

DECLARATION OF THE POLIOMYELITIS OUTBREAK IN NIGERIA AS A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY FOR COUNTRIES OF THE LAKE CHAD BASIN

66th Session of the World Health Organization Regional Committee for the African Region, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 21 August 2016

We, Ministers of Health of the Member States of the countries of the Lake Chad Basin (Cameroun, Central African Republic, Chad, Niger and Nigeria)

- Recalling resolution WHA65.5 on intensification of the global poliomyelitis eradication initiative which declared the completion of poliovirus eradication a programmatic emergency for global public health;
- Recalling that on 5 May 2014, the Director-General declared the international spread of poliovirus a public health emergency of international concern and issued temporary recommendations under the International Health Regulations (2005);
- Recalling that in June 2015, at the 25th African Union (AU) Summit, the African Heads of State declared polio eradication: "Historical legacy for future generations".
- Noting with deep concern, confirmation of new wild poliovirus type 1 cases (latest onset of 13 July 2016) in Borno State of Nigeria which borders other Lake Chad countries and the potential risk of international spread as per previous experience;
- Noting and appreciating the immediate response mounted by Nigeria by quickly declaring it as a public health emergency and mobilizing the needed resources, including the use of the military to protect the vaccinators and facilitating the actual vaccination
- Noting with deep concern, the sub-national surveillance and vaccination gaps in the Lake Chad region, and evidence that the identified strain has been circulating without detection since 2011;

1. DECLARE the recent detection of wild poliovirus in Nigeria, a sub-regional public health emergency for Member States of the Lake Chad Basin;

2. REQUEST Nigeria and all countries of the Lake Chad Basin, as a matter of the utmost urgency, to fully implement coordinated outbreak responses in order to quickly interrupt this outbreak before the end of 2016 and prevent international spread;


3. URGE all Member States of countries of the Lake Chad Basin to:

- Extend all possible support, including political advocacy and engagement at all levels, for successful coordination and implementation of synchronized polio vaccination activities across the countries of the Lake Chad sub-region;

- Support the multi-national military task force to provide adequate security, safety and facilitation for the vaccination process
- Enhance surveillance for acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) and suspected poliomyelitis, as a matter of urgency, to detect any chains of transmission in the region and better target emergency response efforts;
- Provide additional political, financial and technical support for the regional emergency response and strengthening of routine immunization to boost population immunity;
- Review, by early October 2016, the status of implementation of the outbreak response plan and the progress made towards stopping the outbreak before end of 2016.

4. REQUEST the WHO Regional Director and partners to continue the tremendous efforts to accelerate eradication efforts in the Region, including the mobilization of necessary financial and technical support.

SIGNED:



 Minister of Public Health
 Ministry of Public Health, Cameroun


Djeughet Fernande
Djeughet Fernande 22/08/2016

Minister of Health
 Ministry of Health, Central African Republic


 22/08/2016

Minister of Public Health
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 Minister of Health
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