

IMMUNIZATION MONTHLY UPDATE IN THE AFRICAN REGION

April 2014 (Vol 2, issue N° 4; Special edition on African Vaccination Week 2014)

African Vaccination Week 2014: ‘Vaccination, a shared responsibility’



Registration of children at a health facility prior to their vaccination

A mother receiving a mosquito net and child health book during AVW

Highlights

Celebration of the African Vaccination Week (AVW) wrapped up in 15 of the 47 countries of the WHO African Region on Sunday 27 April. The celebration of the event is however continuing in the remaining 32 countries in the Region during the month of May 2014.

AVW 2014 was a week marked by round-table discussions, advocacy and social mobilization activities for immunization, training sessions, vaccination activities, and the delivery of other life-saving interventions to millions of people around the continent

Reports from Member States indicate that countries used the occasion to carry out a wide range of activities including the introduction of new vaccines into national routine immunization programmes; provision of life-saving interventions such as deworming, vitamin A supplementation, distribution of mosquito nets, growth monitoring, etc.

Also undertaken were ‘catch up’ vaccination activities against diseases such as polio, measles, diphtheria, whooping cough, neonatal tetanus, influenza, yellow fever, rotavirus, bacterial pneumonia.

AVW, first celebrated in 2011 has taken the benefits of vaccines to several hundred million people of all ages, and promoted expanded access to immunization, particularly for vulnerable groups and remote communities that traditionally lack access to health services.

The initiative also promotes communication and cooperation between countries and helps keep immunization high on the regional and national political agendas.

Interventions planned/ conducted during AVW 2014	Number of countries	List of countries
Communication activities	47	Advocacy, sensitization, social mobilization, production of IEC materials, training/media briefing, SMS Campaign (Mauritius & Uganda), Award to districts with good performance in immunization (Kenya).....
Catch-up vaccination activities	32	Angola, Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cap Verde, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Congo, Comoros, DRC, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Lesotho, Malawi, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Sao Tome, Senegal, Togo, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe
Vitamin A administration	20	Angola, Botswana, Cameroon, Comoros, Eritrea, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nigeria, Namibia, Sao Tome, South Sudan, Swaziland, Rwanda, Zambia, Togo,
Deworming tablets	15	Angola, Botswana, Cameroon, Comoros, Gambia, Guinea, Liberia, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Swaziland, Zambia, Togo
Polio campaign	7	Equatorial Guinea, Mali, Gambia, Niger, Burkina Faso, Benin, Central African Republic
New vaccine introduction	7	Rotavirus: Angola & Congo; PCV: Lesotho & Swaziland; HPV: Rwanda, Tanzania & Seychelles. Measles 2nd dose: Tanzania
Combined with Child Health days	6	Botswana, Cameroon, Ghana, Madagascar, Nigeria, Rwanda
Growth monitoring	5	Chad, Ghana, Mauritania, Madagascar, Rwanda
Distribution of LLITNs	4	Angola, Chad, Congo, Guinea Bissau

African Vaccination Week 2014: Regional launch in Congo

Highlights

Brazzaville, 24 April 2014 — The regional launch of the 4th African Vaccination Week (AVW) took place on Thursday in Brazzaville, although celebration of the week began in countries across the continent on Tuesday 22 April, and extends through Sunday, 27 April.

The theme for this year's AVW observance is "Vaccination - a shared responsibility", highlighting the importance of everyone doing their part in supporting immunization, one of public health's most important and cost-effective interventions.

Speaking at the launch, the Minister of Health and Population of Congo, Mr Francois Ibovi, underlined the intrinsic value of vaccines as powerful, proven tools for disease prevention. He says "The success of vaccination depends largely on its promotion by the media, local authorities, educators and parents. All skills and competencies must therefore be mobilized to ensure that vaccines reach the maximum number of children. Everyone has their share of responsibility".

Mr. Ibovi also used the occasion to announce the formal introduction of rotavirus vaccine into Congo's immunization programme and the provision during the week of vitamin A, distribution of long lasting impregnated treated mosquito-nets to pregnant women & children as well as sensitization on breast feeding

Dr Fatoumata Binta Diallo, the WHO Representative in Congo, speaking on behalf of the WHO Regional Director for Africa and other Congo's development partners, pledged her Organization's commitment to continue support to African countries in their quest to improve maternal, child and community health.



Mr Francois Ibovi, the Minister of Health and Population of Congo, speech to launch the AVW



The Minister of Health and Population of Congo, administering rotavirus vaccine



Dr Nshimirimana, the Immunization Vaccine & Emergency Director in WHO/AFRO giving a long lasting impregnated treated mosquito-nets to a mother



Dr Fatoumata Binta Diallo, the WHO Representative in Congo, speaking at the regional launch of the AVW

African Vaccination Week 2014: Promoting integration of lifesaving interventions in South Sudan

Highlights

Al-Sabah Children's Hospital, Juba: 23 April 2014: South Sudan launches the 1st phase of an integrated life-saving campaign to immunize nearly 2.5 million of children against measles & polio and administer Vitamin A tablets.

The campaign aims to reduce the incidence of measles to less than five cases per million and to boost the population's immunity against Polio.

South Sudan is already close to celebrating five years of being polio free – in June this year we will reach that anniversary – and maintaining that polio-free status requires vigilance

The launch of this campaign which will be conducted up to 30 April 2014 also mark the celebration of African Vaccination Week and World Immunization Week

During this first round, all children who have been displaced by the current conflict to camps in the first seven states will be covered .

"in 2013, with only 32 per cent of children in South Sudan having completed the immunization schedule, this campaign gives parents and caregivers an opportunity to ensure that all children under the age of five are vaccinated against these killer diseases.

South Sudan still has a very low rate of routine immunization making control of measles outbreak and other vaccine preventable diseases in the country a major challenge. Therefore, such campaigns are essential to protect the children.

Reasons for low rates of routine immunization coverage include a lack of infrastructure and conflicts that prevent health workers from providing services to affected communities, difficult access to many areas due to geographic reasons, under funding of Routine immunization.



Dr Reik Gai Kok giving a speech during the launch of the integrated measles, polio and Vitamin A campaign at El-Sabbah Children's Hospital in Juba.



Dr Abdi Aden Mohamed, WHO Country Representative vaccinating a child during the launch ceremony



Jonathan Veitch, UNICEF Representative Vaccinating a child during the launch ceremony

Highlights

The Government of Swaziland has made child health one of the key priorities for the Ministry of Health and on April 23rd, 2014 the country launches the African Vaccination Week (AVW) and Child Health Days. This double event is a testimony for the commitment and hard work by the MOH to achieve the Millennium Development Goal number 4 (Reducing Child Mortality).

Swaziland has fully embraced this approach and country has achieved a remarkable reduction in the under-five child mortality from 120 in 2007 to 104 deaths per thousand live births in 2010. However, it is important to note that the child mortality rate still remains unacceptably high .

Swaziland is one of the few countries in Africa that is steadily moving towards self-reliance in the area of immunization service delivery and today there was also launch of a new vaccine (PCV13) for prevention of Pneumonia which is one of the serious child killer diseases in Swaziland.

Pneumonia is listed as a third cause of child mortality in Swaziland. The introduction of this new vaccine is indeed one of the many key milestones that the country is achieving in immunization service delivery.

This year's AVW message for Swaziland is that all health workers are encouraged to eradicate all immunization barriers that could emanate from service delivery. During the AVW week, there will be dialogues for service providers on issue relating to immunization barriers

Child Health Days in Swaziland are basically a strategy designed to reach out to underserved populations in hard to reach areas. It is important for community leaders including chiefs, inner councils, church leaders, Rural Health Motivators (RHMs) and men as heads of families to encourage and support their communities to take children for immunization during these Child Health Days.



Swaziland WHO representative tDr Owen Kaluwa delivering his speech during AVW launch.



Dr Owen Kaluwa giving polio vaccine while UNICEF Representative Ms Rachel Odede holds the baby



Member of Parliament of Swaziland, Mr Patrick Mago-betane Mamba making remarks during the launch

AFRICAN VACCINATION WEEK 2014: INTENSIFICATION OF ROUTINE IMMUNIZATION IN COTE D'IVOIRE

Highlights

Abidjan 22 April 2014: The African Vaccination Week was launched in the Anzoumana Konaté stadium in the commune of Treichville (Abidjan – Centre),.

Local partners (Mayor, Member of Parliament, traditional chief) and international, including WHO, Rotary International, the Association of Preventive Medicine and the Red Cross were present at the ceremony. .

The event was chaired by the Ivorian Minister of Health and the fight against AIDS, Dr Raymonde Coffie - Goudou. Applauded and galvanized by the songs and the music of the town band , she has distilled a few messages on immunization and appealed to the people and especially parents, saying: " Vaccinating is to protect his child against disease. Get vaccinated yourself is to avoid several diseases. African Vaccination Week , which kicks off today , is an invitation and encouragement to get involved more in favor of vaccinating your children and yourself. I urge you to follow the vaccination of your children, especially those between zero and eleven months. The government supports you , "said the minister.

She then recalled the immunization schedule of the mother and child for the parents present at the launch event , issued a few messages about the benefits of breastfeeding and hand washing, and recalled the transitional free Mother and Child health book .

The event will be held until April 27, 2014 in the municipalities of Abidjan and the interior of the country through advocacy and immunization activities.



The Minister of Health Dr Raymonde Goudou-Coffie, vaccinating a child during the launch event



Dr Kalilou Souley representing WHO at the event vaccinating a child during the launch event



Women & children, the main target for the event participated massively to the ceremony

African Vaccination Week 2014: detailed activities by country

AVW detailed activities per country

Country	Dates	Activities planned/conducted	Country	Dates	Activities planned/conducted
Algeria	22-27 April	Catch up immunization activities	Madagascar	5-9 May	Combined with child health days (catch up immunization activities, Vit A, deworming, growth monitoring)
Angola	22-28 April	Introduction of rotavirus vaccine, catch up immunization activities, HIV testing, distribution of Vit A & deworming tablets & LLITNs, TT campaign,	Malawi	22-28 April	Catch up immunization activities,
Benin	22-29 April	OPV campaign, Catch up immunization activities in 20 communes	Mali	02-06 May	OPV campaign,
Botswana	28 April-9 May	Combined with the annual child health days	Mauritania	30 April-06 May	Catch up immunization activities, Vit A & deworming, screening for malnutrition
Burkina Faso	22-27 April	OPV campaign, Catch up immunization activities in 3 lowest performing regions	Mauritius	22-28 April	Community mobilisation and sensitisation of parents and school children planned in all the Health regions (5). SMS campaign
Burundi	06-08 May	Catch up immunization activities in districts with low coverage for Measles 2nd dose	Mozambique	Last week of May	Catch up immunization activities, Vit A, deworming
Cameroun	19-25 May	Combined with Child health & promotion week: Polio campaign, distribution of Vit A & deworming tablets	Namibia	19-24 May	Catch up immunization activities, Vit A
Cap Vert	22-27 April	Catch up immunization activities & MR vaccination	Niger	23-26 May	OPV campaign
Central African Republic	19 -25 May	Catch up immunization activities, polio campaign, distribution of iron & folic acid	Nigeria	30 April-14 May	integrated with Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Week, . Child Health days: HPV, Vit A, deworming, iron & folic acid, malaria prevention in pregnant women, family planning, growth monitoring
Comoros	April dates TBD	Catch up immunization activities, Vit A, deworming	Rwanda	11-14 March	HPV introduction in all districts of Kilimandjaro region & Measles 2nd dose
Congo Brazzaville	22-27 April	Introduction of rotavirus vaccine, catch up immunization activities, sensitization activities on breastfeeding	Sao Tome et Principe	22-25 Avril	Catch up immunization activities & Vit A supplementation
Cote d'Ivoire	22-27 April	Catch up immunization activities	Senegal	12-16 May	Cath up immunization activities in 5 regions
DRC	22-27 April	TT campaign & catch up immunization activities	Seychelles	25-29 April	Introduction of HPV vaccine in the Seychelles. Advocacy for the introduction of IPV Vaccine. Launching of the Immunization Booklet
Eritrea	26-31 April	Catch up immunization activities, Vit A	Sierra Leone	22-26 april	Orientation of press members
Ethiopia	22-27 April	Catch up immunization activities,	South africa	22-27 April	Journalist workshop
Gabon	22-27 April	Catch up immunization activities	South Sudan	23-30 April	Integrated campaign polio, measles, Vit A
Gambia	May Dates TBD	OPV campaign, Vit A, deworming: Activities suspended because of Ebola outbreak.	Swaziland	22-27 April	Introduction of PCV & child health days (catch up immunization activities, Vit A, deworming)
Ghana	29 April-09 May	Combined with the 10th anniversary of Child & health promotion week: Catch up immunization activities, Vit A, growth monitoring, birth registration	Tanzania	28-avr	HPV introduction in all districts of Kilimandjaro region & Measles 2nd dose
Guinea	May, Dates TBD	Catch up, Vit A, deworming delayed because of Ebola Outbreak	Tchad	22-27 April	Catch up immunization activities, distribution of ITN and EPI bags, Malnutrition screening
Guinea Bissau	May, dates TBD	Measles vaccination at the borders, Vit A, Deworming, distribution of LLITNs. Delayed because of Ebola outbreak	Togo	19-25 May	Catch up immunization activities, Vit A, deworming,
Guinee Equatorial	22-27 April	Polio response campaign	Uganda	24-27 April	Catch up immunization activities in low performing districts
Kenya	28 April-5 May	Award to counties vaccinating highest number of children, TT campaign	Zambia	22-27 April	Catch up immunization activities in 17 low performing districts, Vit A, deworming
Lesotho	July dates TBD	PCV introduction, catch up immunization activities	Zimbabwe	27 April - 4 May	outreach catch up immunization activities
Liberia	1st week of May	Vit A, deworming, wash kits. Activities suspended because of Ebola outbreak.			