

Introduction PCV AND ROTAVIRUS VACCINE

South Sudan's journey

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Problem Statement

- Malaria, Pneumonia, and Rotavirus infection are leading causes of morbidity and mortality in South Sudan.
- The country has prioritized and committed to introduce of malaria, PCV and Rotavirus vaccines.
 - Malaria in 2024
 - PCV and Rota in 2025
- Application for Malaria vaccine is approved by Gavi
- Application to Gavi for concurrent introduction of PCV and Rota – Q1 2024
- This plan has approval from the Gavi Independent Review Committee (IRC) and is aligned with GAVI's Programmatic Support Rational (PSR) framework.

Opportunities

- Good Government commitment to introduce the vaccines for the three leading causes of disease and death among children
- Health Infrastructure: Improved fixed and outreach services due to increased number of trained vaccinators and supervisors, dedicated resources for outreach and mobile services, adequate cold chain capacity for the introduction of all three vaccines.
- GAVI Support: Health systems strengthening, CCEOP, and equity accelerator funding

Opportunities

- Health Partnerships: Collaboration with international health partners, such as WHO, UNICEF, and NGOs, for technical expertise, resources, and health system strengthening
- Expansion of Boma health initiative: Leverage the expanded network of BHW to link services with communities
- Data Management – DHIS 2 roll out across the country

Anticipated challenges

- Co-financing beyond the grace period accorded by Gavi because Rota and PCV are expensive vaccines
- Mobilising sufficient vaccine introduction funds to fill gaps not addressed by the Gavi Vaccine Introduction Grant (VIG)
- Capacity of health care system to introduce two vaccines at the same time – first time the country is planning a co-current introduction
- Establishing a robust Pediatric Bacterial meningitis and strengthening the Rotavirus surveillance systems to assess the impact of the introduction of the two vaccines
- Competing tasks for EPI staff – Need for a dedicated consultant to write the application

Way Forward

- Engage the South Sudan NITAG for technical guidance
- Appraise the Immunization Inter-agency Coordination Committee (ICC) chaired by Minister of Health
- Engage a consultant to develop the application to Gavi
- Complete the Cold chain expansion in readiness for the introduction

Shukran!!