

GETTING THE CHILDREN OF REMOTE VILLAGES VACCINATED WITH A SUPPORT OF GIS TRACKING -THE KWARE LGA EXPERIENCE

In the year 2012, the Nigerian Polio Eradication Initiative partners discovered that part of the problem bedeviling the effort to stop the transmission of the virus is the low coverage during supplementary Immunization activities. As a result of that, the National Emergency Operation Center (NEOC) worked with eHealth Africa, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Novel-T to come up with the Vaccination Tracking System (VTS). The vaccination tracking project (VTS) was introduced to support and ensure optimum geo coverage of settlements in the LGAs and States during SIAs by tracking the passive movement of the vaccination team using an android based application. The tracks generated by the devices are uploaded to the dashboard for analytics and visualization on a daily basis. This gives the Polio vaccination administrators at all levels a near- real-time information on the extent of the geographical coverage of the activity.

The result of vaccination tracking in Kware LGA over the long period has been consistently below the minimum threshold of 80%. The Polio eradication partners have been devastated by the development in Kware LGAs until during the May 2018 outbreak response. There was a perception from the vaccination team that, the settlements in the VTS geo-database does not exist in the LGAs. During the second Outbreak response in May 2018, eHA team supported the LGA team to identify the settlement in question using Maps and Android navigation applications. The activity was conducted jointly with the eHA team, state, and LGA teams and the representative of traditional leaders of the LGA. Among the settlements identified is Tungar Labbo in Sabon Birni Ward of Kware LGA which is in existence for over twenty years and immunization teams have never visited the settlement. The Ward focal person was surprised with the discovery and show interest to learn more on the use of the technology to improve the coverage of his LGA during subsequent campaigns.

"I have never believed in this VTS of a thing before now until I was proved wrong and saw settlements that we never knew are in existence in my ward using the help of VTS to locate them."

- Ward focal Person Sabon birni, Kware LGA, Sokoto State

This approach led to the reduction in number of missed settlements in the LGA from 20 settlements in the first outbreak response in May 2018 to only 3 settlements in June 2018. Also, the coverage of the LGA went up from 72% in January 2018 to 81% in June 2018. Following the success recorded in Kware LGA, the State EOC requested the training of state team to continue using the technology to identify all the settlements in the state that are not in the state master list of settlements but are in eHealth Africa Geo-database. This approach has been domesticated in Kware and Sokoto State.

"During Outbreak Response II in Sokoto in June this year, eHA team did a wonderful job by tracking and renaming missed settlements in Sokoto during the campaign. Looking at the impact and the importance of the application used for the exercise, it was agreed at the EOC to have the application available to some state and LGA staff to enable them to use it to track missed settlements in their domains."

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