PREFACE

The primary aim of the *Neonatal Tetanus Elimination Field Guide* is to provide those who already have managed to reduce the incidence of this disease to zero, as well as medical officers and other health personnel involved in neonatal tetanus elimination efforts at national, state, and local levels, with a step-by-step guide for setting up and carrying out control and elimination activities. This guide emphasizes the progress made by surveillance systems in the identification and monitoring of high-risk areas and the conduct of special immunization activities targeting women of childbearing age who live in those areas. Such measures are meant to complement routine procedures such as providing diphtheria-pertussis-tetanus (DPT) vaccine for infants and children and tetanus and diphtheria toxoid (DT/Td) for school-aged children and pregnant women. Detailed information on clean delivery and post-delivery practices will not be given, as these topics are thoroughly covered in other documents of the World Health Organization (WHO).

Much of the information contained in this manual, the first edition of which was published in 1993, was taken directly from technical papers prepared by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and other WHO Regional Offices. In addition, a number of other publications were consulted, and the field experience of those who have made advances in eliminating the disease was used. Several of these works are listed in the Bibliography. Sample forms are included in the Annexes and may be copied or adapted to meet specific program needs.