Status of Polio Eradication in AFRO & Legacy Planning: Preparations and Challenges

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Polio Partners Group (PPG) Meeting, 15 December 2015
Progress towards polio eradication in the African Region in the last 6 months, Dec. 2015

• **No polio endemic country** in the African Region with Nigeria removed from endemic list on 25 September 2015

• **Wild Poliovirus type 2 certified** to have been eradicated globally on 20 September 2015

• **No wild poliovirus type 3 detected** in Africa since 10 November 2012

• The Region may be certified polio free by end 2017, if this progress is maintained
Remaining challenges for Polio Eradication in the African Region, Dec. 2015

• Emerging vaccine derived polioviruses (cVDPVs) outbreaks

• Localized surveillance gaps in some countries

• Insecurity challenges and population movement

• Ebola virus outbreak and challenges in surveillance, outbreak response quality and routine immunization

• Weak infrastructure and logistic challenges to deliver immunization services

• Inadequate human resource and weak health systems to sustain the gains and progress in polio eradication
Polio Legacy Planning Activities by African Region, 2015

– Milestones /targets for Polio legacy planning and transitioning of assets in African Region:
  • Finalize inventory of polio assets by Q2, 2016
  • Finalize transitioning plans with funding identified by Q4, 2016
  • Commence transitioning of assets by Q1, 2017

Major activities conducted:
– The AFRO Polio Legacy Working Group has been established since June 2015
– All WHO Heads of Country Offices oriented on Legacy Planning on 7 November 2015
– Side meeting held at the 65th African Regional Committee on 25 November 2015 with the Ministers of Health from the 5 priority countries
Government and partners priorities in polio legacy and transitioning of assets in African Region

• Ensuring Governments’ leadership and ownership of the polio legacy and transitioning processes

• Concretizing the financial and technical commitments / pledges of partners consortium in the transitioning of assets processes in countries

• Maintaining quality implementation of planned polio eradication activities during the transitioning processes

• Mitigating the impact of the GPEI financial gap that may shift resources from the African Region to countries that have not yet stopped polio transmission
WHO / AFRO Priorities for Polio Legacy & Transitional Planning, 2016

• Continue to raise awareness of the importance and urgency of transition planning amongst Governments, donors, and other stakeholders

• Collaboration with other partners to provide technical support to fast-track polio legacy and transitioning planning in countries

• Ensure all 47 countries have established transition plans by Q4-2016

• Assist countries to come up with minimum infrastructure required to attain the GVAP targets for the African Region as well as the minimum disease surveillance /IHR platform by country.

- The theme is “Towards Universal Immunization Coverage as a Cornerstone for Health in Africa”
- The main objective is to solicit more investment in immunization from Government and partners.
- Participants will include:
  - Government Ministers
  - Selected parliamentarians
  - Partners
  - Stakeholders including civil society organizations (CSOs), “Immunization Champions”, community leaders

• A session will be dedicated to *Building on Success: Harnessing Polio’s Legacy to support other public health interventions*

• Selected Ministries of Health will present on using the polio infrastructure to strengthen other public health priorities

• At the end, there will be a **Conference Declaration** for collective ownership and accountability

• The **declaration will include reference to the importance of polio legacy transitioning for the African Region**
Summary and Way Forward

The African Region:

• Has prioritized polio legacy planning and transitioning of assets as per set targets / milestones

• Is using every opportunity to advocate and discuss with Governments and donors the importance of proper legacy planning

• Is closely working with governments, donors and partners to provide technical support to accelerate polio legacy planning in countries
Thank You