



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR MEDICAL SERVICES
PRESS STATEMENT: 23RD MAY 2024
UPDATE ON CURRENT VACCINE STOCKS

The Ministry of Health wishes to update the public on the current status of vaccine stocks across the country. Our commitment to the health and well-being of all Kenyans remains steadfast, and we are working diligently to address any challenges in our immunization program.

Vaccine Stock Status:

We are aware of reports of vaccine shortages of routine antigens across health facilities in the country. Currently, there are stockouts of key vaccines, with less than two months of stock available nationally for traditional vaccines such as the BCG Vaccine, Oral Polio Vaccine, and Measles Rubella Vaccine. Additionally, stock levels for most other routine childhood vaccines, including those supported by Gavi (Pneumococcal, Rotavirus, HPV, and Malaria vaccines), are low, with only three to six months of stock available.

These stockouts put our children and vulnerable populations at risk of vaccine-preventable diseases and potential outbreaks. Recognizing that immunization is one of the most effective public health interventions, we are committed to ensuring a consistent and uninterrupted supply of vaccines. Kenya has benefited from a robust immunization system for over 44 years, and we are dedicated to ensuring future generations enjoy full and healthy lives.

Actions Being Taken:

Redistribution of Vaccines: The Ministry is tracking vaccine consumption at all levels nationally and facilitating redistribution between counties to alleviate the stock-out situation. As an urgent stop-gap measure, the National Vaccines and Immunization Program (NVIP) is redistributing current stocks of available routine vaccines across the country to ensure eligible children do not miss vaccinations during this critical period.

Expediting Delivery: We are closely engaging with UNICEF to expedite the delivery of vaccines ordered after the last payment. Additionally, **KES 1.25 billion** has been set aside to urgently procure routine antigens and replenish the lifesaving vaccines in our health facilities. Despite logistical challenges from the current heavy rains, the Ministry and partners are fast-tracking the shipment of vaccines, expected to arrive by the first week of June 2024.

Transition Planning: Mechanisms for “accelerated transition planning” from Gavi support are being set up, including exploring innovative options for sustainable financing of vaccine procurement and program operations. We are engaging the National Treasury to ensure

increased and dedicated resources are allocated to the immunization program. Ring-fencing domestic resources will ensure sustainable financing for immunization, especially as donor support for vaccines continues to decrease.

During this period, the Ministry is coordinating closely with healthcare workers and keeping them informed on measures to alleviate the current situation. We urge all caregivers to liaise closely with their healthcare providers and bring their children back to the facilities once stock levels have normalized.

We understand the importance of maintaining an uninterrupted supply of vaccines and are taking every necessary step to address the current stock challenges. Our goal is to ensure that all Kenyans have access to life-saving vaccines and to maintain high immunization coverage across the country.

We appreciate the public's patience and cooperation as we work through these challenges and continue to provide essential immunization services.

Mr. Harry Kintai, CBS
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