

CHURCH-BASED HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS VACCINATION IN NDU AND NKAMBE FIELDS JULY 2022

Following the cervical cancer elimination call by the World Health Organization and the strategy put in place for the 2030 90,70,90 target, the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services (CBCHS) through the women's Health Program has set out strategies to meet this target. One of the strategies is the church-based approach for Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination. In this approach sensitization about the disease is given in churches, followed by vaccination.

The Women's Health Program (WHP) of the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services (CBCHS) has as a target to vaccinate 50,000 young girls for the year 2022.

Following this, the WHP together with Humanity at Heart International with support of the Ministry of Health Cameroon (Expanded program of immunization and the National Committee for the fight against cancer) took to their feet to sensitize some communities about the HPV vaccine. The



The Baptist churches of the Ndu and Nkambe communities in Donga Mantung Division of the North West Region were selected for this exercise to vaccinate 5000 girls. This ran from the 10th to the 21st of July 2022

The **purpose** of this was to

- To create awareness of HPV-associated diseases and their prevention
- To vaccinate over 90% of young girls aged 9-14years in Baptist churches within the Ndu and Nkambe fields.

Activities

Support letters and the authorization to do HPV vaccination in the Baptist churches were sent to the churches from the Health Department of the CBC through the Director of Evangelism and Missions and the Executive President to the Field Pastors of Ndu and Nkambe. Three planning meetings for sensitization and vaccination with the two Field pastors, the WHP Supervisor, the Supervisor of Nursing Services for the Ndu Baptist Health Centre, and the District Medical officers for these communities were held. The vaccination period was agreed on for July 10th to 21st 2022. Circulars with cervical cancer messages were sent to the various churches and communities before the vaccination date.

At the churches, a room was given to the vaccination team during church service on Sundays and the short-term Bible school during the week for more information



about cervical cancer and the HPV vaccine. This information was done both in English and the native language by the team members.

Verbal consents were given by parents whose children were eligible for vaccination. Vaccination

was done at the children's church or in the main church with most of the church leaders present together with some parents. A total of 1650 girls were vaccinated against the Human Papillomavirus as in the table below.

The cold chain was maintained as the vaccines were carried in the vaccine carriers with ice packs while in the community and the rest were stored in the refrigerator at the Ndu Baptist Health Centre and the Nkambe District Hospital.

The vaccination team was made up of three Nurses from Etoug-Ebe, one Nurse from Bafoussam, one Nurse from BBH, seven Nurses from Ndu, and a Data clerk from BBH all from the CBCHS; and a cancer advocate from Humanity at heart International.

Community	Churches	Number of girls vaccinated
Ndu	First Baptist Church	87
	NJipluh Baptist Church	31
	Njifor Baptist Church	35
	Grace Baptist Church	54
	Kakar Baptist Church	33
	Emmanuel Baptist Church	32
	Mukop Baptist Church	31
	Njiptop Baptist Church	38
	Tukop Baptist Church	31
	Nshi-o-doh Baptist Church	35
	Trinity Baptist Church	59
	Calvary Baptist Church N	25
	Mangu Baptist Church	96
	Wowo Baptist Church	69
	Salem Baptist Church	69
	Njilah Baptist Church	
	Bethel Baptist Church	36
	Valley Baptist Church	
	Kihfe Baptist Church	12
	Mbipgo Baptist Church	60
	Fuh Baptist Church	16
	Mbah Baptist Church	85
	Jirt Baptist Church	
Mbibih Baptist Church	22	
Ndangong Baptist Church		
Njimnkang Baptist Church	29	
Ngarum 1 Baptist Church	36	
	Mbase Baptist Church	20
	Stationary Baptist Church	137
Nkambe	Bonchup Baptist Church	121
	Bih Baptist Church	17
	Ngie Baptist Church	57
	Nkambe Baptist Church	173
	Binka Baptist Church	64
	Tabeken Baptist Church	29

	Mbot Baptist Church	80
Total vaccinated		1650

Challenges

- Difficulty getting HPV vaccines from the districts concerned
- Few girls were vaccinated as many were on holiday in different places
- Limited accessibility to some churches due to the bad road network.
- Access denied for HPV vaccination in some communities by Chief of health areas
- Difficulty in recognizing girls that were previously vaccinated by the District as this was not documented.

Lessons learned and way forward

- Collaboration and teamwork can produce great results
- Vaccination cards should be given to the girls to show the vaccine taken and the number of doses
- Second doses have been planned for December and January for the Health District to continue

Conclusion:

The outreach was a success as the team did not have any encounters be it with the Military or the Amba fighters as this is an area with the sociopolitical crisis.

Appreciation

Our appreciation goes to:

- ❖ Parents and families who consented for their girls to be vaccinated
- ❖ The great team that went out for this vaccination
- ❖ The collaboration from the different churches
- ❖ The bikers in Ndu
- ❖ The CBC authorities
- ❖ Drs. Thomas and Edith Welty for financial support



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