



COALITION to STRENGTHEN
the HPV IMMUNIZATION
COMMUNITY



Training of healthcare professionals (HCP) at the district level; challenges and gaps

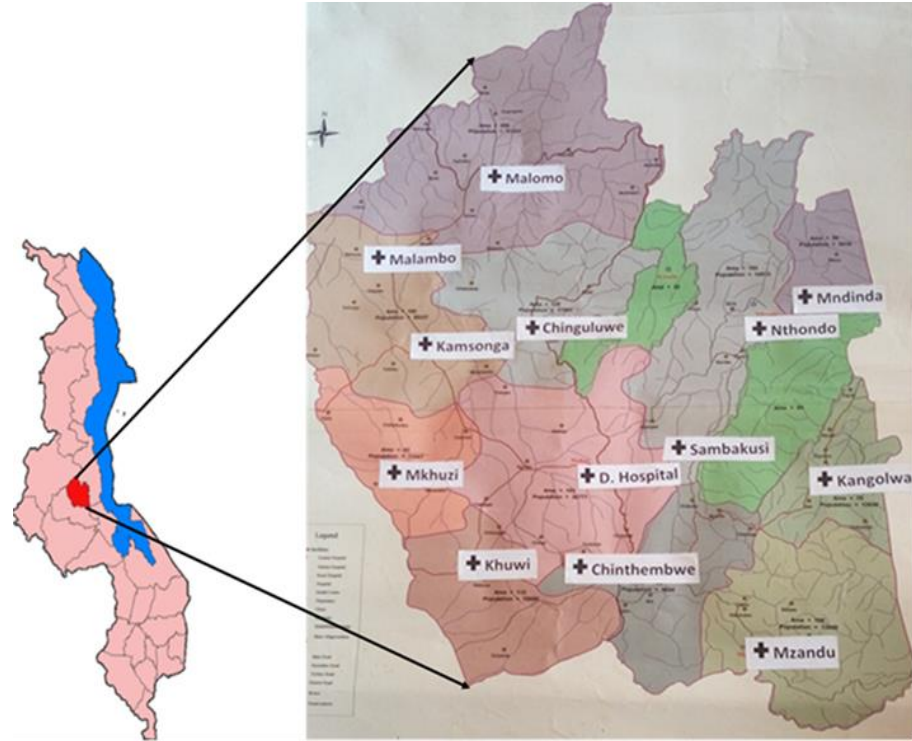
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CHIC SPC Symposium

HPV Vaccination Programs: From Pre-introduction Planning to Restoration and Sustainability
24 – 25 Sept 2022 – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Introduction

- Ntchisi district is located in the Central Region of Malawi,
- Borders Dowa District to the south and west, Nkhotakota District to the east, Kasungu District to the north and Salima District to southeast
- 13 health facilities
- Population of 356,232 (2022 National Statistical Office Projections)



HPV Introduction in Malawi

- Malawi introduced the HPV vaccine in January 2019 national wide
- Pilot done in Zomba and Rumphi districts 2013 - 2018
- Target was the of (9) nine-year-old girls (9-14 years)
- Both Health Facility and School based campaign
- The recommended schedule initially two doses
 - a minimum interval of 6months
 - maximum interval of 15 months between doses

HPV Introduction in Malawi

- Second year of introduction in 2020 with more recommendation to interval of 6 months – 12 months
- In February 2021, routine based health facilities and outreach clinics blended with quarterly vaccination in schools
- Involvement of community
 - Including engagement of local and influential leaders
 - Community sensitization



Training of HCP at the district Level

- Training of Health care professional (HCP) included different cadres at all Malawi
- Nurses, Clinicians and Health Surveillance Assistants(HSAs)
 - In Malawi, HSAs are mostly involved in immunization
- School Health and Nutrition (SHN) Teachers and Head Teachers were also trained before the introduction
- Training proceeded with mapping of all 9 years girls in all schools and community

Gaps and Challenges

- Not all health care workers were trained especially nurses and clinicians
- Staff turn over as years pass by
- Eligibility determination as challenge no reliable data source to isolate in cases date of births didn't exist in some schools.
 - Most school registers do not capture birth information.
 - Information on birth date was obtained from parents
- HPV Vaccine gap in training curriculum in nursing and other professional training institution

Staff turn over and training

Cadre	Staff in 2019	Number trained in 2019	Staff in 2020	Staff in 2021	Staff in 2022
HSAAs	165	165	165	175	203
Clinicians	56	26	67	74	83
Nurses	86	26	90	91	106

Lesson Learnt

- Adequate training, given at the appropriate time and with the right support are all necessary for proper mapping of eligible girls
- Refresher training and ongoing mentorship helps in increasing the knowledge gap and helps in staff changes
- Embraced the routine vaccination with good collaboration with stakeholders; Education, Community

Way forward

- Inclusion of immunization and HPV vaccine information in curriculum for HSAs, Nurses and clinicians
- Need for ongoing mentorship and training of HCP
- Proper planning in mapping of girls for the vaccination so that all eligible girls are vaccinated
- Routine vaccination brings strong collaboration and ownership on HPV Vaccination for all stakeholders

Thank you



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