The Bahamas has made major strides in expanding its national immunization program. During the last years, three new biologicals were introduced, namely, Varicella vaccine, DTaP Adults and Pneumococcal Conjugated Pediatric 13-Valent. The Pneumococcal Unconjugated Adult 23-valent will be introduced this year. The rapid evolution of the program poses a challenge for the cold chain system of the country.

Engineer Gomez meets with senior officials of the Ministry of Health of The Bahamas

In order to upgrade their cold chain system, the Ministry of Health of the Bahamas requested technical support from the Pan American Health Organization to make an overall assessment of the structural and functional capacities of the system, as well as provide advice for the development of the new cold storage room for the country.

In response to this request, Eng. Victor Gomez, PAHO/WHO's Senior Cold Chain specialist, visited Nassau, The Bahamas, during the period, 4th through 8th March, 2013. During the visit, he had the opportunity to meet with the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, the Chief Medical Officer, the Deputy Chief Medical Officer, the Director of the Department of Public Health, the Coordinator of the National Immunization Programme, as well as key national officers and specialists from the Ministry of Public Works, the Ministry of Transport and the National Insurance Board.

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