

2nd dose of Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV2)

IPV2 Information Pack
July 2021 - South Sudan

About the information Pack

This information pack on the second dose of Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV) has been created for collective action needed to ensure that every child is protected from vaccine-preventable diseases.

I. Global Facts

- Most people infected with the poliovirus have no signs and can and can “silently” spread the infection to thousands of others before the first case of polio paralysis emerges.
- Even a single case of poliomyelitis is considered as an outbreak.
- Unlike most diseases, polio can be completely eradicated through immunization
- IPV is highly effective with at least 99% immune after 3 doses

II. South Sudan

In May 2012, the World Health Assembly of WHO declared poliovirus eradication to be a programmatic emergency for global public health. South Sudan introduced the first dose of inactivated polio vaccine in 2016 to get closer to eradicating this life-threatening disease. UNICEF South Sudan, together with WHO and MoH, is at the forefront of the fight against polio in South Sudan.

Every year, over 3 million children are targeted for vaccination campaign against this contagious disease (polio) through NIDs while less than half of the targeted children to receive vaccines through routine immunization service are receiving the intended vaccines. In response, UNICEF is supporting routine vaccination campaigns and is strengthening the cold chain infrastructure nationwide. In 2020, more than 160 devices were installed across the country.

Vaccine-preventable diseases remain a major cause of morbidity and mortality. There was an outbreak of vaccine-derived polio type 2 (cVDPV2) (not used in South Sudan for the past five years) in September 2020. The outbreak was due to the low polio immunization coverage. In response, 2.5 million children were vaccinated from November 2021 and February 2021 with mOPV to protect them against cVDPV2. Every year, three to four rounds of supplemental immunization activities are conducted due to the low routine immunization coverage.

III. About Polio Vaccines

There are two vaccines for polio: the Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) and the Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV), each cause a different kind of immune reaction. OPV is taken orally as drops while IPV comes in form of injections. IPV is recommended in addition to OPV for the best protection. IPV does not replace the oral vaccine now but will in the nearest future.

IPV is used with OPV to strengthen the immune system and protect against all types of poliovirus (wild types 1 and 2, cVDPV and those causing any vaccine-associated paralytic poliomyelitis).

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Best practice is to give an IPV dose close to 14 weeks of age with Penta 3 and OPV 3. It is safe to have multiple vaccination injections at one visit to health facility. After the vaccine, there might be a little bit of redness and the skin may feel tender. South Sudan is wild poliovirus free.

IV. Overall Objective

It's recommended to add the second dose of IPV into routine vaccination schedule of 0-1 years of age to boost their immunity against polio virus, which causes paralysis and can even death.

V. Target Group for Vaccination

Approximately 592,977 infants (<1 year of age children) nationwide are targeted to benefit from IPV2, this year. IPV2 is recommended to be given with the measles at the age of 9 month. It is free of cost at all health facilities providing immunization services in South Sudan.

VI. Key Messages

- a) Polio is a highly infectious disease that is caused when a person is infected by a virus that invades the nervous system and can cause paralysis and death.
- b) IPV will protect against type 2 and boost immunity to poliovirus types 1 and 3 in children who have previously received OPV, which can contribute to the eradication of these types of polio.
- c) Two doses of IPV will ensure adequate protection against all poliovirus, Types 1, 2 and 3.
- d) IPV dose does not interfere with other vaccines, and it is equally effective when given alone or with other vaccines.
- e) While receiving multiple injections at once is slightly painful, it is better for the child to experience this all at once rather than multiple days.
- f) The polio virus usually affects children under 5 years of age who are not fully vaccinated but can also affect adolescents and adults who were not immunized as children.
- g) There is no cure for polio – a lifelong disability. Getting immunized is the only protection.
- h) Polio virus enters through the mouth when eating or drinking items contaminated with fecal matter from a person who has the virus.
- i) The best life-long protection against polio virus is through immunization with both OPV and IPV.
- j) Without vaccination, every child is at risk.
- k) This vaccine is safe for all children, including new-born and sick children.
- l) By vaccinating your child, you ensure s/he is protected from polio.