

**THE TECHNET
FORUM**

26 January to 31 August 1998

Allan G Bass

BASICS Technical Directive 000 HT 51 012
USAID Contract No HRN-C-00-93-00031-00

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ACRONYMS

BASICS	Basic Support for Institutionalizing Child Survival Project
PHC	Primary Health Care
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VVM	Vaccine Vial Monitor
WHO/GPV	World Health Organization, Global Program for Vaccination

The *TECHNET Forum* began on 1 February 1998, as the *VVM Forum*, a communications initiative by WHO/GPV and BASICS focused on the use of vaccine vial monitors

OBJECTIVES

⇒ The purpose of the VVM Forum is to enable members to discuss issues and ideas leading to concrete action for improved implementation and utilization of vaccine vial monitors in immunization programs. The forum encourages members to participate by providing contributions based on their own experience and expertise.

Reflecting our concerns that participation levels were lower than expected among the 154 subscribers, WHO and BASICS agreed to expand the forum to include all TECHNET topics rather than the narrow VVM focus. Beginning with Post0022 on 20 May 1998, the VVM Forum became the TECHNET Forum and the subscriber base enlarged to 217.

The new objectives for the TECHNET Forum are—

- continue and maintain a moderated and directed discussion involving as many appropriate individuals throughout the world that are responsible for the immunization and primary health care logistics
- provide a forum for the concise and facilitated exchange of information, knowledge, and experience in implementing immunization programs and PHC logistics
- contribute to the development of actions leading to improved and effective immunization programs and PHC logistics

SUMMARY OF FORUM UTILIZATION

On 31 August 1998 there were 216 subscribers¹. From 2 February to 31 August 1998, there were 32 editions of the TECHNET Forum posted to all subscribers.

The total number of posted messages from post0001 to post0033 (there was no post0010) was 78. Of these, 68 messages were from TECHNET members and 10 were from other contributors or sources. Twenty-five subscribers contributed one or more messages.

Contributors were based in Europe, North America, several countries in Africa, and the South Pacific.

¹ This figure excludes duplicate subscriptions and the list robot that collects all posts.

Nineteen percent of all August 1998 subscribers responded to the end of period *subscriber survey*. This suggests that most subscribers read the postings for information while not posting messages² themselves. This is typical for e-mail lists.

SUBSCRIBER SURVEY OF AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 1998

A questionnaire containing eight yes/no questions and two open-ended questions were e-mailed to all 216 subscribers on 21 August 1998.

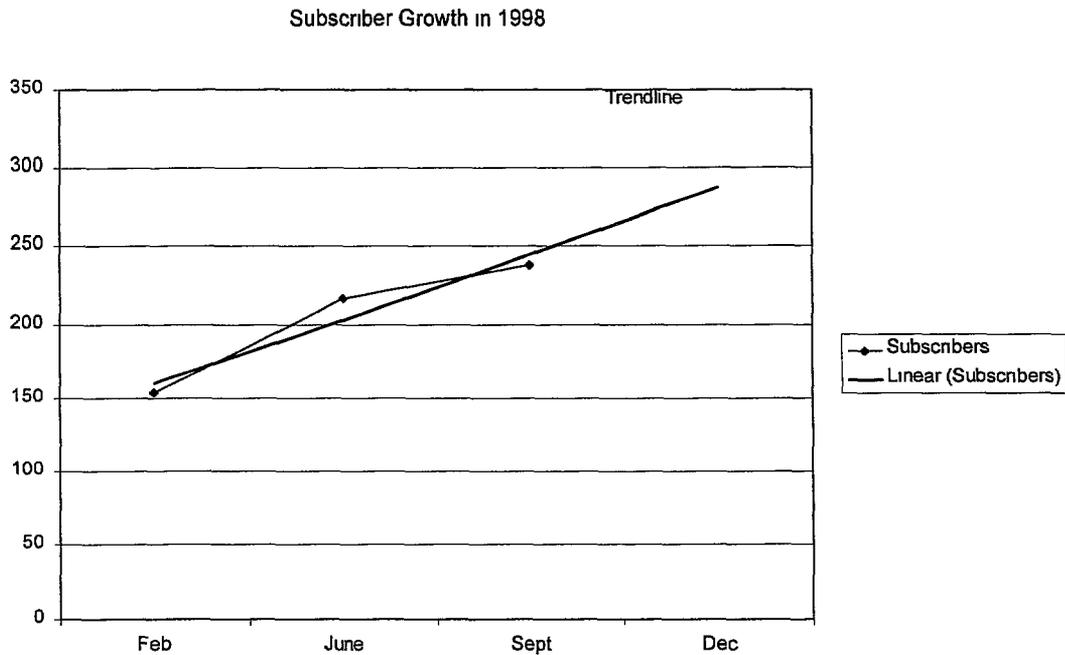
41 Respondents (19%)
216 Subscribers

Find the Forum USEFUL	Prefer MORE TECHNICAL information	Prefer MORE DISCUSSION	Prefer a MODERATED Forum	Prefer an UNMODERATED Forum	Want the Forum to CONTINUE
99%	74%	66%	90%	15%	100%

KNOW HOW TO GET FILES	HAVE DOWNLOADED FILES
61%	37%

² "lurking"

SUBSCRIBER GROWTH



CONCLUSIONS

The TECHNET Forum has seen remarkable growth in the number of subscribers and in subscriber participation. Considering that this is a new forum for professional communications and discussion within the TECHNET, the forum is now approaching the point of usefulness in terms of discussion, policy development, and problem resolution.

The next six months of the forum should be an interesting period of expansion, and development of the forum as a resource for the TECHNET. In preparing the proposal³ for the next phase of the forum, most of the recommendations⁴ and suggestions⁵ of forum subscribers have been incorporated and will hopefully lead to an enhanced and active discussion group.

³ Annex 4

⁴ Annex 1

⁵ Annex 2

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1

SUBSCRIBERS' RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE THE FORUM

ANNEX 1

SUBSCRIBERS RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE THE FORUM

- Perhaps you could increase the spectrum of subject matter
- Agree that it should be a TECHNET Forum We should more aggressively include other issues that are being discussed outside the forum Maybe the Moderator could discuss with head of QIS/EPI/Geneva each quarter about relevant topics I would also suggest getting appropriate programme managers on board and ensuring the post comments
- Technical debate on issues of general interest could be opened by the moderator so that different experiences could be exchanged between the subscribers
- Widen topics/scope
- Format of the message, needs better presentation, sometime difficult to read quickly the real message May be a summary of the issue at the top for newcomers
- Some discussions/exchange of experiences and ideas on special activities, like measles control, TTN pre-filled syringes on large scale, sustained outreach/mobile activities etc
- extend the subject to more general discussions on EPI, in particular operational
Is there a chance to post references to relevant journal articles?
- I think the format you have at the moment seems to be fine
- No major changes, more concise explanation, no political
- Perhaps other addresses (like EPI, Promed, HDDLink) could be published together with the topics (e.g. in a summary "Where to find xyz ?")
- Haven't yet used enough to comment
- I sometimes find the postings confusing - dealing with several items at the same time - could one not have one topic/item per posting?
- Pose more provocative questions
- We manufacture all the vVMS used by the industry and are now getting ready for new vaccines all the information we receive are extremely useful
- Works well Perhaps encouragement to change topic more frequently

- I am very nervous about the suggestion that the forum should be opened to non- technical people i.e. journalists. If it is then discussion will be restricted and we will have to have some other way of expressing views which are not for public distribution. Once journalists have access there is absolutely no control over what is done with views which are shared.
- It would be very useful to share brief summaries/abstracts of recent innovations, technical developments, achievements, problems and solutions in EPI.
- Country/field examples are always useful and informative. If possible, more immunization experts in the field should be included and encouraged to contribute to the discussion. Possibly the downloaded files from the forum could be shared with the field via fax or "snail mail" to ensure that they are receiving the information and aware of the dialogue. (In many African countries and in other regions, for example, it can take hours to download even 2-3 page e-mails and few program managers beyond the highest central level have access to e-mail or a computer.) It is not as rapid nor as technologically advanced, but our global level discussions cannot be as effective if the ideas/proposed actions are not received and utilized in the field.
- Links to a WEB page with hyperlinks
- It's good. I think it will evolve on its own. We could seed some discussion with a topic of the month.
- Involve more "field" people - but I suppose then you have to connect all EPI managers to e-mail and this forum.
- It seems okay for me.
- The content of the submissions is good. Perhaps the message about subscribing etc. can be limited to once a month - it takes a lot of paper if one prints out the discussions to keep.
- The messages are too long-winded. I would prefer many short messages and more discussion and interaction, than few long messages, which I don't bother to read sometimes.
- You might want to consider periodically scheduling a chat room where you could have a featured quest available to make comments on a particular subject and field questions live. This could be particularly useful when there is an immediate problem to solve like the recent controversy surrounding the VVM in India.

- Soliciting less opinion and more ideas and experiences (which will happen as issues and participant numbers grow)
- Wider topics
- Would you prefer more discussion? related to technical issues, Yes
- Well, I can see advantages in both, the moderate forum giving concise, filtered info on the topic, and an unmoderated list allowing for free discussion
Perhaps there is a role for an auxiliary, unmoderated list?
- Don't mix topics in one message, since it makes them hard to file or distribute to others, put a one-word clue in subject line as to topic
- I think it is excellent as it is

ANNEX 2

SUBSCRIBERS' SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FORUM

ANNEX 2

Subscribers Suggestions for the Forum

- Perhaps issues associated with Injection Safety could be dealt with occasionally
- Good initiative Allan An issue for freelance/self employed bods is how to bill time/costs in order to participate fully in some discussions, ideal is to be able to build it into overheads costing for contracts, sometimes possible sometime not
- Good stuff! (my main comments are included above) This has been a very useful way for me to painlessly keep up with some important developments and tidbits I was not aware of
- Maybe a more meaningful name?
- The topics are too narrow, should be extended to everything about immunization
- May be for those who have no e-mail access sometime, a web page will be useful, I know it is under construction Anyway, you did a good job by maintaining the forum Good luck
- I'll comment/make suggestions on a case by case basis As it is now, I perceive the forum as a quite useful tool for arguing with my national counterparts
- Look for subjects, next to the classical TECHNET forums, make it more open, try to promote its existence by communicating mailing its presence on other health related forums, (E-drug, Afro-net), get more women on board! It seems to me too much an old boys network of technicians
- I pick up a lot of info from the forum, both technical and informative It is a great help to me in seeing what is happening and being achieved in this field, for the development of new products
- More references and sources of reliable information (Bibliography, standards, spec, available reports I consider this forum useful, but the debate on VVM is moving out of the scope of the original purpose of this technical forum It becomes more a tribune to justify individual perception or justification, number of confidential or private information are dispatched despite the right of reserve and confidentiality of members vis a vis their own organization and/or other organizations

- As an employee of a manufacturer of vaccines (Chiron Behring, Germany) - I'm responsible for the testing of VVMs upon receipt from LifeLines as well as for the introduction of any new VVMs [Validation,] - many of the discussions are necessary, but seem not to be supportive for my daily work from my point of view (It's a matter of the target group, I believe) But all the information about further actions towards new drafts on VVMs and the expansion of VVMs for all EPI vaccines (and their immediate publication) are very helpful and valuable I also enjoyed reading the 'South Sudan Study' as it gave some information on how the vaccines are distributed after they leave the manufacturer (things we normally have not much information about) Also very informative to me are reports and discussions towards the cold chain, because we are also involved in testing insulated containers
- The Forum is very useful, because it let us know experiences from other Regions and help us face similar problems
- I've enjoyed following the discussion
- We, at lifelines, are prepared to answer all technical questions
- I am sometimes frustrated because I want to enter a discussion but as a public forum even informal comments from WHO require too much discretion I regret I do not know if the server has become a repository of publications on the topic If it has not then perhaps for some of the topics (important/controversial) then "official" documents could be made available This will require a "topic leader" to initiate the posting/filing of documents
- Allan I think you are doing a great job and I hope the Forum can continue as it is Please Keep the forum as a technical one open only to technical people If journalists want access then make some other forum or an information service available UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS However well meaning, journalists are ALWAYS looking for a story
- The current level of feedback is fine Overall the current structure is fine
- The moderator has done an excellent job It was also a good idea to expand this to a TECHNET forum, thus enabling a broader range of issues/concerns to be discussed Realizing that funding for this initiative may be a roadblock, are there other sources that may be interested in sponsoring and possibly continuing/expanding this (in a controlled and non-bias manner)? For example, universities, schools of public health, training institutes, technology companies
- Keep on truckin'
- More discussion on policy issues

- As an epidemiologist, I really learn a lot from this forum. This enables me to understand more clearly logistic matters so that our relationships with logisticians are improving.
- Keep up the good work.
- Need more interaction and immediate feedback. See the malaria listserv (malaria@wehi.edu.au) for the kind of thing I mean. Thanks for doing the work of running it.
- The forum may consider requesting responses from knowledgeable parties as is done with *promed*. In addition, items to stimulate discussion such as posting 36 (if we get responses) are helpful and should be widely encouraged.
- Alan: I think that you are doing a great job moderating the forum. It has become an extremely useful tool for those of us concerned with the VVM. It helps all of us get a greater payback on our investment in web technology.
- Keep up the good work. Communication—information, discussion, ideas, problems, solutions, and on and on, they are more and more essential as the world grows more and more complex. We can barely keep a step ahead, if we do that.

ANNEX 3

**HANDOUT DISTRIBUTED AT THE MARCH 1998 TECHNET
CONSULTATION, COPENHAGEN, DENMARK**

ANNEX 3

This is the handout distributed at the March 1998 TECHNET Consultation, Copenhagen, Denmark soon after the VVM Forum began in February 1998

VVM FORUM NEWS VVM FORUM NEWS VVM FORUM NEWS

The VVM Forum started on 2 February 1998. There are already 145 subscribers. The real discussions start with your ideas and the issues you raise. Feel free to send email to the forum at any time.

- The purpose of the Vvm forum is to enable members to discuss issues and ideas leading to concrete action for improved implementation and utilization of vaccine vial monitors in immunization programs. The forum encourages members to participate by providing contributions based on their own experience and expertise.

The early postings are focused on *HOT ISSUES* from recent technical and operational discussions.

This is a moderated forum. Members' contributions will be edited to provide a concise summary of the issues raised and supporting information. Each posting will consist of a series of threaded discussions on specific topics raised by the list members. A discussion thread will be closed when a conclusion calling for specific action is reached or an unproductive discussion develops. Periodic summaries of discussions will be posted to all list members.

A facility for the dissemination of information and technical documents by email attachments is also available. Several word processor and spreadsheet formats are supported. Technical documents and other files are available for download.

Send your email to Vvm@acithn1.herston.uq.edu.au

As discussion accumulates it will be collated and posted back to the whole list for further discussion.

A VVM Home page has been set up on the WorldWideWeb at

<http://www.ACITHN.uq.edu.au/vvm/index.html>

We will automatically place copies of all regular postings on the VVM home page for download. Technical documents and other files are available for download.

If you have trouble with operating the VVM Forum please email the moderator at a.bass@mailbox.uq.edu.au

BASICS WELCOMES SUBSCRIBERS

Welcome to the VVM Forum. BASICS is sponsoring this forum to support TECHNET in its quest for effective vaccine delivery systems and immunization programs throughout the world. At the TECHNET meeting in Manila in 1996, BASICS agreed to support and facilitate free discussions on vaccine vial monitors which lead to decisions and action.

After nearly 15 years of development we can now answer the question

Where are the vaccine vial monitors?

VVMs are on oral polio vaccine vials supplied through UNICEF and are also being specified by several countries when they procure vaccines direct from the manufacturer.

As impressive as these achievements are, much remains to be done.

The following questions which our moderator Allan Bass has posed demonstrate the challenges ahead. We hope that all of the subscribers to this discussion forum will apply their skills, expertise, and diverse range of field experience to providing the answers to these questions and taking action to ensure that all vaccines used in immunization programs are effective at the time of use. VVMs are a tool. Making the best use of that tool is the challenge.

We hope that this VVM forum will stimulate you to share your experiences, problems, and solutions.

BASICS wishes you every success. And let the dialogue begin!

Ron Waldman
Technical Director
BASICS

TOPICS

Recent discussions have been on the choice of the next vaccine to have VVM labelling, VVM impact studies, and the use of the VVM as a management tool.

These are just a few of the questions and topics which have surfaced in the last 18 months.

If you have anything to say on any of these issues, send your contribution to Vvm@acithn1.herston.uq.edu.au and put the question number in the subject line. The moderator will organize the replies for easy connected reading and discussion.

- 1 Are the VVMs being used?
- 2 How are the VVMs being used?
- 3 Are health workers trained to use VVMs and make decisions? Is it effective training?
- 4 Do health workers trust the VVM as a tool to make decisions about using a vial of vaccine?
- 5 Are VVMs used as a proxy for assuring the quality of storage of all vaccines? As a proxy for vaccine heat exposure for other vaccines? Is this right? Is it a good thing to do?
- 6 What happens if you boil a vial of OPV with a VVM? Duck soup?
- 7 Do health workers have the authority to discard a vial of vaccine when the VVM indicates that the vaccine should not be used?
- 8 Can the VVM be used as an effective management tool?
- 9 Are VVMs cost effective?
- 10 Where is the estimated savings of 30% on the program cost of OPV we heard about last year?
- 11 How can immunization programs benefit from VVMs?
- 12 What about using VVMs BEYOND THE COLD CHAIN?
- 13 What vaccine should be the next to have VVM labeling? If any?
- 14 Why is the Americas region staying away from VVMs?
- 15 Do we have enough information to make decisions about VVM use?
- 16 Do we need studies to find the answers?
- 17 What kind of studies are needed to answer these questions? Are we asking the right questions?
- 18 What are the issues we need to address?
- 19 What action do we need to take to get the best out of the technology we have?
- 20 What action do we need to take to help health workers manage the effective delivery of vaccines?

Subscribers can add new topics or return to old topics at any time

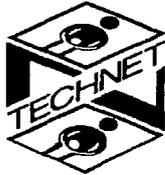
From the Forum home page on the WorldWideWeb

Vaccine Vial Monitor Forum

Vvm@acithn1 herston uq edu au

Administrator Allan Bass a bass@mailbox uq edu au

TECHNET Technical Network for Logistics in Health



The TECHNET Secretariat

The Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) of the Global
Programme on Vaccines and Immunization (GPV) of the
World Health Organization, CH-1211 Geneva 27 Switzerland

BASICS Basic Support for Institutionalizing Child Survival



A USAID financed project administered by the

Partnership for Child Health Care, Inc

1600 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 300, Arlington VA 22209 USA

The Vvm forum is moderated by Allan Bass on behalf of **BASICS & TECHNET**

The views and opinions expressed in the list are those of the Vvm list contributors and not of the supporting organizations

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HERE IS HOW TO

➤ **CONTRIBUTE**

To send a contribution to the list just email it to

Vvm@acithn1 herston uq edu au

➤ **JOIN**

To subscribe, send an electronic mail message to

listserv@acithn1 herston uq edu au

with the following message in the body of the text
subscribe Vvm

➤ **LEAVE**

To unsubscribe, send an electronic mail message to

listserv@acithn1 herston uq edu au

with the following message in the body of the text
unsubscribe Vvm

➤ **WHO?**

To find out who is a member of the list, send an Email message to

listserv@acithn1 herston uq edu au

with the following message in the body of the text
list Vvm

➤ **GET A LIST OF AVAILABLE FILES**

To get the names of files available on the Vvm list, send an Email message to

listserv@acithn1 herston uq edu au

with the following message in the body of the text
dir Vvm

➤ **GET A DESCRIPTION OF THE AVAILABLE FILES**

To get a description of the files available on the Vvm list, send an Email message to

listserv@acithn1 herston uq edu au

with the following message in the body of the text

get vvm describe txt

➤ **GET A FILE FROM THE LIST**

To get A file from the Vvm list, send an Email message to

listserv@acithn1 herston uq edu au

with the following message in the body of the text
get Vvm filename ext

➤ **GET HELP**

To get help on the Vvm list, send an Email message to

listserv@acithn1 herston uq edu au

with the following message in the body of the text help Vvm

The server will then email you the Help Message with instructions on obtaining further help

REMEMBER!

Contributions should be emailed to Vvm@acithn1 herston uq edu au

Commands and requests to the server should be emailed to

listserv@acithn1 herston uq edu au

Files available on 25 February 1998

(This information is in the file Describe txt and can be automatically emailed on request)

NOTES File extensions

filename ext (format of file names)

filename doc = a microsoft word file - possibly version 97 if provided in that format

filenam6 doc = a microsoft word file in version 6 or 95 file format

filename wpd = a word perfect for windows file format

filename wp5 = a word perfect 5 1 for DOS file format

filename rtf = a more or less universal word processor format

(Most word processors can read this format)

filename xls = a microsoft excel file format can include version 97

filenam5 xls = a microsoft excel file format version 5

filename wk1 = lotus 1,2,3 for DOS file format

filename ppt = microsoft powerpoint file

If you send the message `get vvm * doc`
you will get all of the document files

The files available are provided in their original format. In addition many have been converted to other file formats. When a file is converted from one file format to another file format, layouts, fonts, and graphics may be lost or changed. The text will still be the same

VVMEXPER DOC
VVMEXPER6 DOC
VVMEXPER WP5
VVMEXPER RTF

The 1996 Technet Consultation resulted in a recommendation for a retrospective review to be made of experiences field testing, introducing, and using vaccine vial monitors prior to 1995. The information was thought to be useful for ministries of health, vaccine manufacturers, Technet members, UNICEF and WHO staff, and other groups assisting with vaccine vial monitor introduction. Between 1981 and 1992, vaccine vial monitors (VVMs) were tested in 19 countries. Interviews and focus group discussions were held with over 170 health workers to obtain feedback on VVM design, use, and preliminary training materials. In-depth field studies were carried out during which 89,700 VVMs were used by staff on vaccine vials distributed to 1,432 health centers. This document was prepared by Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH) with funding from the Basic Support for Institutionalizing Child Survival Project (BASICS) PATH 1996.

VVMSPEC doc
VVMSPEC6 doc
VVMSPEC wp5
VVMSPEC rtf

EPI Equipment performance specifications and test procedures E6 Temperature Monitoring Devices. Date of last revision of this module 29 September 1997
WHO/EPI

vvm-impac doc
vvmimpac6 doc
vvm-impac wp5
vvm-impac rtf

VACCINE COLD CHAIN MONITORING WITH VACCINE VIAL MONITORS
Impact Studies Draft prepared at and following the TECHNET Consultation in Manila, Philippines, February 1996

Bhutan1 doc (MS Word 6/95)
Bhutan1 wp5
Bhutan1 rtf

The Bhutan report (edited) and forms in separate files
Travel Report, VVM Impact Study Bhutan, 20-27 March 1997
M Zaffran, WHO/EPI, C de Savigny, SEARO/EPI 22 pages

The main purpose of this visit was to develop, together with the nationals, a protocol for conducting a study on the impact on the use of Vaccine Vial Monitors in the EPI in the Kingdom of Bhutan.

FORMS

Bhutan1 xls ms excel 5/95

Bhutan1 wk1

Bhutan2 xls ms excel 5/95 Not suitable for conversion to lotus

IHIS9601 doc (MSword 6/95)

IHIS9601 wp5

IHIS9601 rtf

VACCINE VIAL MONITOR
AND OPENED VIAL POLICY*

Questions and Answers

Introduction of Vaccine Vial Monitors (VVMs)

New WHO/EPI Policy on the Use of Opened Vials of Vaccine

WHO/EPI/LHIS/96 01, Original English, Distr General

NEPAL NID & VVM FILES

NEP_NIDS PPT (MS Powerpoint presentation) NEPAL NIDS 1996-97

NEP_CHKV DOC

NEP_CHKV WP5

NEP_CHKV RTF

Supervisors Checklist used for monitoring VVMs in Polio NIDs in Nepal

Health Worker Guide Mark Weeks

Guidevmm doc

Guidevmm-w6 doc

Guidevmm rft

Guidevmm rtf

A brief guide for health workers on VVMs

Archives of posts are available

Post0001 txt

Post0001 txt	Post0005 txt	Post0009 txt
Post0002 txt	Post0006 txt	Post0011 txt
Post0003 txt	Post0007 txt	Post0012 txt
Post0004 txt	Post0008 txt	Post0013 txt

Mod agb 27 Feb 98

ANNEX 4

A PROPOSAL FROM ALLAN G. BASS

A Proposal from Allan G Bass

P O Box 158, Indooroopilly, QLD 4068, Australia

A Bass@mailbox.uq.edu.au

FAX (61) 7 365 5599

TEL (61) 7 327-82576

31 August 1998 (rev 10 Sept 1998)

To Michel Zaffran, WHO/GPV/EPI
Subject Technical Consultation on Logistics for Health Internet Forum

At the request of Michel Zaffran, WHO/GPV/EPI, the following proposal for the continued operation of the TECHNET Internet Forum has been prepared

1 INTRODUCTION

The TECHNET Forum has been operating since February 1998, initially as a discussion forum for vaccine vial monitor introduction, operational and technical issues. At its inception the forum served 154 subscribers with 22 posts on VVM issues. In June 1998, with post 23, the forum expanded to cover all TECHNET topics and served 217 subscribers worldwide. On 9 September 1998 the Forum had 236 subscribers.

There have been 35 postings of 79 messages contributed by 25 subscribers based in Europe, Africa, the South Pacific and North America.

The forum also provides a key document downloadable file directory. Policy documents, field reports, technical specifications, and other resource materials can be obtained automatically via email or through the TECHNET ftp site (Internet File Transfer Protocol) hosted on the Australian Centre for International & Tropical Health & Nutrition computer network.

Allan Bass moderates the forum. The moderated forum enables threaded focussed discussions. The moderator manages communications between TECHNET subscribers, keeps discussions in the TECHNET context and eliminates irrelevant and frivolous messages and junk e-mail.

In a recent two week e-mail survey, all respondents (39 of 217 subscribers) indicated that they wished the forum to continue, with 98% finding it useful. Almost all subscribers indicated that they preferred the forum to be moderated. Most subscribers found the balance between technical information and discussion to be about right. About 30% of subscribers have downloaded files.

BASICS (Partnership for Child Health Inc - a USAID funded project) funding for the forum ended on 31 August 1998.

It is proposed that the TECHNET Forum be continued and expanded

TECHNET LOGISTICS FOR HEALTH INTERNET FORUM

1 OBJECTIVES

1 1 To continue and maintain a moderated and directed discussion involving as many appropriate individuals, throughout the world, who are responsible for the immunization and primary health care logistics

1 2 To provide a forum for the concise and facilitated exchange of information, knowledge and experience in implementing immunization programs and PHC logistics

1 3 To contribute to the development of actions leading to improved and effective immunization programs and PHC logistics

2 STRATEGY

The forum will continue as a concise and focused active discussion group. It is intended that these discussions will lead to the improved and effective immunization programs and PHC logistics

An e-mail discussion group focused on TECHNET topics will be continued, expanded and maintained by Allan Bass

2 1 An expanded distribution and subscriber list will be developed the advice of all participants, and through WHO, BASICS, UNICEF, and TECHNET mailing lists. An effort will be made to find mechanisms to include all immunization program managers and other operational managers in the field

2 2 A list server will be used for content distribution to all e-mail subscribers⁶

2 3 Periodic edited thematic summaries of the discussions will be prepared and made available to the participating organizations for inclusion in their routine mailings or other information dissemination activities

2 4 Content will be developed. A posting of specific current issues will then be used to solicit contributions from list members. Contributions will also be solicited from individuals and organizations without Internet access

2 5 Discussions will be organised thematically, with the context and the main points of contributions summarised to assist in focusing the discussions towards reaching conclusions or obtaining solutions to problems

2 6 Each posting will contain a "Contents" section providing a quick summary of the messages in the posting

⁶ A listserver is a simple Internet mail utility which sends e-mail to all members of the list without having all of the subscribers e-mail addresses as part of the e-mail messages. This will save transmission and receiving time and message space

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- 2 7 An archive of all key TECHNET documents in a variety of formats would be maintained and be automatically made available on request as e-mail attachments or FTP downloadable files Forum participants would be requested to provide these materials
- 2 8 An archive of previous discussion messages would be available on request as e-mail attachments, or FTP and WorldWideWeb downloadable files

OPTIONS

- 2 9 The TECHNET Forum web site will be expanded and improved All discussion forum resources will be available on the web site An unmoderated online discussion facility will be added to the web site with extracts of these discussions posted to the e-mail forum
- 2 10 Unmoderated topic specific e-mail discussion lists would be established to serve subgroups of TECHNET Forum subscribers Edited extracts of these discussions would be posted to the TECHNET Forum

3 MODERATOR ACTIVITIES

These activities will be carried out in collaboration with The TECHNET Secretariat at WHO/EPI

- 3 1 The moderator would moderate the TECHNET forum
- 3 2 The moderator will conduct periodic subscriber surveys to identify utilization and usefulness issues with the aim of improving the quality and breadth of discussions
- 3 3 Expansion of the subscriber base

OPTIONS

- 3 4 The moderator will set up topic specific sub-lists as needed and edit the discussions into the main discussion forum
- 3 5 The moderator would expand the WorldWideWeb site to include the proposed new online discussion facility and bring the web based resources to a useable standard

4 BUDGET

The budget summary for the operation of the TECHNET forum is set out to allow WHO/GPV/EPI to select the most appropriate and feasible forum package of

SUMMARY BUDGET by OPTIONS				
TECHNET Forum components	1 year	6 Months	3 Months	TE
Basic package of activities	\$12,623.52	\$ 6,311.76	\$ 3,155.88	
Options				
Sub-lists	\$ 901.68	\$ 450.84	\$ 225.42	
WWW Site	\$ 3,005.60	\$ 2,103.92	\$ 1,653.08	
SUMMARY OPERATING BUDGET by PACKAGE				
Package	1 year	6 Months	3 Months	TE
Basic package of activities	\$12,623.52	\$ 6,311.76	\$ 3,155.88	
Basic Package + Sub-lists	\$13,525.20	\$ 6,762.60	\$ 3,381.30	
Basic Package + all options	\$16,530.80	\$ 8,866.52	\$ 5,034.38	

activities and subscriber services

DESCRIPTIONS OF TERMS AND ASSUMPTIONS

4.1 The Basic package of activity will include

- Moderated discussion forum
- Maintain and expand the subscriber list
- Provide subscriber help and assistance with the use of the forum services
- Expand and maintain the key documents directory
- Subscriber surveys
- Reporting

4.2 The WWW option package of activity will include

- Set up, development and maintenance of the TECHNET Forum website including an online discussion facility

4.3 The Sub-list option package of activity will include

- Establishment and management of occasional topical unmoderated discussion e-mail lists and the selection of suitable messages for posting to the TECHNET Forum

4.4 An average of 2 postings to subscribers per week is planned, reflecting increased activity

4.5 About 5% increase in work to produce each post due to expected increased subscriber inputs

COST PER SUBSCRIBER

It is estimated that with a subscriber base of 237⁷ and an expected 84 posts in the next 12 months the cost per posting per subscriber would range from US\$ 0.63 to US\$ 0.83. It is expected that subscriber numbers will increase and yield lower costs per subscriber.

SUBSCRIBER COST ESTIMATES	cost per subscriber per year	cost per subscriber per year per post
Subscribers	237	84
Basic package of activities	\$ 53.16	\$ 0.63
Basic Option + Sub lists	\$ 56.96	\$ 0.68
Total with all options	\$ 69.62	\$ 0.83

5 OUTPUTS

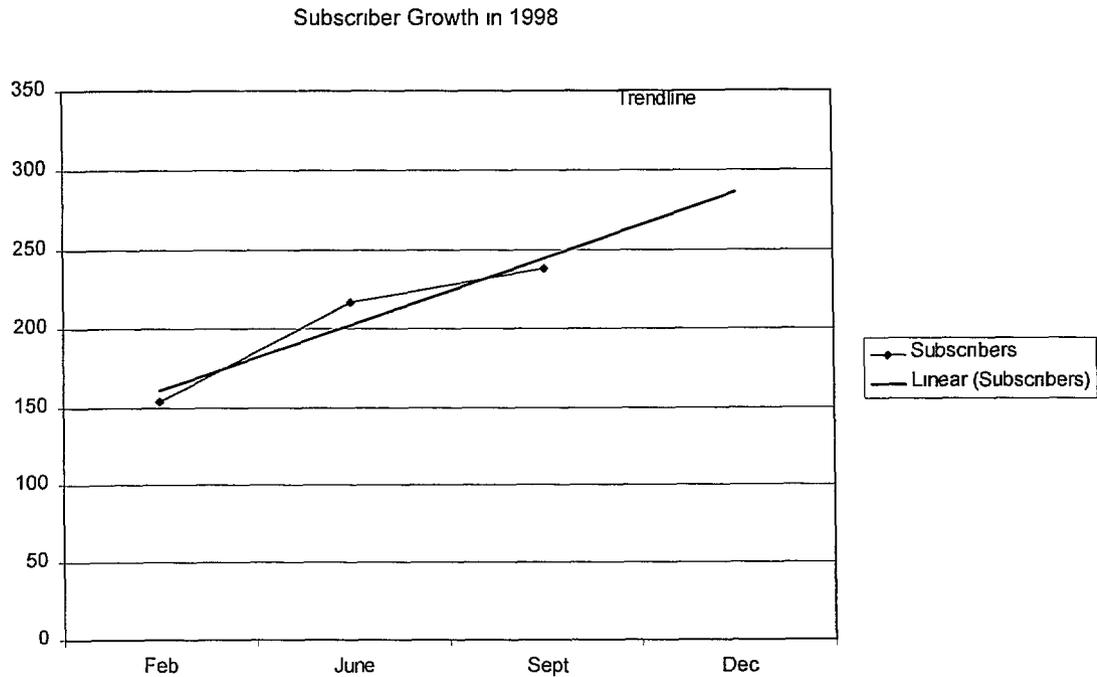
The direct outputs of the forum will be

- The wide dissemination of technical information on TECHNET topics
- The wide discussion of policy and operational issues
- An average of 2 postings per week to all subscribers
- An enlarged subscriber base
- A directory of essential files and key documents relevant to the policy and technical work of the TECHNET for automatic distribution to subscribers on request

⁷ As of September 9, 1998

6 ACTION

On the completion of an agreement between Allan G Bass and The WHO/GPV/EPI on the TECHNET Forum package and options as well as the duration of the operation of the TECHNET Forum the agreed activities as described in this proposal will be implemented as described in that agreement⁸



⁸ Michel Zafran WHO/GPV/EPI has confirmed via e-mail that the WHO will fund the TECHNET Forum for an additional six-month period

ANNEX 5

LIST OF MEMBERS OF TECHNET

ANNEX 5

From "listserv@acithn1 herston uq edu au"
<listserv@acithn1 herston uq edu au>
To "A Bass@mailbox uq edu au" <A Bass@mailbox uq edu au>
Subject List of members of technet
Date Wed, 9 Sep 1998 21 38 41 +1100

technet has 239 members

- 1 robot@acithn uq edu au
- 2 A Bass@mailbox uq edu au
- 3 S Forsyth@mailbox uq edu au
- 4 thjgeefh@mailbox uq edu au
- 5 leurquin@ccmailg1 sbbio be
- 6 pduclos@hpb hwc ca
- 7 ssingh@gpu srv ualberta ca
- 8 tangermannr@who ch
- 9 milstienj@who ch
- 10 lloydj@who ch
- 11 henaorestrepoa@who ch
- 12 olivej@who ch
- 13 hullh@who ch
- 14 ZAFFRANM@who ch
- 15 brudonp@who ch
- 16 everts@who ch
- 17 gassef@who ch
- 18 birmingham@who ch
- 19 nkowaneb@who ch
- 20 heymannd@who ch
- 21 evansp@who ch
- 22 aylwardb@who ch
- 23 codykone@africaonline co ci
- 24 leotaps@AfricaOnline Co Ci
- 25 Ganivet@lom camnet cm
- 26 nshimird@lom camnet cm
- 27 whochina@public3 bta net cn
- 28 dierolf@mafalda univalle edu co
- 29 Pmgraves@aol com
- 30 john pott@btinternet com
- 31 100705 2677@compuserve com
- 32 104417 2237@compuserve com
- 33 72134 1221@compuserve com
- 34 FBA@compuserve com
- 35 keng@crocker com
- 36 platurus@frpmc-vacc com
- 37 Oyaafsar@iname com
- 38 kromann@mmm com
- 39 bobarens@mmm com
- 40 ATLASMED@msn com
- 41 who-tz@twiga com
- 42 SPANNER@po ia dk
- 43 cbizet@unicef dk
- 44 mlainejoki@unicef dk
- 45 sjarrett@unicef dk

46 lehansen@unicef dk
47 atennant@unicef dk
48 vli-frankenstein@unicef dk
49 hkwon@unicef dk
50 obl@who dk
51 cro@who dk
52 swa@who dk
53 mcfarlan@sph emory edu
54 aslanianr@who sci eg
55 GaafarT@who sci eg
56 belgharbil@who sci eg
57 Carmog@ctv es
58 jacquet@telecom net et
59 moriniere@telecom net et
60 hanna nohynek@ktl fi
61 rpo@unicef kheta ge
62 woodfill@ncs com gh
63 cell@cdc gov
64 scr1@nip1 em cdc gov
65 pms4@nip1 em cdc gov
66 slc1@nip1 em cdc gov
67 rak1@nip1 em cdc gov
68 rws4@nip1 em cdc gov
69 exd4@nip1 em cdc gov
70 slandry@usaaid gov
71 eogden@usaaid gov
72 cnelson@cbn net id
73 ANTON@whojkt who or id
74 abhuyan@uncdel ernet in
75 savigny@who ernet in
76 ANDRUS@who ernet in
77 wrindia@who ernet in
78 banerjee@who ernet in
79 haran@del2 vsnl net in
80 klaucke@users africaonline co ke
81 rmahoney@alliant snu ac kr
82 sergei@sed almaty kz
83 pascal vannier@notes electrolux lu
84 basics@cni md
85 kertes@oms malinet ml
86 konare@oms malinet ml
87 mambu@oms malinet ml
88 bschreud@mail tropical co mz
89 TonyS@spc org nc
90 dechen@wrbhu hk super net
91 newbury-3@surfersparadise net
92 luna@whonep mos com np
93 mweeks@basics org
94 RSTEINGL@basics org
95 lshimp@basics org
96 mpacque@basics org
97 mrock@basics org
98 rfields@basics org
99 jmillogo@bur healthnet org
100 mtechm@ken healthnet org

101 meg@amsterdam msf org
102 Monique_SUPIoT@bordeaux msf org
103 isabelle_voiret@paris msf org
104 Florence_Fermon@paris msf org
105 carrascp@paho org
106 jmaynard@path org
107 dkriste@path org
108 vtsu@path org
109 dwoodle@path org
110 gaustin@path org
111 mfree@path org
112 nmuller@path org
113 serge ganivet@undp org
114 ssakai@unicef org
115 jpolosky@hqfaus01 unicef org
116 jpierre@hqfaus01 unicef org
117 jzucker@hqfaus01 unicef org
118 lpierre@hqfaus01 unicef org
119 rkippenberg@hqfhaus01 unicef org
120 Nasim_Ahmed_at_PO546A01@smtplink unicef org
121 Robert_Davis_at_PO121A01@smtplink unicef org
122 sguichard@hqfaus unicef01 org
123 okwob@server whoafr org
124 dickom@server whoafr org
125 tangermannr@who org ph
126 abrahaml@who org ph
127 maherc@who org ph
128 bilousj@who org ph
129 Staffan Ostlund@notes electrolux se
130 tonydaly@realnet co sz
131 baltay@saglik gov tr
132 anton@path-k carrier kiev ua
133 kievpath@path-k carrier kiev ua
134 felicitycutts@lshtm ac uk
135 Andrew@agarnett demon co uk
136 mhodge@netnam org vn
137 edurry@y net ye
138 mbutterw@csir co za
139 htr@yebo co za
140 eggerr@hltrsa pwv gov za
141 philld@hltrsa pwv gov za
142 ottenm@samara co zw
143 bannew@hltrsa pwv gov za
144 eabuha@path org
145 euro_products@csi com
146 stevef@lifelinestechonology com
147 bandinel@iris02 biocine it
148 DAHLSTR1@MSMBWMB Hoechst com
149 mvb5@cdc gov
150 btb0@cdc gov
151 Menno_Goedhart@amsterdam msf org
152 acriviadisp@who ch
153 andclark@intrepid net
154 adwoa_bentsienchill@inet hc_sc gc ca
155 buckerid@ sbbio be

156 carpentr@icon co za
157 rtc1@npl em cdc gov
158 choih@who ch
159 MCI@who dk
160 Aldasilva@compuserve com
161 danielsenc@who ch
162 dellepiannen@who ch
163 sed@kaznet kz
164 SDI@who dk
165 wdupreez@mattek csir co za
166 pfife@unicef org
167 dbf1@cdc gov
168 john gilmartin@supply unicef dk
169 univec@msn com
170 mojtaba@mh sdnpk undp org
171 david@halliday com
172 amojet@aol com
173 Sekong@unicef org
174 sjarret@unicef dk
175 ukartoglu@unicef org
176 kawanom@who ch
177 unicef_eapro unescap@un org
178 konesolo@africaonline co ci
179 koska@dial pipex com
180 pklahlou@aol com
181 hmaruyama@unicef dk
182 mochny@who ernet in
183 export@vestfrost dk
184 O Morin@ifpma org
185 nnorth@infras ch
186 onio@whoafr org
187 unicef@is com fj
188 P POORE@SCFUK ORG UK
189 pharmacy@yebo co za
190 Rehan@epi-who sdnpk undp org
191 drogers@csir co za
192 Zeil_rosenberg@bdhq bd com
193 roth@udri udayton edu
194 whosp@is com fj
195 tsaung@unicef dk
196 113534 3555@compuserve com
197 mshareef@hqfaus01 unicef org
198 rmshende@unep fr
199 106164 2450@compuserve com
200 evs@ck dk
201 pst@kulturfonden fi
202 stilwellb@who ch
203 100442 2725@compuserve com
204 Einar_Syvertsen_at_PO171A03@smtplink unicef org
205 sthamdrup@unicef dk
206 mtrostle@usaid gov
207 IDA_sale@euronet nl
208 101716 1405@compuserve com
209 kwadhawan@unicef org
210 wengerj@who ch

211 Wibowo_at_PO283A01@SMTPLINK unicef org
212 ITPI@md3 vsnl net in
213 eescobar-king@unicef dk
214 swright@path org
215 Bruno_Martin_at_PO386A01@smtplink unicef org
216 lferraz@glasdl01 vsnl net in
217 tmsys@mahidol ac th
218 wcarlsen@sfgate com
219 awylie@hamwylie demon co uk
220 guido@pacs pha pa us
221 zpe7@cdc gov
222 RousarF@who org fj
223 gboyega@fm4 gka healthlink org za
224 marie-claire_Durand@brussels msf org
225 naps@form-net com
226 omsalger@1st cerist dz
227 PEV10@calva com
228 sbengaly@spider toolnet org
229 smithj@who org np
230 stever@dprin go id
231 cdricotdans@unicef org
232 ait@who dz
233 WRBhu@wrbhu hk super net
234 WR-CAM@who org ph
235 OMS-DRC@maf org
236 WHO@y net ye
237 who@zamnet zm
238 yah5@cdc gov
239 pbangdel@unicef org np

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