



REPORT OF THE AFRICAN VACCINATION WEEK 2016



*"Close the immunization gap.
stay polio free"*



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Organization

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Africa



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Contents

Abbreviations v

Foreword vii

African Vaccination
Week Highlights 1

Goals and Objectives of the
African Vaccination Week 2

Activities from the
African Vaccination
Week 2016 3

Communication activities 5

Celebration of 2016
AVW in countries
and by subregion 7

Central Africa (IST/Central) 7

East and Southern Africa
(IST/East And South) 11

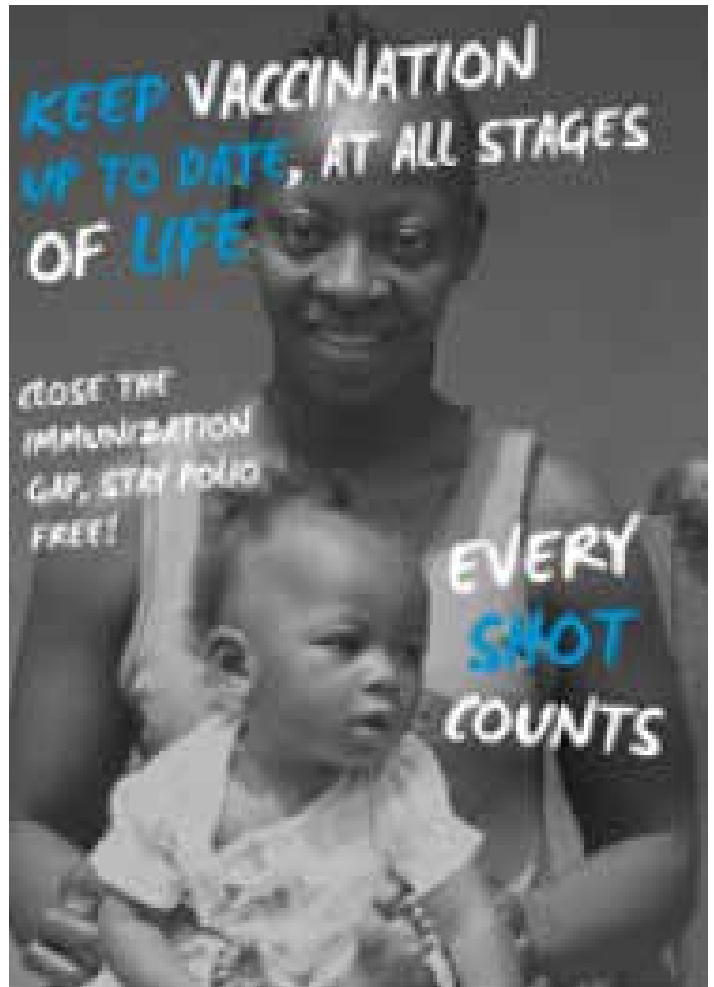
West Africa (IST/West) 19

Achievements of
the 2016 AVW 25

Annexes

Annex 1: Peom - Vaccination, a gift for life 26





"close the immunization gap. stay polio free"

Abbreviations

AVW:	African Vaccination Week
CAM:	Communication, Advocacy and Media
CAH:	Child and Adolescent Health
CDC:	Centres for Disease Control and Prevention
DPT:	Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus
EGPAF:	Elizabeth Glaser Paediatric AIDS Foundation
EPI:	Expanded Programme on Immunization
ESARO:	UNICEF East and Southern Africa Regional Office
FAQ:	Frequently Asked Questions
FMOH:	Federal Ministry of Health
GAVI:	Global Alliance for Vaccines & Immunization
GVAP:	Global Vaccine Action Plan
HepB:	Hepatitis B
Hib:	Haemophilus influenzae Type B
HIV/AIDS:	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ITNs:	Insecticide Treated Nets
IST:	Intercountry Support Team
IVD:	Immunization and Vaccines Development Cluster
MCV:	Measles Containing Vaccines
MNCHW:	Maternal, New-born and Child Health Week
MoHS:	Ministry of Health and Sanitation
MSF:	Médecins Sans Frontières
OPV:	Oral Polio Vaccine
ORS:	Oral Rehydration Salts
PCV:	Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine
REJAV :	Réseau des Journalistes Amis de la vaccination
TFI:	Task Force on Immunization
TT:	Tetanus Toxoid
UNICEF:	United Nations Children's Fund
VDC:	Village Development Committees
VHC:	Village Health Committees
WCARO:	UNICEF West and Central Africa Regional Office
WCO:	WHO Country Office
WIW:	World Immunization Week
WPV:	Wild Polio Virus
WHA:	World Health Assembly
WHO:	World Health Organization
WHO/AFRO:	WHO Regional Office for Africa



Foreword

From 24-30 April 2016, countries in the African Region commemorated the 6th African Vaccination Week (AVW). The goal of AVW is to strengthen immunization programmes in the African Region by raising awareness on the need and right of every person to protection from vaccine-preventable diseases. It aims to keep immunization high on national and regional agendas through advocacy and partnerships. It also promotes delivery of other high-impact lifesaving interventions.

The theme for this year's commemoration – “Close the Immunization gap. Stay polio free!” – draws attention to the need to attain universal immunization coverage in the African Region. It is also a celebration of the important polio eradication milestone that has been reached in the African Region, and a reminder that countries need to remain vigilant to ensure they stay polio free.

Progress has been made in immunization in the Region over the last decade. Some of the key achievements include an increase of the coverage of 3rd dose of Diphtheria Tetanus Pertussis (DTP3) containing vaccine from 52% in 2000 to 76 % in 2015; the decline in Measles deaths by 86% from 2000 to 2014; and acceleration of the introduction of new vaccines.

Despite these achievements, one in five children does not receive the most basic vaccines they need (Yellow fever, measles, polio, etc). Progress in vaccination coverage in recent years has also stalled. This is due to the numerous challenges related to fragile health systems, family and community factors that deter community participation, health emergencies of global and regional significance that compete for attention and resources with routine immunization.

The commemoration of the sixth AVW occurs at an important time in the history of immunization in the African Region as it follows two important events that have taken place during the past six months: Nigeria's removal from the list of Polio endemic countries in September 2015, and the first Ministerial Conference on Immunization in Africa (MCIA) held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia where political leaders from the continent Africa reaffirmed their commitment to reach every child with the vaccines they need.

In the past, the commemoration of AVW has provided a unique opportunity to implement a variety of activities ranging from advocacy and social mobilization for immunization and other health related activities.

As we commemorate the sixth AVW, I call on all countries and partners to sustain and strengthen the gains made in immunization coverage, carry forward the momentum from the Addis Ababa Ministerial Conference and stay accountable to the commitments made at the Conference to close the immunization gap once and for all. I also urge countries to use the huge polio infrastructure acquired over the years across the Region to contribute towards broader immunization and health goals.

Thank you.

Dr Matshidiso, MOETI,
WHO Regional Director for Africa





African Vaccination Week Highlights

In September 2010, the regional committee in Malabo institutionalized the Africa Vaccination Week (AVW), an annual event to be celebrated in the last week of April in Africa. All countries in the Region commemorate the AVW coordinated by the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office along with UNICEF Regional offices in the region and other immunization partners in the region.

Implementation of AVW is flexible and countries choose their activities, but focus on goals of national health strategies. Countries have used the platform of the AVW to conduct large scale vaccination campaigns, small scale vaccination activities and information outreach. Other interventions delivered on this platform include deworming, screening for malnutrition among others. Since 2011, more than 150 Million people have been vaccinated; approximately 100 million received Vitamin A, while 70 million received deworming tablets, and 25 million were screened for malnutrition.

The slogan of AVW is “Vaccinated communities, Healthy communities”. A visual identity was designed accordingly. Each year, a suitable theme is chosen to reflect regional priorities and the

public health realities. Below are the themes since institutionalization of the AVW in the African Region.

The following are:

- 2011: “Put mothers and children first - Vaccinate and stop polio now”,
- 2012 “An unvaccinated child is one too many, let’s give polio the last push”,
- 2013; “Save lives, prevent disabilities, Vaccinate!”
- 2014: “Vaccination, a shared responsibility”,
- 2015: “Vaccination, a Gift for Life”

In January 2012, the Executive board requested Member States to designate the last week of April as World Immunization Week. It also requested the Director General to support the annual implementation of World Immunization Week as the overarching framework for all regional initiatives that are dedicated to promoting the importance of vaccination across the life-course and working to ensure the universal access of individuals of all ages and in all countries to this essential preventive health. Since April 2012, WIW has been observed simultaneously in all six regions of the WHO.

In September 2015, the Global certification committee declared the eradication of the type 2 poliovirus worldwide and in October 2015, the SAGE recommended the switch from trivalent OPV (tOPV) to bivalent OPV (bOPV), ie removing type 2 component (OPV2) from immunization programmes worldwide in a globally synchronized manner during the period from 17 April to 1st May 2016. Given the synchronized manner of this important activity, SAGE recommended it to be conducted during the

World Immunization Week/ African Vaccination Week that will be celebrated from 24 to 30 April 2016.

Therefore, the 6th edition of the African Vaccination Week was celebrated alongside with the 5th World Immunization Week and synchronised with the Switch window that happened on 17 April - 1st May 2016.

GOAL AND OBJECTIVE OF AFRICAN VACCINATION WEEK

GOAL

To strengthen immunization programmes in the African Region by drawing attention to and increasing awareness of the importance of every person's (particularly every child and woman) need and right to be protected from vaccine-preventable diseases.

OBJECTIVES

- To increase stakeholder awareness of the value and benefit of immunization.
- To Promote and maintain immunization as a priority for decision-makers.
- To advocate for and mobilizing human, financial and material resources for immunization.
- To increase demand and utilization of immunization services
- To improve access for high-risk populations and hard-to-reach areas in the Region



ACTIVITIES IN THE AFRICAN VACCINATION WEEK 2016

The celebration of this year's AVW (24-30 April) coincided with the globally synchronized tOPV /bOPV switch from 17 April to 1st May 2016. Furthermore, Africa United, a campaign led by a coalition of African leaders and legendary footballers, joined immunization partners to celebrate AVW through the "Every Shot Count" initiative using visual materials that amplify existing education, advocacy, and health.

Another innovation for this year's event was the involvement of offices of the First ladies in 7 countries (Chad, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, and Rwanda)

As for the previous years, a wide range of activities were conducted at the regional level. These included:



The First Lady of Chad delivering her message for the Africa Vaccination Week 2016

- Development of guidance note on the joint implementation of the AVW and the Switch, orientation on reporting
- Biweekly teleconferences on the preparation of the event with HQ, the 3 WHO sub regional offices, and 2 UNICEF regional offices
- Support organization of regional launch in Liberia on 25th April 2016
- Monitoring development of country plans and synthesis of country activities
- Mobilization of resources
- Updating of campaign material (Questions and Answers on AVW...) and development of campaign toolkit in collaboration with Africa UNITED and other partners (fact sheets,

social media guide, posters and leaflets, facts sheets, press release templates, social media guide, radio PSA and video (<https://goo.gl/rXAiev>)...

- Regional Director's message
- Regional launch press release
- Design of a new website for AVW
- Monitor campaign implementation in countries

Campaign materials were shared with the countries and posted on the AVW 2016 website under the link:<http://www.afro.who.int/en/african-vaccination-week/>



LIBERIA HOSTED THE REGIONAL LAUNCH ON 25 APRIL 2016

The regional launch held in Ganta in Nimba County (Liberia) and was chaired by the Deputy Minister of Health Services, Dr Francis Kateh. The event was integrated with the celebration of the World Malaria Day and introduction of 2 new vaccines into the national immunization schedule (rotavirus vaccine and HPV demo project).

The Deputy Minister of Health Services, and the members of the National Legislature attending the function expressed their sincere appreciation of the Regional Director, Dr Moeti for selecting Liberia to host this event. Both

the Chair of the Senate Committee on Health and the Co-Chair of the House of Representatives committee on Health publicly pledged to lobby for great budgetary allocation to the Ministry of Health specifically for immunization.

Apart from the traditional joint preparation with UNICEF and other partners, one major achievement for this year's event was the development of a campaign tool Kit in collaboration with GAVI and Africa United which can be accessed [here](#). The video of the event can also be viewed [here](#).

Country activities in the 2016 African Vaccination Week (AVW)

Twenty¹ of the 47 countries in the African Region celebrated the 2016 edition of the AVW during the week of 24 to 30 April 2016. Twenty-three countries commemorated the 2016 edition of AVW between May and September 2016. Gabon, Guinea Bissau, South Africa and Zambia did not commemorate the event in 2016.

Reports received from Member States indicated a wide range of activities undertaken as part of the AVW. Some of the key activities included round-table discussions, advocacy and social mobilization activities for immunization.

Others were training sessions on various immunization activities such as 'catch up' vaccination or campaigns against vaccine preventable diseases, introduction of new vaccines into national routine immunization programmes; and also provision of life-saving interventions such as deworming, vitamin A supplementation, distribution of mosquito nets, growth monitoring, HIV and/or Malaria testing. See Table 1 for details.

¹ Algeria, Angola, Burundi, Cameroun, Chad, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Comoros, DRC, Eritrea, Liberia, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome et Principe, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Swaziland and Uganda.

TABLE 1: INTERVENTIONS IN THE COUNTRIES DURING THE AVW 2016

Interventions implemented/ Planned for AVW 2016	Number of countries	Countries
Advocacy, communication & social mobilization activities	43	Eg: Launching of the new immunization schedule (Algeria), Field visits with journalists (Senegal) Immunization seminar (Swaziland), Immunization newsletter (Seychelles), rewarding of caretakers having completed their children's immunization schedule (Botswana)....
Catch-up vaccination activities combined or not with Vitamin A supplementation & deworming	22	Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Comoros, DRC, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, South Sudan, Togo, Zimbabwe
AVW combined with Child Health Days activities	8	Botswana, Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, Sierra Leone
Distribution of LLITNs	2	Rwanda, Ghana
Measles campaign	1	CAR
Screening for malnutrition	5	Cameroon, Comoros, Ghana, Madagascar, Rwanda
New vaccine introduction	9	b OPV: Cameroon, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Sao Tome, DRC ; Rotavirus & HPV demo: Liberia; 4th Dose of DTP: Burundi
Distribution of cold chain/ transport equipment	2	Burundi, Congo
Other	2	Blood donation (Ethiopia), Screening for fistula (Madagascar)

COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

During the 6th AVW, mixed communication strategies were used both at regional and country level.

One of the greatest innovations for this year's edition was the collaboration with Africa United, a campaign led by a coalition of African leaders and legendary footballers who joined immunization partners to celebrate AVW through the "Every Shot Count", an initiative which uses visual materials that amplify existing education, advocacy, and health.

A multifunction tool kit was developed in English and French and widely distributed to countries and partners for in country adaptation.

Media Communication

A joint WHO-UNICEF press release was issued on AVW 2016, highlighting the event's theme, calling attention to close the immunization gap and stay polio free urging partners and countries to continue the momentum on ensuring the continued the polio-free status of the African people.

Online Communication

The WHO African Region websites and social media accounts played a key role in communicating about AVW 2016 to a global audience, building relationships and engaging with stakeholders.

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA: TWITTER CAMPAIGN

WEBSITE

Materials related to AVW 2016 were posted on the website developed for the campaign. These included: A new AVW site was setup for AVW 2016 <http://www.african-vaccination-week.afro.who.int/en/>. The site hosted campaign material, news articles and FAQs on AVW. From 1 April to 31 May 2016, the site had 5,516 pageviews.

SOCIAL MEDIA: TWITTER CAMPAIGN

A social media campaign toolkit was developed by Africa United. The campaign toolkit included possible tweets, Facebook posts and banners for use on social media.

WHO AFRO (twitter account: @WHOAFRO) and a number of country offices (example: Ethiopia, Uganda) tweeted about AVW2016. Tweets on the campaign were as well made from partners' twitter accounts. Prominent personalities like the WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr Matshidiso Moeti also tweeted about AVW2016 using the campaign hashtag and messages.

Tweets that were shared with the AFRO account resulted in 160,162 impressions and 923 engagements. [Impressions are the number of times users saw tweet (messages) about AVW sent from the @WHOAFRO account on twitter. Engagements: the number of times users interacted with the tweet, including clicks on tweets, retweets, replies, follows and favourites.

SELECT AFRO TWEETS



Dr Matshidiso Moeti @MoetiTshidi · Apr 29

Let's close immunization gap in Africa ensuring every child, woman & man is protected from vaccine preventable diseases **#AVW16** **#vaccineswork**

<https://twitter.com/MoetiTshidi/status/726177720271523841>



<https://twitter.com/WHOEthiopia/status/732898449788698624>



<https://twitter.com/gavi/status/724947509806772227>



https://twitter.com/WeAre_AU/status/724952723213418496



<https://twitter.com/PATHAdvocacy/status/724122252120326144>

CELEBRATION OF 2016 AVW IN COUNTRIES AND BY SUB-REGION

During the 6th African Vaccination Week (AVW 2016), countries were engaged in several communication, social mobilisation, community engagement and advocacy activities to raise awareness about African Vaccination Week and create demand for immunisation and high impact health interventions that were provided.

They aligned these communication and community engagement/social mobilization activities specific to each country's AVW 2016 commemoration activities.

This included:

- National launches attended by senior Government officials, community leaders, religious leaders, community members and partners
- Press briefings and Press releases
- Posters and leaflets

- Print media articles and interviews
- Speeches and statements
- Promotional material distribution
- Websites and social media (see section on social media)

Community elders and religious leaders played a key leading role in social mobilization and community engagement and were actively involved in planning and implementation of AVW activities.

For this year's edition, 43/47 countries in the WHO/AFRO, , celebrated this year's AVW. Except Gabon, Guinea Bissau, South Africa and Zambia did not participate in the 2016 celebration, which witnessed the participation of high level authorities, local leaders and partners. Activities conducted in selected countries are described here under. Six countries that celebrated the event did not provide reports (CAR, Togo, Benin, Mozambique, Mauritius, and Tanzania)

CENTRAL AFRICA (IST/WEST)

ANGOLA AWV ACTIVITIES

In Angola, the Vaccination Week 2016 took place from 24 to 30 April of 2016, at a time where the country was facing an epidemic of yellow fever, with increase risks of spreading across borders. However, despite these events, the fight against vaccine-preventable diseases remained on the agenda.

The country has achieved an important goal in the efforts to eradicate polio, and in 2015, received an international certification as a country free of polio, after four consecutive years without polio.

It was in that context that the country celebrated this year's vaccination week. Indeed, this year's celebration was another opportunity to reinforce the importance of routine immunization and contribute in the fight against yellow fever epidemic, with vaccination of the entire population at risk from six months old.

The week was also marked by the replacement of trivalent oral polio vaccine by the bivalent oral polio vaccine (bOPV), followed by the destruction of lots of oral trivalent vaccine in all parts of the country.



Objectives of the AVW 2016 in Angola were to:

- Intensify those of social mobilization and communication activities in 5 of the 18 provinces with the lowest coverage rates (Luanda, Benguela, Huambo, Huila and Uige);
- Strengthen advocacy in areas with lower coverage rates;
- Strengthen partnerships and messages focusing on target groups.

BURUNDI

The event was celebrated from 26 to 28 April 2016. Official launch was held in KIBUYE district in the GITEGA province by the Minister of health.

Activities implemented included

- Introduction of the 4th dose of DTP into the RI schedule for children 18-23 months;
- Catch up immunization for measles 2nd dose for children 18-23 months ;
- Sensitization of parents or tutors on importance of vaccinating their children up to 18 months ;
- Launching of the use of solar fridges to keep vaccines with a total of 79 fridges installed in the country.



The Minister of health visiting a health facility during the launch event

CAMEROON

The Representative of the Governor launched the 6th AVW on 15th of April, 2016 in Efulan health district in the Central Region. The district was chosen because of its poor performance during the last NIDs in February. Administrative, religious and traditional authorities attended the event. The package of interventions provided included: vaccination against polio, Vitamin A supplementation and administration of mebendazole.



The Governor's representative called on parents to support these interventions and comply with the immunization schedule. He also called them to spontaneously go to health services.

Outside the capital, similar ceremonies were held in the Littoral region, southwest and in several health

districts across the country. In addition, there was participation of the Cameroon Society of Paediatrics (SOCAPED) who sent 4 pediatricians in the field to conduct medical consultations and vaccinations in the refugee camp of Gado and Garoua Boulai district hospital before, during and after the campaign.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

The event was launched on 24 April in Sibut (200 km from Bangui) by the Director of Cabinet representing the Minister of Health with participation of WHO and Unicef Representatives an local authorities. The event was coupled with the launching of measles campaign for children of 9 months to 10 years,integrated with Vit A and deworming for children under 5.



A local authority administering Vit A

The MOH Representative said AVW should be an opportunity for national health stakeholders to improve health indicators while WHO Representative acknowledged the partnership that led to the implementation of this campaign.



A boy receiving vaccination during the event

CONGO

The Representative of the Governor launched the 6th AVW on 15th of April, 2016 in Efulan health district in the Central Region. The district was chosen because of its poor performance during the last NIDs in February. Administrative, religious and traditional authorities attended the event. The package of interventions provided included: vaccination against polio, Vitamin A supplementation and administration of mebendazole. Like other countries in the WHO African Region, the Republic of Congo launched the 2016 edition of the AVW on April 29, 2016 at CSI Sonaco Moukondo.

It was a solemn moment with launching of introduction into the routine immunization schedules of IPV and removal of tOPV by the Minister of Health and Population, Mr François IBOVI.



Minister of health vaccinating a child during the event

During the ceremony, materials and equipment, including 10 vehicles (4x4), 95 motorcycles, 672 bicycles, 5 Outboard Engines, 25 computers and 40 solar refrigerators were donated to the Ministry of health and population. These donations were part of the implementation of the GAVI HSS (GAVI Alliance, UNICEF, WHO) system to improve the supply of essential care package including vaccination in the health districts

CHAD

AVW was celebrated from 30 April to 6th May 2016 in 35 districts selected because of their poor performance in routine immunization activities and polio SIAs (districts rejected at least once in LQAS). Official launch was decentralized in provinces. Prior to immunization activities, there was training of community volunteers, briefing of vaccinators and establishment of fast cold chain in areas without cold chain.

Active case search for Guinea worm was conducted in the districts of Massenya and Sarh . The highlight of the celebration of the 6th edition of this event was dissemination of a press release of the First Lady of

Chad Mrs. HINDA Deby Itno, who through the official website of the Presidency of the Republic of Chad made a advocacy for immunization of the mother and child.



Mothers waiting to be vaccinated at health facility

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

The event was celebrated on April 30 to 6 May 2016 with due attention. A total of 506 health zones in three Provinces organized the service. The official launch took place on April 30 under the chairmanship of provincial Governors attended by local authorities, Civil Society, and immunization partners (WHO, UNICEF, MSH, USAID, World Vision, TFM KCC). Local communities came to have their children vaccinated.

In the Kivu province, preparatory activities for meningitis campaign facilitated sensitization on AVW. The provinces were chosen according to the

following criteria: poor performance of routine immunization activities and in polio SIAs, health zones with a supervision failure or have notified a number of compatible cases polio.



SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

The 2016 AVW was celebrated from 18-30 April 2016. The Ministry of Health took the opportunity to replace the trivalent oral polio vaccine (tOPV) with the bivalent one (bOPV), and the introduction of the new inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) .

The priority of the 6th edition continued to be the strengthening of the routine immunization program and increased awareness about the importance of vaccination. In order to increase the coverage and administration of new vaccines with the focus on the most deprived target. Objective of this year's event were:

- Reaching over 99% of children still unvaccinated or partially vaccinated and update their vaccination cards.
- Strengthen the capacity of the Expanded Program on Immunization.
- Replace tOPV by bOPV .
- Introduce IPV .
- Improve knowledge of mothers, fathers and the community on the importance of vaccination.
- Raising awareness on the right of every child and women to be protected against VPD

EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (IST/EAST AND SOUTH)

BOTSWANA

AVW was celebrated in May 2016 in 3 health districts (Mabutsane, Moshupa and Ngami). The range of activities was more or less the same. Headmen or local politicians welcomed their villagers to the event and emphasizing the need for participation in Immunization services. Entertainment was used to convey the relevant message based on the theme. Tokens of appreciation in the form of certificates or small gift were given to best performers to reinforce good behaviour in care giving.

During the planning phase the planning committee suggested that there is a need to involve males into health issues including vaccinations, therefore the committee suggested that they award the most participating male in under-5 vaccination at least with a certificate. There was also a suggestion that even for females they chose the most involved females in child vaccination



Best female care taker awarded for their involvement in the under 5 vaccination and other activities

COMOROS

Comoros joined other countries to celebrate for the first time the African Vaccination Week. The event was launched on April 25 in Moheli , with the training of health workers, community monitoring and immunization activities in villages, cities and districts of the island. The island of Grande - Comore then followed starting its activities on April 26, while the island of Anjouan was started on April 27 , 2016.

All community health workers who were trained in these 3 islands were deployed to villages, towns and neighborhoods targeted to catch up unvaccinated children aged 0-5 years.

They sensitized parents and caregivers to get their children vaccinated in the nearest district health centres or approach the vaccination teams that come to them. Children targeted were those less than a year to 5 years. All vaccines used in the routine were provided, namely BCG, OPV, DTCHepBHib, VPI,



VAR and vitamin A (first dose) according to their immunization schedule. Those aged one year up to 5 years received the vitamin A supplementation and Albendazole tablets for deworming. All these children also had a nutritional assessment to detect and prevent malnutrition.

Press conferences were held with the national and local media broadcast awareness messages and information to population, as well as the schedule of the activities to be held during the week.

ETHIOPIA, 6TH AVW ACTIVITIES



Mrs Mieraf Abebe, Head of UNICEF BG Regional Office vaccinating a child



6th African Vaccination Week (AVW) was commemorated in Ethiopia from May 18-24, 2016 and the national launching was held in Benishangul Gumuz one of the nine regions of Ethiopia engaging the MoH delegates and more than nine international organizations, local partners and the communities at large. The Benishangul Gumuz (BG) region was selected by the criteria with area which was not previously held, high child mortality, number of unvaccinated children and high dropout rate. The Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) dedicated the 6th AVW to encouraging and supporting those regions with low RI coverage and to strengthen the routine immunization programme with special emphasis given for data quality and utilization at all levels.

The launching of the AVW started by a site visit to Abramo health center, which was the first event for that day. Around 4,000 people from the communities took part to welcome the participants colourfully at Abramo HC and they thanked the guests for visiting the HC.

Following the site visit, the national launching was held in Police commission meeting hall where over 300 people participated. The function was chaired by Dr Teye Tolera, Head of the state minister's office. In his keynote address, he indicated that "The AVW is an opportunity to renew the commitment promised by the government to ensure quality and equitable access to immunization". In attendance, the town mayor and local authorities and partners (WHO, UNICEF, Rotary, Core Group, CHAI, JSI and PATH).

This year's AVW was synchronized with the globally tOPV to bOPV switch, and Ethiopia has also conducted emergency measles campaign and polio National Immunization Days from April to May 2016 in addition to the switch. Major activities conducted during the AVW in Ethiopia included:

- Development of a concept note and PoA shared to partners.
- Resource for AVW implementation mobilized from partners and MoH following the preparation of the proposal.
- National Launching place selected as of pre-stated criteria (Benishangul Gumuz region) and advocacy visit plan and message prepared.
- Prepared AVW message for IEC materials production based on the AVW tool.
- Identified influential community members and involved in AVW - EPI activities.
- Translated key routine immunization messages in five local languages and produced and disseminated tonational and regional mass media (TV and Radio).
- Conducted press briefing by the FMOH and regional level.
- Identification of unvaccinated children in the regions and provision of vaccination through HEW and HDAs'.
- Device defaulter tracing strategies and mechanisms relevant to the local context in hard to reach areas.
- Cold chain status was assessed and vaccine more than 30 refrigerators were maintained in Benishangul Gumuz region.

KENYA 6TH AVW ACTIVITIES

Kenya celebrated African Vaccination Week on May 2-14, 2016 with launches, radio messages, community meetings and various mother-to-child-related activities around the country. The country delayed the celebrations in order to merge it with Malezi Bora (Good Upbringing) celebrations which are set aside annually to focus on increased uptake of immunization and other health services through sustained communication, advocacy and social mobilization. The national launch was held at Embakasi Health Centre, Nairobi County, presided over by Dr Patrick Amoth, head of Family Health, Ministry of Health. The theme of the launch was: 'healthy living starts at breakfast'. It was attended by caregivers, health care workers and the community at large with a focus on good nutrition, breastfeeding and immunization services for children.

Other counties including Nairobi, held similar launches and activities around the country in which health personnel provided services, held dialogue and meetings with caregivers and community on

immunization, discussed healthier ways of raising children and closing the immunization the gap. The two-week occasion offered opportunity for care givers to have their children receive Vitamin A supplements, immunization services, dialogue with health workers about better feeding practices, family planning and other mother-to-child health information.

In far-flung counties West Pokot and Wajir, health personnel visited ECD schools to sensitize teachers, discussed and sensitized community and religious leaders about immunization and nutrition for children and intensified services at health centres .

Messages were also aired and shared through national radio with the support of WHO country office, including a two week continuous message on closing the immunization gap and other healthy practices. Local radios like Kalya FM in West Pokot also held live discussions with caregivers and stakeholders who called in to ask questions.



Health workers and community members during the parade for the launching of AVW 2016

MADAGASCAR

FROM 9 TO 13 MAY 2016, MADAGASCAR CELEBRATED THE SAV / SSME, WHICH TARGETED 4.3 MILLION CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS AND ALMOST 1 MILLION PREGNANT WOMEN.

This national event was held in the 20,352 fokontany in the country and 2,776 health facilities. For this edition, in addition to immunization-related interventions (routine immunization, vaccination catch-up, active search of preventable diseases through vaccination), nutrition (deworming, vitamin A supplementation and screening for acute malnutrition), and identification of women with obstetric fistula, a new activity was introduced: the free distribution of MID in 93 endemic districts of malaria for fully immunized children under 1 year, sick children 1 to 5 years and pregnant women coming for first prenatal visit.

Services were offered through fixed strategies, advanced and mobile throughout the week. In this edition of the SAV/SSME, the average cost per child was around 0.17 USD. The event was chaired by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Public Health, Dr Josea Ratsirarson, who recalled the importance for all women to enjoy their children from these free offers that will allow their children to grow up healthy.



Secretary general of MOH, Dr Joséa Ratsirarson, giving Vit A to a child

MALAWI

CELEBRATED THE EVENT FROM 24-28 APRIL 2016. THE MAIN ACTIVITIES FOCUSED ON RAISING AWARENESS OF THE GENERAL POPULATION.

Malawi celebrated the event from 24-28 April 2016. The main activities focused on raising awareness of the general population. No vaccine antigens were earmarked to be administered during the AVW. A short radio programs for the African Vaccination Week in Malawi linking them to Missed Opportunities in vaccination was produced.

Apart from activities implemented by MOH/EPI with support from WHO and JSI/MCSP, there was collaboration with the Office of the First Lady in Malawi. There were television and radio slots whereby the First Lady made official statements on AVW 2016 and polio switch. There was no official launch of the 2016 AVW in Malawi due to limited funds available and time constraints to adequately engage and work with the team from the Office of the First Lady in Malawi.



RWANDA

Rwanda organized its biannual Integrated Mother and Child Health Week from 26th to 29th April 2016. The Mother and Child week is organized twice a year and serves as an opportunity to scale health services provision, particularly to the hard-to-reach, the unreached and the most vulnerable populations. The Mother and Child Health Week was combined with the 6th African Vaccination Week.

The launching ceremony of the Mother and Child Health Week took place in Gicumbi District, Eastern Province on 26th April 2016.



The Guest of Honour of this ceremony was the Minister of Gender and Family Promotion, Dr Diane Gashumba who represented the First Lady. Among other guests were the Minister of State in charge of Public Health and Primary Health Care in the Ministry of Health, United Nations Agencies represented by UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO and other Partners present were USAID and World Vision.

Interventions delivered during that week included:

- De-worming of children from 1 to 15 years old,
- Distribution of vitamin A for all children under 5,
- Screening of malnutrition with “MUAC”,
- Community sensitization on malaria prevention, malnutrition, teenagers pregnancy, and
- Promotion of immunization, family planning and hygiene.

SWAZILAND

Swaziland joined the rest of the African region in commemorating the sixth African Vaccination Week (AVW) and brought 27 years of being Polio free on its cards.

The AVW was commemorated from April 24 -30 and focusing on Polio eradication During the commemoration the Ministry of Health in collaboration with the WHO country office engaged in a massive media campaign which involved interviews with the two national television stations. Articles elaborating on the AVW were published in the daily newspapers.



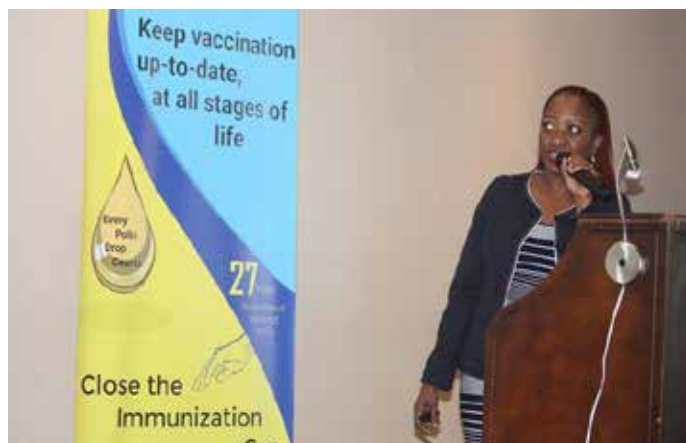
SWAZILAND

The seminar was officially opened by Deputy Director of Health Services, Ms Rejoice Nkambule. In her opening remarks, Nkambule emphasised the usage of science in polio eradication and other child health interventions, programming and addressing the social determinants of health.

“Despite these achievements it should be noted that in Swaziland some children are still missed with immunization due to numerous reasons. We encourage parents and caretakers to bring children for immunization to sustain and strengthen the gains made,” Khumalo said.

Polio Ambassador (last polio case in Swaziland), Ntobeko Nkambule from Mankayane emphasised the message on ending polio. Nkambule who is a teacher by profession stated that polio is real and stressed that it is important that children are vaccinated against the disease.

He further took a pledge to take responsibility to advocate and sensitise the community on immunization to achieve the desired goal of polio eradication.



Deputy Director of Health Services, Ms Rejoice Nkambule addressing health workers during the Polio Seminar, EPI Programme Manager Ms Nomsa Dube presenting on the current immunisation status in Swaziland, Health workers listening to presentations during the seminar

NAMIBIA

A press release was issued on 28 April 2016
Windhoek, 28 April 2016: A Call to Close the Immunization Gap

“WHO Namibia and the Ministry of Health and Social Services will celebrate AVW 2016 with health promotion activities, media advocacy, provision of vaccinations, de-worming, vitamin

A supplementation and other child and maternal health services at health facilities. All public health centres and clinics nationwide will participate. Parents, caregivers and family members can take their children to any public health centre or clinic closest to their place of residence to benefit from these health interventions. Parents must bring their own and their child’s health passport”

ERITREA

The African vaccine week in Eritrea was carried out from 25-30 April, 2016 at national level integrated with polio national switch in all Zoba making more focus on polio eradication endgame and the importance of quality of vaccination service to strengthen the routine immunization programmes in the country by increasing public awareness on the importance of every person’s

(particularly every child and woman) need and right to be protected from vaccine-preventable diseases at the recommended timeline and schedules. It was aimed keep immunization coverage high and sustainable at national and sub national levels through advocacy and social mobilization activities and improving access and utilization of the available services.

SOUTH SUDAN

African Vaccination week was marked in South Sudan with a special focus on counties that have recorded low immunization coverage and also areas with weak routine immunization practices.

One of the counties that have been seriously affected by conflicts is Fangak in Jonglei State. Fangak County is one of the Sudd Swamp, which is the world's largest wetlands in the Nile basin. It is a difficult area to access in terms of delivery of health services, logistics and other operational activities hence the only mode of transport left is speed boats that are expensive to hire.



An immunization session in Mitooma district during the 6th AVW

Objective of the activity

1. Increase awareness on the importance of vaccination among the communities living in Fangak County
2. Ensure that every child receives all basic and necessary vaccinations and continues to be vaccinated as per the target group 0-23 months
3. Strengthen routine immunization in Fangak during the African Vaccination week

4. Conduct accelerated routine immunization activities in Fangak County due to extremely low immunization coverage

Planning and implementation done jointly by MOH/WHO/UNICEF, BMGF and MSF at both national/State level and County level.

Opportunity was used to conduct IPV and Switch training and tOPV was collected from the facilities offering routine immunization services.

ZIMBABWE

AVW was celebrated in Zimbabwe from 29 April to 6 May in a specific day in each districts with the aim at bringing together various stakeholders that include families, community leaders, government departments, NGOs, schools, churches and giving them vital information on EPI in the form of music, drama, poems, speeches and show casing of vaccination activities. Activities conducted included:

- Social and behaviour change activities during the day: Health education messages and promotion activities were provided through speeches and edutainment in form of song, traditional dance, poetry and drama including IEC material distribution.
- Catch up immunization activities for all antigens.



LESOTHO

AVW in Lesotho focussed on hard to reach areas in districts with provision of integrated services to under-fives. Communities were notified and sensitized about the activity through use of phone calls where network is accessible and writing letters to chiefs, councillors and VHWs so as to make communities aware. Interventions provided included:

- Health talks on importance of immunisation
- Immunisation given according to Lesotho Immunisation immunization schedule.
- Micro-nutrients supplementation to legible children and mothers.
- Link the family (home visited) with ministry of social development for social grants.

UGANDA

The 6th AVW was celebrated in Uganda from 16th to 20th May 2016. The event was climaxed with a meeting with all stake holders to discuss the bottlenecks in routine immunisation and agree on the way forward to improve the status. This house cleaning exercise revealed several issues that included leadership challenges, poor motivation of health workers, and failure to plan for the hard to reach areas, inadequate planning and funding for immunisation.

The representative of the President (RDC) together with the district chairperson pledge to ensure service delivery is improved and support was also pledged by USAID-EGPAF & MCSP.

Thereafter the district 6th AVW event was presided over by the Commissioner National Disease Control, Dr. Allan Muluta. Exhibiting partners like TASO, SMC and RHITES were in presence and lead supporting partners such as WHO, PATH and CHAI graced the occasion. The representative WHO emphasised the 3 key steps for closing the immunization gap:

- Integrating immunization with other health services, such as postnatal care for mothers and babies;



- Strengthening health systems so that vaccines continue to be given even in times of crisis; and
- Ensuring that everyone can access vaccines and afford to pay for them.

During the function several speeches were made, and on that day 90 girls received HPV vaccine while several children received the other routine vaccines.



WEST AFRICA (IST/WEST)

ALGERIA

The country used the opportunity to launch the new vaccination calendar below with the addition of Measles Mumps and Rubella, pneumococcal vaccine and IPV. A guideline of implementation

for usage by health workers was developed and the sensitization campaign was launched on 12 April 2016



BURKINA FASO

Burkina Faso celebrated the 6th AVW from 16 to 22 May 2016. Activities conducted included communication/social mobilization, advocacy and catch up immunization activities. Special emphasis was put on supervision of those activities



Outreach vaccination sessions and health education session

COTE D'IVOIRE

Cote d'Ivoire, like WHO other member states launched activities marking the 6th edition of the African Vaccination Week on 24 April 2016 in Dimbokro (about 242 km from Abidjan).

The opportunity was used to officially launch the use of bivalent oral polio vaccine, in replacement of the trivalent vaccine previously used in the country's immunization programme.

The event was chaired by a Representative from the MOH in the presence of local authorities and immunization partners. Key activities during the Week were household visits and vaccination in fix posts.



GHANA

celebrated the 6th AVW from 9-13 May 2016 together with Child Health Promotion Week.

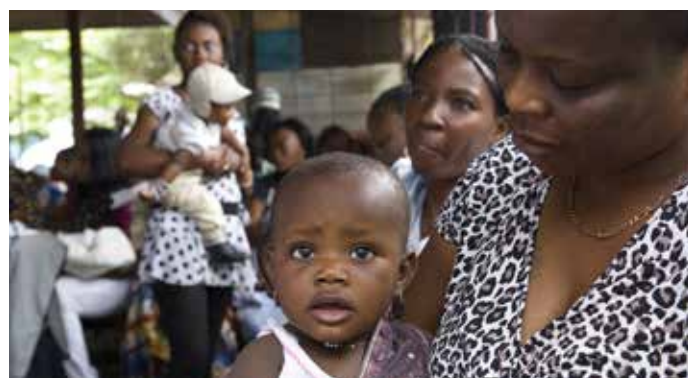
The national launch was performed by the Chief Director of the Ministry of Health on behalf of the First lady of the Republic of Ghana. WHO Representative made remarks on behalf of Partners. Other high ranking people were religious leaders, traditional leaders, Rotary, UNICEF and other health development partners. Flyers were developed and distributed. Many media houses attended the press briefing and the launching programme.

The minimum packages of service provided during the week were:

Immunization, Vitamin A supplementation for children 6 months – 5 years, Growth monitoring and Net distribution. Activities planned included:

planning meetings, advocacy meetings with various stake holders including community durbars, media briefing, national launching, radio/TV discussions/ interviews, press release in the dailies, monitoring and supervision visits to the regions/districts/sub districts.

Target populations were – caregivers, service delivery to children 0-5 years



GAMBIA



Community orientation on the importance of immunization

The EPI programme conducted open Field Days in both Lower River Region and North Bank East orientation of 280 TCs and VSGs country- wide in last week of July 2015. Traditional Communicators (TCs) and Village Support Groups (VSGs) which constitute Village Health Workers and Traditional Birth Attendants were also used to disseminate messages in songs and dramas through community sensitization.

Due to conflicting activities, Gambia delayed celebration of the 6th AVW from 8 -12 August 2016.

The activities were spear-headed by Regional Health Officers and graced by Traditional and community elders, WHO and UNICEF staff, senior dignitaries of MOH&SW and other partners.



MALI

The event was launched on 6th May through a round table at national TV organized by the MOH. Another key event of the launch was the caravan that went through Bamako District with key messages on immunization to share with the population and distribution of T-shirt and other material. The aim was to create awareness and sensitize population on importance of immunization.



Awareness caravan in Mali on the launching of 6th AVW

MAURITANIA



A view of the officials during the launching of 6th AVW in Mauritania

The 6th African Vaccination Week was launched Monday, May 23, 2016 at Tidjikdja in the Wilaya Region in about 550km.

The launching ceremony was chaired by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Health in the presence of the Governor of the region, local authorities, civil authorities, and partners.

The week aims to strengthen immunization coverage deemed tagging very low (compared to national coverage and to the other regions) in the first quarter 2016.

Activities included awareness, advocacy, organizing advanced and mobile activities, strengthening cold chain and training of health personnel.



NIGERIA AVW ACTIVITIES

Nigeria celebrated the event from 25-30 April.

The Federal government of Nigeria officially launched the sixth edition of the African Vaccination Week (AVW) at Abuja on 25 April, 2016 to further establish the political will on universal vaccination coverage and raise awareness on the importance of vaccination in reducing child mortality.

Regions involved in this AVW 2016 edition included the Federal Capital Territory, Oyo and Borno States.



Communication activities included press conference with over 40 journalists. Advocacy activities included a Breakfast Meeting with chief executives of partner and donor agencies as well as with stakeholders.

Catch up immunization activities were conducted in IDP camps.

Speaking to over 40 journalists on 25 April, 2016 at a Press Conference to flag-off the National campaign in Abuja, the Executive Director (ED) of the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency (NPHCDA), Dr Ado Muhammed



Photo : The Deputy Governor of Borno Alh Mamman Durkwa flanked by the Commissioner for Health Dr Haruna Mshelia



FOR MORE INFORMATION

<http://www.african-vaccination-week.afro.who.int/en/country-activities/nigeria-african-vaccination-week-government-teams-up-with-journalists-for-universal-coverage/>

SENEGAL



The event was celebrated from 1-6th August with focus on sensitization and advocacy to maintain the gains achieved in vaccination coverage and identify ways on filling the gaps. In line with that, the country organized with the network of Journalist on Health

filed visits in 6 districts. In each district, knowledge on immunization was assessed for the district team, caretakers and community and religious leaders. At the end of the field visits, the journalists produced 6 radio and 2 TV reportage as well as 6 press articles.

SIERRA LEONNE

Sierra Leone joins other countries to heighten awareness on vaccination from 24 April to 6 May 2016. Activities to commemorate the week included: Launch of a Health and Nutrition Health fair by the Vice President.

The African Vaccination week also coincided with the implementation of a Measles outbreak response campaign targeting children 6 months to 15 years in Western Area.



Vaccinated children showing their measles vaccination cards

Five communities in the Western Area with low immunization coverage were engaged on discussions on immunization. In the Waterloo community the meeting was chaired by community chief and attended by health community leaders, market women representative, religious leaders and health workers. This opportunity was used to discuss the benefits of immunization and answer concerns from the community. Recommendations from the community include sustained media campaign using community radio and the development of vaccine for malaria which is a challenge for the community.



SEYCHELLES

The Seychelles WHO team in collaboration with the Ministry of Health developed the first edition of the 'Seychelles Immunization Newsletter' which was launched as part of the commemoration of

the 6th African Vaccination Week. The newsletter highlighted EPI major achievements during the last 3 years in Seychelles as well as planned activities in the coming months and years.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2016 AVW

Although AVW is officially only a one week event, some countries celebrated the event after the official period. As a reference the AVW vaccination and communication activities were consolidated into broad categories and listed by countries. All participating countries reported of activities, delivering different interventions, during the 2016 AVW in the African Region. Interventions ranging from health education and counselling to administration of various vaccine antigens and supply of health commodities were undertaken. See details in Table 2.

Interventions during AVW 2016	Results obtained	Countries
Polio campaigns	9, 623, 223 doses of OPV administered in 2 countries	Cameroon, & Nigeria
Measles campaigns	3,262,051 of MCV administered in 2 country	Sierra Leone, CAR
Vaccination activities	3,794,879 doses of vaccines of all antigens administered in 22 countries to immunize children and catch up defaulter	Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Botswana, CAR, Chad, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, DRC, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome, South Sudan, Uganda, Zimbabwe,
Vitamin A administration	11, 142,624 vitamin A tablets distributed to children < 5 years & women in post-partum in 7 countries	Cameroon, CAR, Ghana, Madagascar, Nigeria, Rwanda, Zimbabwe
Deworming tablets	Around 13, millions deworming tablets were distributed to children <5 years and pregnant women in 5 countries	Cameroon, CAR, Madagascar, Nigeria, Rwanda
Malnutrition screening	Around 2,5 Million children <5 years screened for malnutrition in 2 countries	Madagascar, Rwanda
Distribution of LLITN	62,384 LLITN distributed in one country	Ghana
Active search of Vaccine Preventable diseases	Notification of 5 cases of Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP), 10 suspected measles cases and 1 case of Neonatal Tetanus	Madagascar

ANNEX 1: PEOM- VACCINATION, A GIFT FOR LIFE

Vaccination, a gift for life

Vaccination, a gift for life,

For me, for you, for everyone!

Vaccination, a tool against vaccine preventable diseases!

Vaccination, protects people!

Vaccination, saves thousands of lives



Vaccination, a gift for life,

For me, for you, for everyone!

Vaccination, protects babies, children, adults and seniors!

Vaccination, protects all ages!



Vaccination, a gift for life,

For me, for you, for everyone!

WHO, governments and partners, do more!

To ensure full vaccine coverage!

To ensure full protection of the population!



Vaccination, a gift for life,

For me, for you, for everyone!

Vaccination, it is an essential gesture for life!

Vaccination, decrease vulnerability against viruses and bacteria!

Vaccination, a gift for life,

For me, for you, for everyone!

Prevention is better than cure, each vaccine is a life saved!

Vaccine for all, it's the health for all!



Par : Arlette KIBILA OSSERE
Congo Brazzaville, Mars 2016

