Vaccination
An Act of Love

VACCINATION WEEK IN THE AMERICAS (VWA) BULLETIN

PAHO **22 April 2010**

ONLY 2 DAYS UNTIL THE LAUNCH OF VWA 2010!

- To date, 44 countries and territories in LAC, are expected to participate in VWA 2010 between April 24 and May 1. This year, VWA will coordinate its efforts with the 5th annual European Immunization Week (EIW) and the 1st Eastern Mediterranean Vaccination Week (VWEM).

- Thus far, 34 VWA plans have been submitted, with an estimated regional goal of vaccinating over 42 million people. Of this, 8 countries are planning Influenza campaigns with an estimated goal of 27 million.

The VWA website has a new link: www.paho.org/vwa. The website is consistently being updated to provide you with the most up-to-date information about the initiative.

VWA 2010

This year, the focus for Vaccination Week is "Reaching Everyone", especially vulnerable populations.

- To date, regional launch sites for VWA 2010 include:
  - Matagalpa, Nicaragua—April 24th
  - Las Cruces, New Mexico (Coordinated event with National Infant Immunization Week)—April 26th
  - Border between Suriname/French Guiana with the participation of Brazil (a bi-Regional event, PAHO in coordination the European Region)—April 27th
  - Haiti/Dominican Republic Border—May 1st

- VWA events will count on the participation of high level government authorities (Ministers of Health), heads of UN Agencies (UNICEF, UNAIDS, CDC, UNDP, etc.), and a delegation from the World Health Organization's AFRO Region (Haiti/Dominican Republic).

- For their VWA 2010 launch event, Colombia will host Sesame Street characters, Elmo and Enrique.

Thank you for all of your effort in making Vaccination Week a success!