Vaccine shortages: Definitions

Dr Oleg Benes
Vaccine-preventable Diseases and Immunization
World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe
Outline of the presentation

• Vaccine security: global context
• Terms systematic review: shortages/stockouts
• Core Definitions
• Causes of shortages
• Data & Gaps
• What’s next?
Securing access to quality vaccine supply: Essential to reaching immunization goals

Stock outs: availability of vaccines for routine immunization at national level (Indicator SO5.2) 2016 GVAP secretariat report

Vaccine security: “the sustained, uninterrupted supply of affordable vaccines of assured quality”
URGES Member States to develop strategies to forecast, avert or reduce shortages/stockouts...
CALLS upon manufacturers... to contribute to global efforts to address the challenges of medicines and vaccines shortages, including through participation in notification systems;
REQUESTS DG to “develop technical definitions, as needed, for medicines and vaccines shortages and stockouts assess the magnitude and nature of the problem of shortages & develop a global medicine shortage notification system....

69th World Health Assembly, May 2016

The establishment of effective and sustainable vaccine production, supply, procurement and delivery systems is essential to ensure access to all the necessary vaccines of assured quality at the right time
Creation of a global forum of exchange, communication and collaboration to address vaccine supply and demand issues between countries and manufacturers
Definitions in use: Terms systematic review

- Terms used interchangeably to mean different things
- Definitions vary by supply chain aspect: manufacturing /distribution / dispensing to patients;
- The definitions vary in their specificity;
- Frequently included references to timeframes or durations
- Many definitions - linked to contextual factors & sensitivities (i.e. “acceptable shelf life”, reporting vulnerabilities ....)
- Grouping: Supply side VS Demand side systems
- 26 definitions related to the demand side

Source: http://www.who.int/medicines/areas/access/Meeting_report_October_Shortages.pdf
## Core Definitions: Shortages & Stockouts

### Shortage

**Supply side:**
The supply of medicines, health products, and vaccines identified as essential by the health system is considered to be insufficient to meet public health and patient needs.

**Demand side**
Demand exceeds supply at any point in the supply chain.

### Stockout

The complete absence of the medicine, health product or vaccine at the point of service delivery to the patient.
There are various causes of shortages

**SUPPLY**
Factors limiting availability
- Production issues
- Limited supplier base & production capacity

**DEMAND**
Factors limiting access
- Unpredictable demand
- Inflexible demand

**INCOMPLETE INFORMATION**
Limited communication between supply & demand
- Demand intelligence
- Supply intelligence
Data & Gaps

**Reporting stockouts**

- Reporting mechanism through WHO/UNICEF JRF
- GVAP/EVAP monitoring indicator

Indicator: ‘At least 1 stock-out event for at least 1 vaccine for at least 1 month at national level’

Source: 2016 GVAP secretariat report

**Reporting Shortages**

- NO routine global reporting (YET)
- NO established response mechanisms

- Supply side:
  - MA holders > to NRA (EU)
  - Limited data published/available

- Demand side:
  - Multiple actors
  - Variable & Fragmented data
What’s next?

**EB140/19**
- Reviewed draft definitions and acknowledged the need for additional consultations

**EB 142/13 (January 2018)**
- Reviewed the progress made in implementing resolution WHA69.25, i.e.
  - Establishing a global mechanism to notify shortages of medicines & vaccines (limited to medicines included on the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines)
- Defined further areas of WHO work on shortages, i.e.
  - Continuation of WHO’s normative work to specify standards and guidance for the development, regulation, production, selection, pricing, procurement, distribution, prescribing and use of medicines and vaccines
  - Supporting inter-organizational, regional and country collaboration, networking and training;

Thank you!