FEDERATION OF AFRICAN MEDICAL STUDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS (FAMSA)

MEDICAL NEWS AND TRENDS

JULY 2023 EDITION
Malawi had been repurposed to serve as a cholera treatment centre to care for hundreds of patients as cases surged amid the country’s worst outbreak.

Since the onset of the cholera outbreak in Malawi in March 2022, World Health Organization (WHO) has supported the country to access 4.9 million doses of oral cholera vaccines from the International Coordinating Group—the body that manages emergency supplies of vaccines—with funding from Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. To date, vaccines have been deployed in 21 out of Malawi’s 29 districts. In May and June 2022, 1.95 million doses were administered during a campaign in nine of the most affected districts, in the country’s Southern region. A second batch of 2.9 million doses arrived in October and WHO together with UNICEF supported a vaccination campaign in 14 more districts. In Nkhata Bay District, the number of news cases decreased from 381 in October 2022 to only 43 in December 2022.
Massive Hepatitis Eradication Campaign Underway in Nigeria

Hepatitis B infection (HBV) is preventable and treatable, and hepatitis C virus (HBC) infection is now curable. Yet more than 90% of those living with hepatitis B and C in Africa lack much-needed care.

In Africa, including Nigeria, hepatitis is a silent epidemic. More than 90 million people are living with hepatitis in the Region, accounting for 26% of the global total. Nigeria has a prevalence rate of 8.1 and 1.1% for HBV and HCV among adults aged 15-64 years respectively according to the Nigeria HIV-AIDS Indicator and Impact Survey, 2018 (NAIIS 2018). The country has more than 20 million people living with hepatitis B, C, or both; yet more than 80% of the people who have the disease do not know their status, according to some estimates.

For those who have tested negative to the virus. Vaccination is necessary to curb the epidemic in Nigeria and Africa.
Health Care Services for South Sudan Refugees

As of 13 June according to the International Organization for Migration, more than 528,500 people have fled Sudan and crossed the border into neighboring countries – Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, and South Sudan – as refugees, asylum seekers, and returnees. In each host country, WHO is coordinating with national authorities for health care, including emergency care and psychosocial support for people fleeing the conflict. In South Sudan, where just 41% of health facilities are fully functioning, national health authorities are already dealing with multiple challenges, including an upsurge of malaria cases, and outbreaks of COVID-19, hepatitis E, measles, cholera, and growing malnutrition.
References

- Cholera Vaccines available in Malawi
  https://www.afro.who.int/countries/malawi/news/vaccines-help-battle-cholera-outbreak-malawi

- Massive Hepatitis Eradication Campaign underway in Nigeria

- Health Care Services for South Sudan Refugees.
TRIVIA

1. Does Cholera have a vaccine?
2. Is Hepatitis treatable in Africa?
3. What help can the medical Community render to South Sudan?

To answer our Trivia questions, please use the comment section of our post on any of our social media platforms below:

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