection.	• Good marks for look and layout
	• Additional field testing needed
	• Would be easy to work on one's own
	• Access to updated information
	• References were confusing

What access do national immunization managers have to computer technology and what is their interest in using these media for distance-based learning?

Seven national immunization managers in the Africa region and two in the Asian Pacific region were interviewed in 2002. Findings include:

- All the immunization managers had a computer and CD-ROM at their work site
- The majority of immunization Managers (71%) had phone-line Internet access. Two immunization managers reported to have access to a fast-line Internet connection at their MOH in addition to a slower and much less reliable phone-line connection.
- All the immunization Managers used Windows and most (71%) of their computers were less than three-years old
- Websites most frequently used were Yahoo, Hotmail and MSN
- Over half the immunization managers reported to go "online" daily and the remaining immunization managers who had access to the internet (i.e., all but one) went "online" one or more times a week.
- The types of training tools that the immunization managers felt would be most useful for them were pictures, illustrations and graphs (43%), interactive case studies (43%) and plan text (29%).
- All but one immunization managers reported to have used a technology-based tool to help them learn (e.g., CD-ROMs, websites) and the immunization managers were all interested in using such tools in the future.

What did we learn about technology capability in the field?

We send out a questionnaire to PATH field sites and results include:
- The average speed of connection for field sites -- in capital cities such as New Delhi, Nairobi and Laos and in smaller towns such as St. Louis, Senegal is 52K over a telephone line (range from 14.4K to 56.6K).
- Most had connections of average reliability (less than 5 disconnections per 10 dial-ups).
- All expect to wait 5 to 10 seconds per web page or more but most are only willing to wait 3 to 5 seconds.
- Internet Explorer was used universally as the network browser application.
- We need to keep in mind that the results of this survey may be skewed due to the self-selection that occurs since it's an electronically distributed survey - the people with the faster connections may be more likely to send it back.
- From the comments section it seems that these PATH officers are resigned to waiting long periods for web pages - they need to for the work they do. And they are certainly familiar with the web.
- As a result of this survey, no AIM E-learning page will take longer than 10 seconds to download at a connection speed of 28.8.

What are some advantages and disadvantages of e-learning?

Advantages	Disadvantages
- Allows presentation of materials in multiple modalities (sound, animation, pictures and video) to reinforce learning - Allows interactivity not possible in traditional classroom settings - Allows students to customize the learning experience to their own needs and pace - Allows portability of the learning experience - Enhances the collaborative experience by allowing multiple people to work on one living document (e.g., to draft annual workplan and FSP plans) - Allows access to the latest information and policies - Is an appealing new technology	- Needs to be associated with person-to-person interaction to truly be effective - E-learning should not be used as the only source of learning - Requires access to technology (a computer with access to the internet and/or CD drive) - Requires knowledge of computer and internet use - Requires willingness to explore new learning modalities - Currently, many of our target users use slow, unreliable and potentially expensive connections to the internet