



14 September 2023 | N'Djamena, Chad

NAVIGATING NEW VACCINE IMPLEMENTATION OPTIONS

Considerations and support for countries weighing PCV and rotavirus vaccine introduction decisions

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Choice Optimization for Immunization: Country Exercises in Sustainability (CHOICES)
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ABOUT CHOICES



CHOICES complements the efforts of Ministries of Health and key partners to introduce and sustain high coverage of new vaccines and align with health priorities in Gavi-eligible and transitioned countries across two core domains:

PARTNER SUPPORT & MATERIALS

Equip global and regional partners with evidence-based resources, guidance, and analyses to support countries in navigating complex decisions and strengthening sustainability and capacity

COUNTRY SUPPORT

Empower, equip, and support countries to develop and implement optimized, comprehensive immunization programs through tailored, targeted technical assistance

Document learnings, promising practices, and challenges as countries navigate EPI program changes

CHOICES SUPPORT

Optimizing vaccine programs

- Evidence and guidance on vaccine product profiles and alignment with country needs
- Support in navigating and applying decision-making tools, guidance, and resources*
- Support for introduction and elective/compulsory switch decision-making and preparations

Prioritizing interventions

- Technical assistance and guidance to review and assess existing and planned immunization and communicable disease prevention/control programs
- Decision-making support on alignment with national disease prevention priorities

Navigating resources

- Support in navigating a catalog of tailored decision-making tools, best practices, guidance, and frameworks*
- Develop and refine tools and resources to address gaps, and capture lessons learned

Strengthening capacity

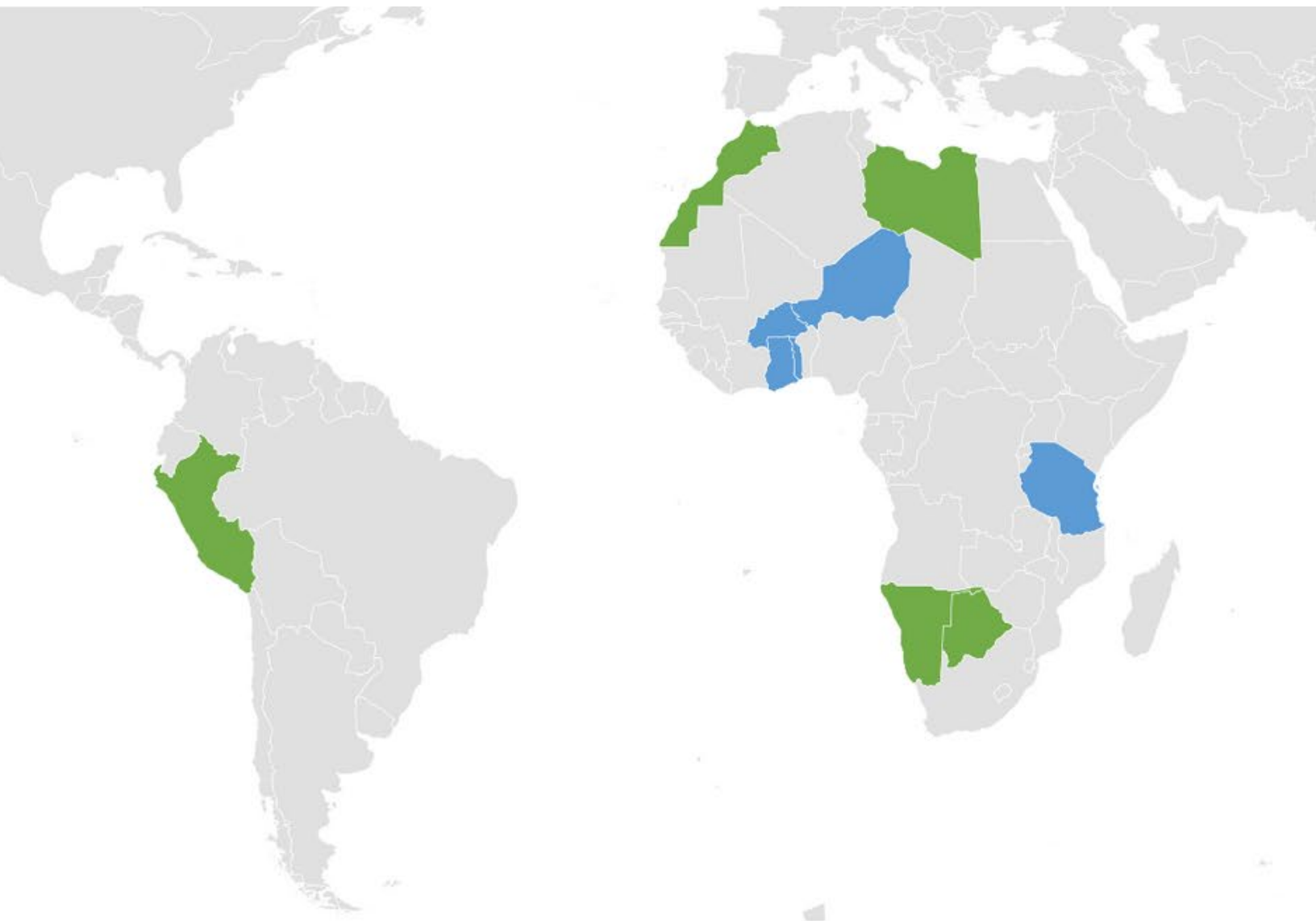
- Assistance in strengthening capacity for evidence-based decision-making and monitoring and evaluation of impact and implementation

Implementing decisions

- For countries that decide to enact an optimization or prioritization decision, CHOICES can support planning and implementation

DUAL INTRODUCTION

Introducing PCV and rotavirus vaccine concurrently



COST SHARING

May reduce overall budget needs



SYNERGIES

May allow for coordinated activities and messaging



COMPLEXITY

Requires careful planning and training to navigate two different vaccines



FLEXIBILITY

Requires agility and planning to navigate the risk and negative impact

Launching PCV and rotavirus vaccine at the same time may allow countries to streamline some costs and processes — but adds complexity and requires flexibility and careful planning

CHALLENGES + LESSONS LEARNED

Dual introduction of PCV and rotavirus vaccine in Ghana, Niger, and Tanzania



Countries noted **financial resource and planning efficiencies** compared to individual / standalone introductions — primarily due to a substantial **reduction in training costs and time** by streamlining activities

KEY CHALLENGES & TAKEAWAYS

- Cascade trainings, refresher trainings, and user-friendly materials to support health worker knowledge and confidence
- Intensive supportive supervision post-introduction
- Early and frequent stakeholder engagement and comprehensive planning
- Appropriate cold chain assessment and management
- Community engagement and social mobilization are critical to prepare for multiple new vaccines

SCHEDULE OPTIONS

PCV may be administered on a 3+0 or 2+1 schedule; rotavirus vaccine schedule depends on the product selected

Schedules for PCV and rotavirus vaccine align with the routine immunization schedule for DTP / pentavalent doses 1-3

For the 2+1 schedule, the 3rd dose of PCV aligns with the schedule for the 1st dose of MCV / MR



	6 weeks	10 weeks	14 weeks	9-12 months
DTP / penta	●	●	●	
MCV / MR				●
Rota	●	●	●*	
PCV	2+1 schedule	●		●
	3+0 schedule	●	●	●

WHO recommends both the 3+0 and 2+1 schedule — disease burden in the first year, desired duration of protection, and coverage at the 9-month visit may inform schedule selection

PCV CATCH-UP

Conducting a catch-up campaign for 12–59-month-old children at PCV launch



SYNERGIES

May allow for budget synergies and coordination with introduction and/or other campaigns



IMPACT

Can accelerate impact on disease burden, herd immunity



COMPLEXITY

Requires careful planning, training, and adequate human resources



RESOURCE INTENSIVE

May divert resources from routine PCV program

PCV catch-up targets children under 5 who are not eligible to receive PCV through the routine schedule — it can accelerate impact and community protection



DECISION-MAKING + IMPLEMENTATION RESOURCES

- ✓ CAPACITI and other decision support tools and frameworks
- ✓ Vaccine cost calculators (PCV, rota)
- ✓ Position papers, evidence briefs, and guidance
- ✓ Knowledge exchange and country case studies
- ✓ Technical assistance