

DR congo shotlist
English version
2.11

WS aerial of airstrip

WS truck on road

Ws motorbike on country road

WS motorbike

WS vaccinators crossing bridge

WS vaccinators travel by motor bike

WS three women with babies

WS one woman with baby

MS woman walking into clinic

WS clinician with syringe

CU baby being inoculated

SOT Bruno Moonen

UNICEF Health Officer, Goma DRC

"It's very important especially in a place like Punia which has been non-accessible for humanitarian aid recently. NGOs are back in and can start doing vaccination activities that are needed"

WS men marking babies as vaccinated

CU men marking babies

SOT Johannes Wedenig

UNICEF Head of Eastern Zonal Office, DRC

"Suddenly you can reach people who've had no support for 6 years only had militants coming down on them .You can go in there again and set up social services and the most import thing is that's the key message that the war is over that people can start reconstructing."

CU mother watches as child is injected

CU baby cries

MS babies

CU baby getting oral vaccine

CU baby getting jab

WS baby getting inoculation

CU mother

CU mother and chil

WS mothers

Getting to the equatorial heart of the Congo is no mean feat. By plane, then in hard bodies built for tough terrain until the road runs out; then a motor bike through dense vegetation in this vast country and finally along a rickety bamboo bridge. This is the only way to reach the unreachable. . . .with the precious cargo of vaccines carried in sensitive cold chain equipment.

Impenetrable bush and a long war, has isolated people here and most children, more than 80 percent, have never been reached with even basic health services and never vaccinated before. Hope in the precarious peace has led to an accelerated programme to immunize children and young women. This is crucial in a country that has one of the highest under-five mortality rates in the world. Each year more than 200 under-fives die from preventable illnesses here.

Bruno Moonen

UNICEF Health Officer, Goma DRC

“It’s very important especially in a place like Punia which has been non-accessible for humanitarian aid recently. NGOs are back in and can start doing vaccination activities that are needed”

The timing for the vaccination programme is critical and has to run like a military operation.

Johannes Wedenig

UNICEF Head of Eastern Zonal Office, DRC

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It’s rare that an immunizat0n programme tackles so many diseases at the same time. . . BCG against tuberculosis, then diptheria, pertusis, tetanus, then oral polio vaccines. The babies have a hard time swallowing it all all in . . . especially a painful yellow fever jab.

For the mothers, dressed up and proud, this is crucial time. They know now that their babies are protected, safeguarded against an onslaught of diseases . . . until the next jab.