



**World Health
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR
Africa

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
- Planning polio legacy discussions for the African Ministerial Conference on Immunization from 24 – 25 February 2016

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.

WHO Ministerial Conference on Immunization in Africa, Addis Ababa, 24 -25 Feb. 2016

- 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

Polio Legacy: WHO Ministerial Conference on Immunization in Africa, Addis Ababa, 24 -25 Feb. 2016

- 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