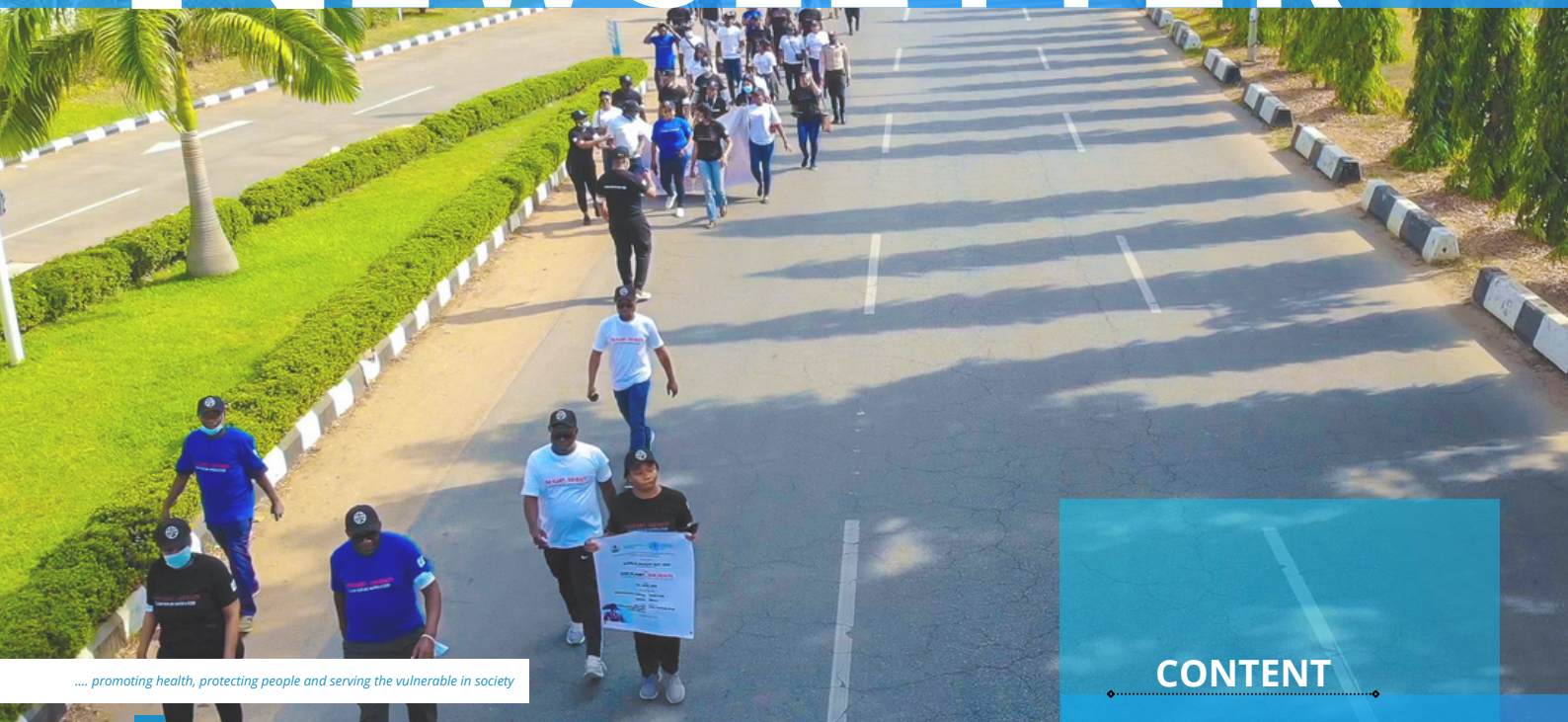




NEWSLETTER



.... promoting health, protecting people and serving the vulnerable in society

Tuberculosis is not a death sentence -survivor's path to recovery



WHO Ebonyi team on World TB Day

When 29 years old Mr Ede John Chimobi, a native of Mgbiji in Isuuzor Local Government Area (LGA), Enugu state, tested positive for tuberculosis (TB), he was shocked as he never considered himself to be at risk.

Mr Chimobi, who works as security personnel, had been feeling unwell – coughing at night, his chest was hurting, sweating, and not sleeping well.

He first got some drugs from chemist shops, but it worsened. He visited the hospital after a concerned neighbour advised him to seek medical attention at the hospital.

My neighbour said "you are coughing too much. Why not go to Mile 4 hospital? They will help you out".

Mr Ede said he is glad he heeded the advice.

Following his physician's assessment, as per the presentation of his signs and symptoms, he was tested for TB, and his result was positive.

"At the hospital, they explained to me that TB is airborne, and it can affect any one of us especially when we are in contact with an untreated patient. I had to take my brother to the hospital for testing as instructed by the nurse. He was also diagnosed of TB.

Mr Chimaobi had also infected his younger brother who was sleeping with him in same room before his diagnosis.

He was placed on a 6-month treatment of 4 combination drugs as an outpatient but strictly supervised by a family member.

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<https://www.afro.who.int/countries/nigeria>

Women using firewood face increasing health risks



Fatimah Saliu, uses firewood to prepare meals for her family

On a sunny afternoon in Dukpa village, a community at Gwagwalada Area Council in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), a 35-year-old housewife Mrs Asia Abdulkarim, was seated on a small stool beside the open firewood stand turning a pot of "tuwo". (Tuwo is a local delicacy made from guinea corn or corn in the Northern part of Nigeria).

Using the edge of her wrapper to wipe her teary eyes and sweating face, Asia said she uses firewood to cook at least three times a day.

"I have been cooking with firewood for over 20 years every day. I started cooking with firewood when I was young. Cooking with firewood is tedious, the smoke affects my eyes; it makes me cough and I think the smoke is the cause of my chest pain.

I wish I had another alternative way to cook, but other means are expensive. My children and I can pick firewood anytime we go to the farm. It is available and cheaper," she said.

Another housewife, 38 years-old Fatimah Saliu, residing in Dukpa said she also wishes to stop using firewood, but cannot afford it.

"I know there are other alternatives like gas, electric cooker, but my husband cannot afford it. We cook in large quantities. The smoke affects my eyes and I usually have constant cough and chest pain. I use local medicine anytime the cough starts. I have a sister who has been coughing for a while too. She went to the hospital and was advised to stop using firewood if she wants to get better," she said. [Read more](#)

WHO and stakeholders call for multisectoral approach towards climate change and other environmental threats to public health



Stakeholders at the ministerial press briefing on World Health Day

As Nigeria joins the world to commemorate the 2022 World Health Day, the World Health Organization (WHO) and stakeholders call for multisectoral approach towards climate change and other environmental threats to public health in the country. This call came at the Ministerial Press conference organized by the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) in collaboration with WHO held on 07 April 2022.

Addressing journalists after the walk at the FMOH, the Minister of State for Health Dr Olorunmibe Mamora, reiterated the commitment of government in working with other agencies to ensure a safe and healthy environment for Nigerians to live.

Dr Mamora said the theme for the commemoration is apt as the recent events (disease outbreaks, flooding, drought) around the world emphasize the connection between human activities and the planet.

He pledged the leadership of the FMOH in (i) implementing long-term multisectoral plans; (ii) increasing private sector engagement; (iii) reducing the use of fossil fuel towards clean energy production; (iv) reduction of carbon emission; (v) implementing WHO air quality guidelines; and (vi) shift towards green economy. [Read More](#)

WHO conducts training on the integration of oral cholera vaccine in emergency and preventive situations



Children showing their OCV cards

The World Health Organization will be conducting a hybrid training in Abuja on 25 to 29 April, 2022 for health professionals emphasizing the importance of integrating the oral cholera vaccine (OCV) as option for emergency and preventive cholera outbreak in endemic countries.

The training which aligns with 'Ending Cholera: A global Road Map to 2030, is intended for individuals that will be involved in the planning and implementation of OCV campaigns. The road map launched in 2017 targets a 90% reduction in cholera deaths by 2030 and the elimination of cholera in at least 20 countries out of the 47 currently affected.

"The increasing use of oral cholera vaccines to complete other interventions including water, sanitation and hygiene, for prevention and control of cholera outbreaks, is additional achievement in humanity walk toward vaccine equity and universal health coverage. This capacity building workshop will strengthen our health systems in implementing high-quality OCV activities," said Rebecca Matshidiso Moeti, the WHO Regional Director for Africa.

According to the road map, priority countries are to plan OCV campaigns in targeted cholera hotspots as a component of their National Cholera Control Plan (NCP). However, there are some challenges.

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All-of- society approach is steppingstone for scaling up vaccination activities



Mr Aliyu Bello carrying his daughter after immunization

Cuddling his 14-week-old daughter, who had received the scheduled childhood vaccines, Mr Aliyu Fawaz Bello, an architect and father of four residing in Abuja, said he always ensures that his children never miss a required vaccine dose.

Mr Bello was at the government-run Family Health Municipal Clinic in Abuja to support his wife to present their daughter to receive her 3rd dose of oral polio vaccine (OPV3), the Pentavalent (Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Hepatitis B and Hib) and Pneumococcal conjugate vaccines (PCV).

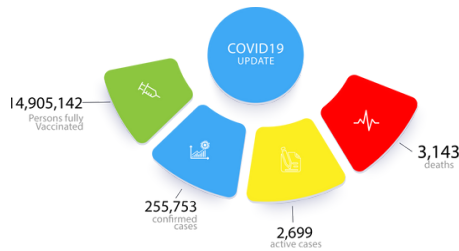
He said "it is the duty of parents to ensure that their household receives vaccinations so that the nation will continue to have healthy and brighter children.

"A father has to ensure they receive all immunization schedules for children as the vaccines protect children against diseases such as measles, yellow fever, meningitis, polio and vitamin A will help strengthen their eyes.

"Vaccines protect, build immunity, and help in boosting and strengthening the immune system of people who receive them. My workplace has been very supportive as I take permission on days my children are to receive their immunization," he said.

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COVID 19 UPDATE
6 MAY 2022



SOCIAL MEDIA ANALYTICS
APRIL



CALENDAR OF INTERNATIONAL HEALTH DAYS 2022

MAY

- 4 World Asthma Day
- 5 World Hand Hygiene Day
- 10 World Lupus Day
- 12 International Nurses Day
- 17 -21 73rd World Health Assembly
- 24 World Schizophrenia Day
- 31 World No-Tobacco Day

WHO facilitates training of health workers on Oral Cholera vaccines for preparedness against cholera outbreaks



The Minister of health Osagie Ehanire, the WHO Country Rep, Walter K Mulombo, and cross section of participant at the event

The World Health Organization (WHO) has kicked off a five-day workshop on 25 April 2022 in Abuja for public health officials to strengthen the capacities to integrate oral cholera vaccination (OCV) into the emergency and preventive measures in some Anglophone Cholera Priority countries in Africa.

With participants from six countries – Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, South Sudan, Uganda and the host country, Nigeria – the training aligns with 'Ending Cholera: A Global Road Map to 2030; and is intended for individuals that will be involved in the planning and implementation of OCV campaigns.

Speaking at the opening of the hybrid (online and physical) training, Nigeria's Minister of Health, Dr Osagie Ehanire, said the training is a welcome development as a prelude to equitable access to the OCV vaccine and another step towards the goal of better health for all.

Dr Ehanire, while appreciating WHO for the initiative, implored participants to make the best use of the opportunity and put in their best to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to use the vaccine to eliminate cholera as a recurrent health problem in Africa.

[Read More](#)

Gender-responsive support from Nigeria's polio eradication programme to tackle COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy



Fatunmobi Christiana, Nursing officer at Idi-ogugun Primary Health care centre, Ibadan Oyo State

Fatunmobi Christiana, a nursing officer with nearly 30 years of working experience, is very well-known in her community, particularly among mothers.

As matron and officer-in-charge of Idi-Ogugun Primary Health Care Centre in Ibadan Oyo State, her mission is to ensure no child falls victim to polio or any other preventable childhood disease.

With Nigeria currently leveraging its polio networks and infrastructure to help drive the COVID-19 vaccination response, female health workers like Christiana have been putting their expertise garnered over the years while working in polio eradication to good use, encouraging uptake of the COVID-19 vaccine in their local communities.

"Working on COVID-19 vaccination is similar to working in polio eradication; a common challenge associated with both diseases is vaccine hesitancy," said Christiana. "Part of the job is to sensitize people so that they present for vaccination and that is exactly what we have been doing with COVID-19" she said.

Christiana's colleague, Rukayiat Okanlawon, an immunization officer in Ibadan North Local Government Area, agreed that experience working as a polio frontline officer puts her in good stead for addressing COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy.

"We encounter a lot of misinformation about the COVID-19 vaccine in the field, which causes rumors and skepticism [in communities]. I am relying on the trust built during previous polio vaccination campaigns to encourage uptake of the COVID-19 vaccine in my own community. People trust that I will not advise them to receive a shot that will harm them," she said.

weeks should visit the hospital. I now know that TB is curable", she said.

Logos, ethos, pathos, and women

In situations where people refuse vaccination, it is up to health workers like Christiana and Okanlawon to visit the households and give advice on the benefits of immunization, and risks that come from low levels of coverage. Christiana firmly believes that many health interventions, including immunization, are most effective when delivered by women.

[Read More](#)

Stakeholders endorse collective innovative approach for eradication of malaria in Nigeria



The WHO Country Representative delivering his goodwill speech

To commemorate the 2022 World Malaria Day (WMD), World Health Organization (WHO) and stakeholders have endorsed a collective, innovative and transformative approach towards tackling the malaria scourge in the Nigeria.

This call came at the Ministerial Press conference organized by the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) in collaboration with WHO and malaria control partners to mark WMD in Abuja on 26 April 2022.

Every year on 25 April, the World celebrates WMD.

Speaking at this year's event, Minister of Health, Dr Osagie Ehanire, said that the theme for 2022 WMD – Advance Equity, Build Resilience, End Malaria with the national slogan "Every effort counts", reinforces the need for increased investment in malaria prevention and treatment services towards achieving a malaria-free country.

He commended the gratifying effort of partners who have been collaborating with the government in adopting various innovative tools toward achieving a malaria-free Nigeria.

He commended the gratifying effort of partners who have been collaborating with the government in adopting various innovative tools toward achieving a malaria-free Nigeria.

"For a malaria-free Nigeria, let each of us play our parts, because every effort counts," he said.

Over the years, the government of Nigeria and its partners have continued to develop and initiate new and innovative strategies for prevention, diagnosis and treatment to ensure a substantial reduction in the number of cases and deaths recorded each year due to long-standing disease in the country.

As a strategic partner of the FMOH, WHO provides technical support to the National Malaria Elimination Programme (NMEP) to identify, assess, design, implement and monitor malaria in Nigeria.

In his goodwill message to the WHO Country Representatives, Dr Walter Kazadi Mulombo said the theme aligns with WHO's call to urgently scale up innovation and the deployment of new tools in the fight against malaria, while advocating for equitable access to malaria prevention and treatment, within the context of building health system resilience.

He acknowledged that recently, there has been a growing political commitment at country, regional and international levels to tackle malaria which has seen significant breakthroughs in malaria prevention and control, despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

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States in Nigeria employ innovative approaches to reduce malaria disease burden

Feeling feverish with body pains, 25 years old Blessing Musa sat patiently in the waiting room of Kuchingoro Primary Health Care Centre, in Abuja Municipal Area Council, anxious for the result of her blood test from the laboratory.

Ms Musa had consulted with a doctor, who asked for a malaria test, and the result came out in less than 30 minutes positive for malaria.

"I came to this health centre because my friend recommended it. She said the turnaround time for malaria tests is short, and as you can see, it is true.

I have been feeling unwell and don't want to do self-medication. With this result, I can now confidently treat my ailment without guessing," said Ms Musa.

Malaria spreads to humans through the bite of an infected anopheles mosquito. Although preventable and curable, it can be life-threatening if not treated on time and laboratory tests are useful for diagnosing the disease.

"We use the Rapid Test Diagnosis (RTDs) kit for malaria screening; it has improved the turnaround time for malaria diagnosis. We attend to an average of 15 malaria tests a day, and patients appreciate it because of the low waiting time.

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Collection of patient's sample at a clinic

GALLERY



Dr. Walter Kazadi Mulombo at the hearing today on the amendment of the National Health Act 2014 and other health bills



WR, some WCO staff and executive members of National Association of persons with physical Disabilities, Niger State Branch



Orientation WHO cVPV2 outbreak response surge teams



Global task force on Cholera control Training held in Abuja, Nigeria



Launch for the movement for good to end Female Genital Mutilation

Birthdays/Social Events

We celebrate all our colleagues born in the month of April, this is to wish you a happy and blessed birthday.

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