Round 2 of polio campaign starts on 20 August in 3 provinces of Papua New Guinea

Six additional provinces to launch polio campaign on 27 August

17 August 2018, Port Moresby – Morobe, Madang and Eastern Highlands provinces of Papua New Guinea will have the second round of the polio vaccination campaign, from 20 August to 2 September 2018.

"We want to remind parents in Morobe, Madang and Eastern Highlands to bring back your children under 5 years old to vaccination points for the second dose of the polio vaccine”, said Pascoe Kase, Secretary of the National Department of Health (NDOH). “It is important to get the vaccine for every round of the campaign, to ensure full protection.”

The six provinces of Enga, Chimbu, Southern Highlands, Western Highlands, Jiwaka and Hela will have their first round of vaccination from 27 August until 9 September.

The vaccination campaign in the nine provinces in August aims to reach 700,110 children under 5 years old. A nationwide polio vaccination campaign is planned for September and October targeting 1 265 000 children under 5 years old.

“Polio is a very dangerous disease and has no cure, and the only weapon we have to protect our children is the polio vaccine”, said Dr Luo Dapeng, WHO Representative in Papua New Guinea. “The polio vaccine is safe, effective and free”.

Dr Shin Young-soo, WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific visited Lae, Morobe Province on 17 August and reiterated the Organization’s support to the polio outbreak response operations. “WHO remains committed to supporting the Government in ensuring that children of Papua New Guinea are protected from polio,” Dr Shin highlighted.

“We appeal to the health workers and community members to boost up the social mobilization and community based supports to communicate polio campaign messages so we get every child vaccinated in every round”, said UNICEF Representative, David Mcloughlin.

The polio vaccination campaign in Papua New Guinea is organized by the National Department of Health (NDOH) and the Provincial Health Authorities, with support from the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, Rotary International and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI). The GPEI is spearheaded by national governments, WHO, Rotary International, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and UNICEF.

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