

PolioSTOP



MAY 2021

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NIGERIA NATIONAL POLIOPLUS COMMITTEE

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END POLIO NOW



POLIO ERADICATION-END IN SIGHT

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Chairman's Address

POLIO ERADICATION-END IN SIGHT



It is rather paradoxical that after toiling for 35 years, Rotary and its GPEI partners finally got rid of the wild polio virus in Africa during a pandemic that stretched health care systems to breaking points, led to a pause in polio vaccinations campaign, stretched our finances to their limits and impacted routine immunization adversely.

But there it is. That is what happened. We are again witnessing in a rather subtle way during this Covid-19 pandemic a drastic reduction in number of wild polio cases which may be signaling the last cases of the wild polio virus.

Let me quote Rotary's IPPC chair Mike McGovern: "For the first time all of the sites that undertake environmental testing for the wild poliovirus in Pakistan and in Afghanistan near the border have

concurrently shown no presence of the wild polio virus.

This is a sign of tremendous progress in the 35 plus year effort to eradicate polio.

We have also gone 14 weeks without a wild poliovirus case.

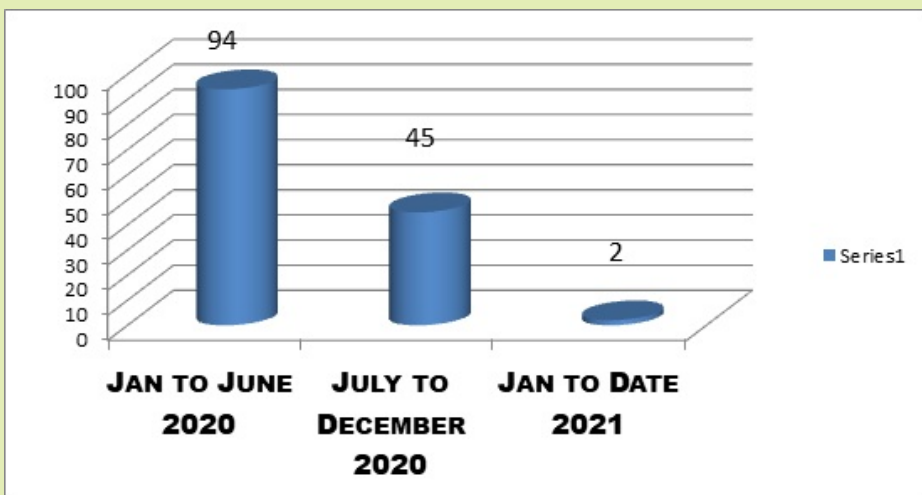
There have been just 4 cases of the wild polio virus in the last six months. We have seen 2 wild polio cases since January 1st. Certainly, we will likely see more cases and we will later find positive samples of wild polio virus in the environment, but this is a good sign we are definitely getting closer."

It is remarkably similar to what we saw in India a decade ago. And we are also seeing fewer vaccine derived cases than we saw last year."

This is very Significant and cheery news which calls for cautious optimism and a further resolve to get the job done- achieving a world without polio. I think we can confidently say now that there is light at the end of the tunnel.

However, this calls for coming out with all guns blazing; advocacy, awareness creation, fundraising and high-quality campaigns. These efforts are even more crucial now with attention focused on the pandemic and polio eradication resources being repurposed to contain the pandemic.

The end of the wild polio virus is surely in sight as long as we don't take our eyes off the ball



FROM EDITOR'S DESK

WE MUST NOT DROP OUR GUARD. NOT FOR COVID-19 AND DEFINITELY NOT FOR POLIO

In the last few weeks, we have seen the covid-19 crises escalate in certain parts of the world. Most hard hit by this escalation seems to be India where the number of new cases and new deaths has become almost unmanageable. In the past, we have seen crises of similar nature in the United States and Brazil as well as some other parts of the world. This has been mostly due to the discovery of new covid-19 variants, the denial of scientific facts, lack of adherence to covid-19 protocols and what has become known as “covid-19 fatigue”- people just being tired of the pandemic and wanting to return to normal life as quickly as possible.

As we have learned more about this disease, we have become better at preventing the disease and at treating the people suffering from it. We have learned that wearing masks and maintaining physical and social distancing are effective in limiting the spread of the disease. We have also learned that the newly developed vaccines are very effective in preventing people

from being sick from the disease. And as we have begun to realize these, many people have begun to be less careful and take risks, many have stopped wearing face masks in public and a lot of the greetings we have abandoned in the last year have started to return. There are a lot more handshakes and hugs and a lot less washing of hands and sanitizing in the last few months. In other words, we have begun to let our guards down. And the effect is that this disease has begun to come back strongly again.

We already know that for as long as the world is being ravaged by this pandemic, scarce resources needed for the prevention of other diseases and especially for polio eradication will be directed towards addressing it. People, materials and funds that should go to offering immunization services, including polio immunization are already being deployed to address the pandemic. It is therefore in the interest of all stakeholders, especially the children of this world that we get rid of covid-19 quickly so that we can return to protecting our children from these

other illnesses and diseases. Like polio, when we let down our guard, covid-19 tends to make a devastating comeback and cause more devastation than before. We have already seen it with the large number of wild poliovirus and vaccine derived poliovirus cases seen around the world in the last 2 years. The world has suffered as a result. Thankfully, the number of covid-19 cases in Nigeria appear to be declining but we have also seen cases decline and then increase very rapidly in the past. That is why we cannot afford to let down our guard. We need to get rid of covid-19 so we can proceed to finish our goal of eradicating polio from the world. We must therefore ensure that we take the covid-19 vaccine as soon as it's our turn and continue to observe the covid-19 protocols until majority of our people are protected from the disease. That's the only way we can quickly fulfil our promise of giving the next generation the gift of a polio-free world.

Polio 2021 SIA as at 31st March 2021

S/No	Date of implementation	No of States	No of LGAs	No of Wards	Details	Target Population	Antigen	Remark
1	13-16 Mar 21	5 States (Zamfara, Niger, Sokoto, Bayelsa, 1 st phase of Delta-20) and FCT -1 LGA	91	998	OBR1	8,502,826	nOPV2	Done
2	10-13 Apr 21	4 States (Zamfara, Niger, Sokoto, and FCT -1 LGA)	63	676	OBR2	6,571,533	nOPV2	Proposed
		Kebbi state	21	226	OBR1	1,688,246	nOPV2	Proposed
3	24 th -27 th Apr 21	Bayelsa and Delta States	28	321	OBR2	1,517,886	nOPV2	20 LGAs in Delta state
		Delta State	25	51	OBR1	413,407	nOPV2	5 LGAs
4	22 nd -25 th May 21	Kebbi state & Delta 5 LGAs	26	231	OBR2	2,101,653	nOPV2	(=>12 weeks after the last mOPV2 round (22nd 25th January 2021)
5	19 th to 22 nd June 2021	34 states +FCT (Minus Delta and Kebbi state)	728	9016	Nation wide SIA with bOPV	61,385,585	bOPV	Delayed in order to respond with nOPV2
6	3 rd to 6 th July	Kebbi and Delta bOPV			SIPDs	3,163,209	bOPV	Moved 1 wk because ofallah
7	14 th -17 th August 21	11 States	228	2607	SIPDs in 11 HR states namely Borno, Sokoto, Zamfara, Niger, Katsina, Bayelsa, Kogi, Kwara, Lagos, Yobe, and Kaduna	24,180,130	bOPV	Proposed
8	23 rd to 26 th Oct 2021	6 (Borno, Sokoto, Zamfara, Niger, Katsina, and Bayelsa)	172	1,366	SIPDs in 6 HR states namely Borno, Sokoto, Zamfara, Niger, Katsina, and Bayelsa	12,306,234	bOPV	Proposed



Rotarian 'Gbenga Olayiwole
Editor, Poliostop

IMPLEMENTING POLIO OBR /SIA ALONGSIDE COVID-19 VACCINATION

The Nigeria Polio programme recorded a historic achievement in 2020 - after four years of no wild polio virus detection in Nigeria, the Africa Regional Certification Commission for Polio Eradication (ARCC) confirmed interruption of WPV1 transmission and subsequently certified the Africa Region as free of WPV1 on 25 August 2020. This declaration followed ARCC field verification visits in December 2019 and March 2020 as well as the acceptance in June 2020, of country complete documentation of the remaining four countries (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Nigeria, and South Sudan) by the ARCC. The historic achievement of certification of WPV1 eradication was a result of the strong political leadership of the government at all levels, the engagement of traditional and religious institutions, close support from partners and donors, and implementation of innovative strategies to curb the transmission of WPV, among other interventions.

This year's 2021 World Immunization Week is helping spread the message that vaccines bring us closer – to our families, to healthier lives, and to ending polio. Innovation around immunization efforts continue to help bring us closer. As just one example, initial use of the novel oral polio vaccine type 2 (nOPV2) has been

deployed to protect millions of children around the world.

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the social, economic and general wellbeing of the global population. The pandemic led to suspension of supplemental immunization activities in the second quarter of 2020 to mitigate the risks of spread of COVID19 during mass vaccination campaigns. However, with the development of guidelines for safe commencement of vaccination, the planned SIAs recommenced with all the safety measures monitored to ensure compliance. The country mounted several responses with monovalent oral polio vaccine to contain the spread of cVDPV2.

The major challenges in 2020 included the negative impact of the COVID19 pandemic in implementation of planned activities; persistence of cVDPV2 outbreaks with spread to the southern part of the country; continued inaccessibility and dynamic security situation in Borno and other parts of the country; and waning political commitment at state and LGA levels.

As Nigeria is battling with the remaining challenges of CVDPV2 outbreaks in some states implementation of outbreak responses OBR are ongoing alongside with Covid 19 Vaccinations, the major task ahead

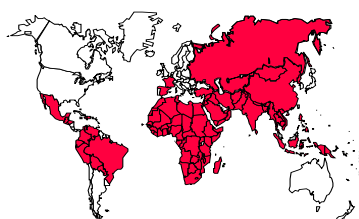
of all Health workers, Political leaders and Partners is to understand that both Covid 19 Vaccination and Polio are two very important interventions that need prompt attention to be able to implement and reach out to communities as such each should be well planned and implemented separately at all levels

Polio Update

As at week 2 of May Nigeria did not report any case of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2). There are five 5 cases so far in 2021 while the number of 2020 cases remains at eight.

Globally officially reported WPV1 and cVDPV cases as of 14 May 2021. Wild polio-virus (WPV) Total global WPV1 cases in 2021: 2 (compared with 54 for the same period in 2020) Total global WPV1 cases in 2020: 140. Circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV) cases Total global cVDPV cases in 2021: 78 (compared with 104 for the same period in 2020) Total global cVDPV cases in 2020: 1086

Progress towards polio eradication (1988 Aug - 2021)



1988
> 125 endemic countries, over 350,000 cases of paralysis



Aug 2020
2 endemic countries, 120 cases of paralysis due to WPV



AMINU MUHAMMAD
NATIONAL PROGRAMME COORDINATOR

NIGERIA'S FCT MINISTER PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF POLIO TRANSITION PLAN TO SUSTAIN LEGACY



The WHO Representative meets with the Minister of the FCT

With the imminent accelerated Polio Programme ramp down in Nigeria, the World Health Organization's (WHO's) Country Representative (WR) Dr Walter Kazadi Mulombo has taken his advocacy train on the implementation of the Polio Transition Plan to Mallam Muhammed Musa Bello, the Honourable Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. The meeting held on 11 May 2021 at the Minister's Conference Room comes on the heels of the accelerated polio ramp down plan which means that with polio-free status, WHO will no longer receive funding for the polio programme from the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) starting January 2022.

In his opening remarks during the meeting, Dr Mulombo appreciated the Minister for, "all your efforts at improving the health indicators in FCT. Through the Polio infrastructure we have been providing support in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public health programmes, aimed at preventing, promoting and protecting the health of the Nigerian population in line with the goals and objectives of the National Health Plan.

Through this structure, we were able to achieve Polio eradication and sustain certification standard surveillance in the Territory since the last reported WPV case in 2013 in FCT."

Unfortunately, with the success comes the grim reality of dwindling resources and the fact that from January 2022, the GPEI partnership has indicated that it will be withdrawing funding support to Nigeria in order to squarely concentrate resources on eradication efforts in the two last endemic countries, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The WR recalled that Nigeria was removed from the list of three remaining wild polio virus (WPV) endemic countries globally in August 2020. Despite the certification, the work on polio eradication continues in order to forestall the risks of importation until global certification is attained. Furthermore, circulating vaccine derived polio virus (cVDPV2) outbreaks continue to remain a major risk to the programme due to sub optimal population immunity.

With this realization, the WR solicited the support of the FCT Minister to ensure that the skilled and experienced manpower and assets are absorbed by government for continuity and support other public health interventions.

Specifically, the WR mentioned that these resources can be utilized to strengthen routine immunization, consolidate investment in disease surveillance and support revitalisation of primary healthcare services which align with the government's health agenda.

Responding to the WR's prayer, the FCT Minister said, "we will provide the needed support so that the success of the polio programme and the capacity built over the years do not go down the drain".

He mentioned that, Nigeria cannot be complacent as no "country is free of polio except eradication is achieved everywhere". He also noted the significance of transferring polio assets to address other public health concerns as tabled by the WR.

According to him, "We will leverage on the rich pool of trained staff to boost the PHC workforce, working on internal assessment for appropriate data to see how many of the Polio workforce the FCT can absorb."

Furthermore, the Minister asked WHO to consider working hard on engaging private sector stakeholders like the CACOVID in COVID-19 response including vaccination. He promised that the FCT can support hosting of private sector donors as may be required.

During the meeting, WHO Africa Regional Director, General Management Cluster, Mr Mahen Sandrasagren, and Dr Pascal Mkanda the Polio Eradication Programme Coordinator who participated virtually, acknowledged the great achievements of the polio eradication programme in Nigeria but rued that funding for the programme will be withdrawn at the end of 2021. With this scenario, the government of Nigeria will have to take over funding of polio functions or mobilize resources so that transition is seamless and to avoid rolling back the success achieved with polio eradication.

In the FCT, WHO has a technical team made up of national professional officers, LGA Facilitators and a state Coordinator to support efforts to improve disease surveillance, routine immunization coverage, supplemental immunization activities and also support efforts in addressing the burden of non-communicable diseases, emergencies and health system strengthening. WHO personnel in the FCT also support the training and capacity building in early warning systems for public health events and in preparedness for emergency response among other interventions Senior Management officers from the FCT and WHO attended the meeting

Source: WHO

AFRICAN CHILDREN MISSING OUT ON LIFE-SAVING VACCINES DUE TO COVID-19



The World Health Organization warns that millions of children in Africa are not receiving life-saving vaccinations against preventable killer diseases because most efforts are focused on ending the COVID-19 pandemic. Latest WHO figures find more than 4.4 million COVID-19 cases on the African continent, including 118,000 deaths.

Crucial immunization campaigns against diseases such as measles, polio and yellow fever have been put on hold while countries tackle the COVID-19 pandemic.

For example, the World Health Organization reports that 15 African countries last year delayed measles immunization campaigns to deal with the pandemic. WHO regional director for Africa, Matshidiso Moeti, says seven of these countries have since completed

the campaigns, but eight have not, risking outbreaks of this deadly disease.

"Preliminary data show that an estimated 16.6 million children in Africa missed planned supplemental measles vaccine doses between January 2020 and April 2021," Moeti said. "As we fight COVID-19, we cannot leave anyone dangerously exposed to other preventable diseases."

Moeti says hopes are growing that vaccines will help bring the COVID-19 pandemic to an end. At the same time, she says many of the millions of African children who are not being reached by routine vaccinations are at risk of dying. She says this must not and need not happen.

Sierra Leone's minister of health and sanitation, Austin Demby, agrees. He says vaccines really do work, and regular vaccinations for children must be maintained. He says immunization coverage in his country has improved steadily in the past five years before the COVID-19 outbreak. As a consequence, he says Sierra Leone has gone for a number of

years without major outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases like measles and yellow fever.

"Despite the gains that have been made in immunization coverage over the years, the COVID-19 pandemic has led to adverse effects on vaccination coverage across the country. ... With all eyes focused on COVID-19 vaccines, other crucial vaccination commitments must not be forgotten," said Demby.

WHO reports 41 African countries so far have received over 18 million doses through the COVAX vaccine-sharing facility. This number, it says, includes seven countries that received their first deliveries last week due to shipment delays.

Moeti says Africa's vaccine rollout also has been delayed because of production limitations in India, which is facing a severe wave of COVID-19. However, she says WHO has been informed that India will resume vaccine supplies to Africa in early May.

By Lisa Schlein for voanews.com

FG APPROVES SECOND DOSE OF ASTRAZENECA COVID-19 VACCINE FOR ELIGIBLE NIGERIANS



The Federal Government has given the green light for the commencement of the administering of the second dose of the Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccines on eligible Nigerians who received the first shots. This disclosure was made by the Executive Director of the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), Dr Faisal Shuaib, during a recent briefing of the Presidential Steering Committee (PSC) in Abuja. Shuaib advised health workers, frontline workers aged 18 years and above and persons aged 50 years and above to visit any designated vaccination site to receive the vaccine free of charge.

Shuaib in his statement said, “I want to remind you that the eligibility period between the first and second doses of the vaccine has been expanded from 12 weeks to between six to 12 weeks, in line with the scientific recommendation provided by the World Health Organisation's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE on immunization). The PSC has approved the second dose of the Oxford-Astrazeneca vaccination in all states of the federation and the FCT. We have redeployed Senior Supervisors to the states and have continued to monitor activities with daily evening review meetings to determine the status of the COVID-19 vaccine implementation in all states and the FCT.

These meetings, allows us to receive reports from the sub-national level on how the campaigns are proceeding,

what challenges they face, and how we can proactively anticipate and resolve any impending challenges. The meetings also provide an avenue to troubleshoot and resolve any operational hurdles as they emerge, before they become problematic,” he explained.

He said that the agency is at the forefront of the Covid-19 vaccination campaign at the community level with town hall meetings across the country, just as was done for the poliovirus eradication fight.

The NPHCDA said, “Already we held the North-Central Zonal Town Hall Meeting two weeks ago in Lafia, the capital of Nasarawa state.



Dr. Faisal Shuaib, Executive Director/CEO NPHCDA

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Source: nairametrics.com

ROTARY CLUB EMPOWERS POLIO SURVIVORS WITH N500,000



The President of the Rotary Club of Abuja Maitama, Rotn Dinah Achele Akuh has asked Nigerians to rally around Poliomyelitis survivors in the country. She said polio is not a death sentence and victims should be assisted to live normal lives.

She said despite the fact that Nigeria is now polio-free, there is still the need to rehabilitate the survivors. Akuh made the plea during the presentation of N500,000 empowerment grants to some polio survivors in Karon Majigi in Abuja for trades and small-scale business. She said “Poliomyelitis is not a death sentence. Now that Nigeria is polio-free, we should take care of the survivors and sustain our preventive measures. “This is why members of the Rotary Club

of Abuja Maitama have decided to empower some survivors with N500, 000 capital for trades and small-scale businesses. We believe the survivors have a right to life too. “Having satisfied that they have acquired some skills, they need little capital for start-up. We are hopeful that they will succeed in their various trades. “In fact, one of the survivors, Kabiru Bello has a welding workshop with some apprentices. He is determined to break even and we have given him enough to buy some tools and materials. “I appeal to all the beneficiaries to make judicious use of the capital. Our monitoring team will keep a close tab on them.” Akuh said the club will soon embark on the next phase of the empowerment of another batch of polio survivors. “The war against

poliomyelitis can be finally won if the survivors have a sense of belonging like others in the society,” she added. A Past Assistant Governor, Rotn Winny Fonaka said the club was fulfilling one of the seven areas of focus of Rotary International with the empowerment.” We want these survivors to live a normal life. We don't want them to beg on the streets for anything. We discovered that they are talented and we are empowering them to be useful to themselves and the society,” she said.



At Kabiru Bello's welding workshop



Some of the beneficiaries of the empowerment grants



3rd from right - Honourable Commissioner for Health, Ogun state - Dr.(Mrs) Tomi Coker;
 4th from right - Permanent Secretary Ministry of Health - Dr. E.A Ayinde
 Extreme left - Executive Secretary PHC - Dr. Elijah Ogunsola
 2nd from right - SA on Health - Rtn.Dr. Lawal
 2nd from right -NNPPC Ogun State Polio Rep. - Rtn. Dr. Festus Adetonwa
 1st from right - National PHC Rep. - Mrs Adebiji



4th left - Honourable Commissioner for Health, Ogun State - Dr.(Mrs) Tomi Coker;
 2nd from left - Executive Secretary PHC - Dr. Elijah Ogunsola
 3rd from left - NNPPC Ogun State Polio Rep. - Rtn. Dr. Festus Adetonwa
 4th from right - SA on Health - Rtn. Dr. Lawal
 2nd from right - SA on Health - Dr Ololade Kehinde
 3rd from right - National PHC Rep. - Mrs Adebiji
 1st from right - SSA on Health - Dr. Omojole
 Extreme left - Incident Manager for Covid-19 - Dr. Festus Soyinka



From left- NNPPC Vice Chairman Dr.Kazeem Mustapha, Dr Bassey - NPHCDA and Mr Peter Hawkins of UNICEF (2nd from right), after NTA Good Morning show.



Dr Kazeem Mustapha presenting Africa Polio Free Award plaque to PRIP Jon Majiyagbe in appreciation of his support.



PDG Ijeoma Okoro (2nd from left), Presents copies of POLIOSTOP magazine to the Deputy Governor of Rivers State, Dr Mrs Ipalibo Harry Banigo during a Courtesy Visit to the Governor



Supervision of Covid-19 vaccination at kaduna North.

PRESENTATION OF COVID-19 ROTARY REFLECTIVE JACKETS TO KADUNA STATE TEAM



COMMISSIONING OF ROTARY BOREHOLE



HRH Oba Nureni and representatives of R.C. Ikeja South, the adopting Rotary Club for the borehole project.



HRH Oba Nureni (left) PDG Yomi Adewunmi, Rotn. Joy Egbo, President R.C. Ikeja South, DGE Remi Bello and the Baale of Odofin Igbore community.



Some pupils of the African Church School pupils with Rotarians



Some of the villagers during the commissioning



Presentation of polio souvenirs to Olu Of Moloko Asipa, HRH Oba Nureni, by PDG Yomi Adewunmi NNPPC Vice Chairman



Rotary Motorized borehole at African Church School, Igbore, Obafemi Owode LGA, Ogun state



Rotary



END
POLIO
NOW

Through the science of immunization,
Rotary & partners have saved nearly
19 million children from becoming
paralyzed by polio.

NIGERIA NATIONAL POLIOPUS COMMITTEE