

IMMUNIZATION & VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASES

MONTHLY IMMUNIZATION UPDATE IN THE AFRICAN REGION

March—April 2015 (Vol 3, issue N° 3)

5th edition of the African Vaccination Week: 24-30 April 2015: 'Vaccination, a gift for life"



Zambia: First Lady, Mrs Esther Lungu administers oral polio

Zambia: Dr Jacob Mufunda WHO Representative, addressing the gathering at the Regional AVW launch



 ${\it MALI:}$ A view of the officials during media briefing on the 5th AVW



CONGO: WHO Representative administering measles vaccine during AVW launch in Pointe Noire.

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Planned/conducted Interventions during AVW 2015	Number of countries	Countries		
Advocacy/communication & social mobilization activities	47	All countries in the AFR Region		
Catch-up vaccination activities combined or not with Vitamin A & deworming.	19	Angola, Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cap Verde, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Congo, Comoros, DRC, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal.		
Combined with Mother & Child Health Days	11	Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Eritrea, Ghana, Madagascar, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Uganda.		
Distribution of LLITNs	4	Cote d'Ivoire		
Growth monitoring	3	Comoros, Eritrea, Cote d'Ivoire		
Integrated Polio & measles campaign combined with Vit A	2	Guinea, Liberia		
New vaccines introduction	2	IPV: DRC; PCV: Guinea Bissau		
Prevention of pneumonia & diar- rhoea in the framework of IMCI and GAPPD	2	Swaziland, Zambia		
Launching of NITAG	1	Kenya		

Highlights

The 5th edition of the African Vaccination Week (AVW) was celebrated from 24 to 30 April 2015, in synergy with the other five WHO regions and the World Immunization Week.

Regional launch took place in Lusaka, Zambia on 23 April 2015 with the First Lady of Zambia, Mrs Esther Lungu kicking off the commemorations. She encouraged countries in Africa and immunization partners to make all efforts to reach the unreached children with vaccinations to avoid vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks.

This year's AVW theme of "Vaccination – A Gift for Life" has been welcomed by Member States, as a significant number of them have been experiencing stagnation in routine immunization, making it crucial for them to develop measures and effective strategies to reach the unreached children with immunization services.

In a message at the same occasion, read by Dr Jacob Mufunda, WHO Representative to Zambia on behalf of the WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr R. Matshidiso Moeti, called on countries and partners to redouble efforts in resource mobilization and allocation, to sustain and improve on the concerted efforts already made in reducing vaccine preventable diseases in the region.

AVW is a flexible Initiative coordinated by the WHO regional office which provides an opportunity for countries and partners to strengthen national immunization programmes and, through advocacy and partnerships, keep immunization high on the national and regional agendas. It also promotes provision of other highimpact, life-saving interventions as

shown on the table.

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COTE D'IVOIRE	BURKINA FASO	91	91	91	91	88	NA	88	NR	91	7
COTE D'IVOIRE	CABO VERDE	95	95	NA	NA	93	79		NR	82	5
GAMBIA 96 97 96 92 96 73 96 54 60 2 GHANA 98 98 98 98 92 67 92 98 42 8 GUINEA 60 60 NA NA NA 62 NA 62 NR 62 18 GUINEA BISAU 83 83 NA NA S8 NA 54 25 68 22 MALI 81 85 79 NA 72 NR 73 81 86 15 MAURITANIA 84 84 84 NA 84 NR S0 NR 42 5 NIGER 93 91 13 19 88 3 87 43 90 12 NIGERIA 70 72 NA NA 73 NR 71 3 44 4 SENEGAL 89 85 NA NA 80 NA NA NA 84 15 SIERRA LEONE 83 83 83 83 70 80 NA 80 80 90 9 TOGO 87 85 34 35 82 NR 82 NR 80 10 LEGEND Coverage/		87	85				NA	58			
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Coverage/ Not available/ CV 80-89% CV 50-79% ≤ 50%		87	85	34	35	82	NK	82	NK	80	10
coverage/				Not available /			CV 00 000/		CV 50-79%		≤ 50%
	Drop Out Rate					CV ≥90%					

Highlights

The analysis of the 2014 country reported official estimates of immunization coverage (2014 JRF) shows the following:

The estimated regional **DTP3 coverage** was 83% and 85% respectively in 2013 & 2014.; Measles coverage was 83% for both years. OPV3 went from 82% to 85% between 2013 and 2014.

A total of 22 countries achieved a DTP3 coverage >=90%, among which 17 maintained the same level as in 2013. Those are: Algeria, Benin, Burundi, Cap Verde, Eritrea, Gambia, Ghana, Mauritius, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe. This is in line with the RVAP target of 20 countries reaching 90% coverage for DTP3 containing vaccine.

Seventeen countries achieved a coverage between 80 & 89%, and 6 a coverage between 79 & 50%. Equatorial Guinea & CAR maintained a coverage <50%.

Apart from DRC and Mozambique, some of the most populated countries in the region maintained the same level of coverage (Nigeria, Ethiopia, Kenya), or have decreased (Angola, Cote d'Ivoire).

An huge decrease was observed in the 3 Ebola affected countries where the coverage dropped from green to yellow especially in Guinea and Liberia

Measles 1st dose: 16 countries reported a coverage ≥ 90%, 19 & 11 a coverage between 80 and 89 %, and between 50 and 79% respectively. Only Equatorial Guinea reported a coverage<50%.

Measles 2nd dose (MCV2): Sixteen countries reported coverage on MCV2 among which $6 \ge 80\%$.

Pneumococcal vaccine (PCV): 30 countries reported coverage on PCV vaccine among which 20 reported a coverage >80%, with 10 of them having a coverage for the 3rd dose of PCV ≥ 90%. Five of those countries have the same level of coverage that DTP3 given at the same time, while major discrepancies (difference>10 %) are observed in Angola, Botswana, Congo, DRC, Liberia & Uganda).

Rotavirus vaccine: 20 countries reported coverage on rotavirus vaccines among which 9 reported a coverage of the last dose ≥ 80%, seven among them reporting coverage ≥ 90%, (Benin, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Ghana, Rwanda, Tanzania, South Africa.

Vitamin A: 26 countries reported coverages on the 1st dose of Vitamin A, among which 13 reported coverages ≥ 80%,. Coverages ≤ 50% were observed in 10 countries.

DTP3 and MCV1 children vaccinated in Jan & Feb 2015

	DT	P3	MCV1		
Country	January	February J	lanuary February		
Nigeria	333012	452145	346455	485748	
DRC	203710	NA	198185	NA	
Uganda	118132	116442	100896	104289	
Kenya	87329	94035	98928	95133	
South Africa	76452	0	85692	0	
Ghana	80279	68443	85001	85065	
Cote d'ivoire	90498	105940	83656	101454	
Cameroon	71677	39898	69173	37087	
Burkina Faso	65455	NA	63075	NA	
Mozambique	67467	74761	59461	69068	
Niger	63258	NA	59322	NA	
Chad	55576	33554	56939	35407	
Burundi	39328	14493	42931	15295	
Malawi	42381	45983	38625	45874	
Zimbabwe	33851	30429	36478	31665	
Benin	30881	29528	31418	30363	
Rwanda	27779	26359	30200	27942	
Senegal	33893	26844	27638	20237	
Togo	18370	17611	17384	18553	
Congo	11850	NA	11665	NA	
Sierra Leone	8954	5965	8692	6116	
Liberia	6448	7165	8360	12004	
Eritrea	6586	6739	5883	6468	
Gambia	5333	5518	5768	4961	

	DT	P3	MC	V1
Country	January	February .	lanuary	February
Gabon	4271	NA	3820	NA
Botswana	3597	0	3774	0
CAR	4056	1105	3587	832
Lesotho	3429	0	3235	2941
Swaziland	2151	1895	2061	1865
Angola	2823	920	1983	1023
Mauritius	858	777	938	896
Namibia	NA	NA	805	0
Sao Tome & P	442	NA	516	NA
Seychelles	119	139	124	118
EQG	NA	NA	NA	NA
Algeria	NA	NA	NA	NA
Cabo Verde	NA	NA	NA	NA
Guinea	NA	NA	NA	NA
Guinea Bisau	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mali	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mauritania	NA	NA	NA	NA
Comoros	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ethiopia	NA	NA	NA	NA
Madagascar	NA	NA	NA	NA
South Sudan	NA	NA	NA	NA
Tanzania	NA	NA	NA	NA
Zambia	NA	NA	NA	NA
AFR	1600245	1206688	1592668	1240404

Highlights

Data reported at the end of April 2015 show the following:

34/47 countries have reported data on routine immunization for the first 2 months of 2015. In most of the countries, district completeness is still <100%.

Data reported so far show that out of a target population of around 6 Million of surviving infants <1 year for the period January to February 2015, nearly 3 millions children have been vaccinated with DTP3 containing vaccine & measles, the highest number being reported in Nigeria, Uganda & Kenya. Some of the high populated countries (Ethiopia, Madagascar...) did not report any data for the period

More complete data are expected as of 15th May 2015 after they have gone through in country validation mechanism processes.

Source: monthly district RI reports 2015

Improving data quality in countries of the Region







JRF & APR peer review workshop for IST ESA countries, in Pretoria



JRF & APR peer review workshop for IST central countries in Kinshasa

Highlights

The 3 workshops were held as follows:

IST Central Africa: JRF/APR peer review workshop held in Kinshasa, DRC from 23 to 27 March 2015

IST West Africa: JRF /APR peer review workshop held In Lome Togo from 23 to 27 March 2015

IST Eastern and southern Africa JRF/APR peer review workshop held in Pretoria South Africa from 30th March to 3rd April 2015.

Key recommendations form the workshops include:

- countries to involve all stakeholders and organize in country workshop to finalize the documents before they come to the peer review workshops
- Countries teams suggested to partners maintain the peer review since it providing the opportunity to improve their reports
- Some areas of JRF need to be improved in terms of instructions
- For GAVI APR: to make sure the portal is available early enough, latest end of January, to allow countries easy their submission process.

To improve quality of immunization data in the African Region, 2 major areas of focus, were identified:

- Development & implementation of data quality improvement plans with a focus on the quality and use of data from the point they are generated
- Improvement of the quality of JRF which is the source of GVAP/RVAP monitoring and evaluation indicators

In this line, 3 days peer review workshop was organized in each of the 3 WHO sub regions (IST). These workshops were coupled with the peer review of the GAVI Annual Progress Report (APR). Participants were EPI & data managers, WHO and UNICEF EPI focal persons, HSS focal persons from MOH, & WHO in selected countries. Algeria is the only country that could not participate). Somalia (EMRO) was represented by UNICEF to benefit from the experiences f of countries in the Region on JRF processing.

During these workshops, country teams were given opportunity to better understand different JRF variables, then reviewed other countries JRF and provide feedback to help country team to improve their JRF. The same process was followed for APR documents. This process helped the Region not only to ensure the availability of all JRF by 15th April but also to reinforce the capacity of country teams and contributed to the improvement of JRF and APR documents.

EPI managers' meeting in the WHO/Eastern & Southern sub region (IST/ESA)





The annual East and Southern Africa Sub-Region EPI Managers' meeting was held from 9-13 March in Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe). The meeting co-sponsored by WHO and UNICEF, was attended by 140 participants, from the 20 countries of East and Southern Africa. Apart from WHO and UNICEF, other partner organizations that attended the meeting include: American Red Cross, BMGF, CDC, Emory University, GAVI, JSI, MSF, Sabin Vaccine Institute, Task Force for Global Health, and USAID. The objectives of this years' meeting were:

- To brief Program Managers and partners on the Regional Immunization Strategic Plan, 2014 2020, review
 progress and challenges in reaching the unreached target population with routine immunization services and
 new vaccines; and discuss data quality as well as immunization financing issues;
- To update countries and partners on progress towards elimination of measles, and MNT, as well as with Rubella vaccine introduction; share country experiences with the implementation of strategies to eliminate / control the targeted VPDs in the sub-region;
- To review progress, identify challenges and facilitate implementation of the polio end game plan.

The meeting was opened by WHO Inter-Country Support Team Coordinator, Dr. David Okello who commended the countries for the giant strides made in immunization programme despite numerous challenges.

Highlights

The 1st three days meeting discussed the review of implementation of 2014 recommendations, updates on TFI, SAGE recommendations, and the newly endorsed regional strategic plan on immunization. Other presentations were focusing on overview of the immunization programme in the sub region, GAVI updates, reaching the unreached and addressing inequities, updates on accelerated disease initiative...

Parallel sessions were conducted on data quality, logistics, immunization financing.

An open discussion was conducted on RI and panel discussion on measles elimination.

The 4th day was dedicated to the polio endgame strategic plan and specifically to the switch tOPV to bOPV and the 5th days on internal WHO meeting and Joint WHO/ UNICEF meeting'.

22 recommendations were made to countries and 6 to partners. Recommendations to countries include:

- Strengthening Routine immunization, new vaccine surveillance, vaccine safety monitoring, immunization financial sustaining,
- Development of Plan for the "Switch" by 1st September 2015, development of annual progress report on measles elimination, plans to maintain neonatal tetanus elimination and evidence based data quality improvement plans.
- Conduct and document operational research to inform development of better communication strategies.

EPI managers' meeting in the WHO/West Africa sub region (IST/West)



Group picture of participants at EPI managers meeting in Lome: 16-20 march 2015

The annual meeting of EPI managers was held in Lomé (TOGO) from 16 to 20 March 2015. The meeting organized by WHO & UNICEF was attended by 125 participants from 17 countries in West Africa including EPI managers, directors of regional laboratories (polio, measles and yellow fever), partners (AMP, GAVI, CDC, American Red Cross, BMGF, Task Force for Global Health, WAHO, SABIN Institute, USAID, MSF) and NGOs.

A different approach was used this year as presentations were made in the morning and afternoon was devoted to the parallel sessions and side meetings with each country. A total number of 40 presentations were made from WHO / IST, countries and partners, while 6 specific topics were presented by selected countries during parallel sessions.

Highlights

The 1st three days of the meeting were dedicated to updates on Polio Eradication, Routine immunization, accelerated disease initiatives and cross-cutting issues (communication, financial sustainability, logistics, laboratory, updates on the GAVI procedures and the development of assessment and grant management system GAVI).

The fourth day was devoted to the introduction of the inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) and the switch from trivalent oral polio vaccine to the bivalent vaccine (Switch tOPV / bOPV) from planning to operationalization. The WHO internal meeting and WHO/UNICEF meeting were held the 5th day.

Recommendations of the meeting focused on countries to update of their CMYP in line with the new Regional Strategic Plan on Immunization developed in the context of GVAP. Other recommendations were to strengthen the 5 components of the Reaching Every District approach, strengthen surveillance system in the context of Ebola, improve data quality and use for action, improve supply chain.

The need for regular monitoring of those recommendations was emphasized.