

## 1.3 The Milestones of EPI in Oman

### *Expanded Programme on Immunization formally launched in Oman in 1981*

Early 70s to 1989:	BCG, OPV, DTP, & Measles: standard regime (primary & boosters) Booster doses of DTP, DT & OPV integrated into School Health Programme
1989	Introduction of birth dose of OPV
1990	Introduction of dose of OPV at 40 days ( <i>Al Arbayeen dose</i> )
August 1990	Introduction of Hepatitis B vaccine (0, 3 & 7 months)
March 1994	Introduction of Rubella & second dose of Measles at 15 months as MR
August 1995	Introduction of Vitamin 'A' supplementation as part of EPI along with Measles & MR vaccine (9 & 15 months)
January 1996	New policy on the use of opened vials in subsequent immunisations Introduction of a national surveillance system for monitoring Adverse Events Following Immunisation (AEFI)
September 1997	Discontinuation of policy of BCG re-vaccination in school
October 1997	MR at 15 months replaced by MMR
January 1998	DTP rescheduled at 1 ½, 3 & 5 months, DTP & OPV boosters at 15 & 19 months respectively
June 1998	Vaccine Vial Monitor (VVM) introduced
June 1999	Discontinuation of policy of BCG re-vaccination at 3 months
February 2001	Introduction of Rubella vaccine for postpartum mothers
October 2001	Introduction of Hib vaccine Measles & MMR rescheduled at 12 & 18 months respectively DTP & OPV Booster at 18 months Vitamin 'A' supplementation at 7 & 12 months Introduction of IPV for immunocompromised & their contacts

### *National Immunization Campaigns:*

March 1994	Catch-up campaign with MR vaccine (Target: 15 m to 18 yrs)
1995 to 1999 (5)	Polio, National Immunization Days (NIDs) (Target: < 5 yrs)
2001 to 2004	Hepatitis B Catch-up school campaign

Future Plans	Introduction of combined vaccine as Tetra/Penta (DTaP/Hib/Hep-B) Introduction of Hepatitis A vaccine Introduction of Auto-Disable (AD) syringes
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