

Extract from :

### **Smallpox: Historical Review of a Potential Bioterrorist Tool**

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.....Worldwide Eradication

On January 1, 1967, the WHO began the Intensified Smallpox Eradication Program, one of the greatest triumphs in the history of medicine. The WHO employed a strategy of mass vaccination coupled with subsequent surveillance and containment. After mass vaccination of a population, **WHO agents monitored it for isolated cases of smallpox, containing them via quarantine and small-scale vaccination.** Key to the program's success was its sensitivity to local needs. Operations were specialized to each country and agents worked carefully within the framework of local cultures. Freeze-dried vaccine (which does not require refrigeration) and a hydraulically powered jet injector capable of performing 1000 vaccines per hour made eradication possible in developing countries where electricity was scarce and generators unreliable. The last reported case of smallpox occurred in Somalia in 1977; the disease was declared eradicated and large-scale vaccination ended worldwide in 1980.