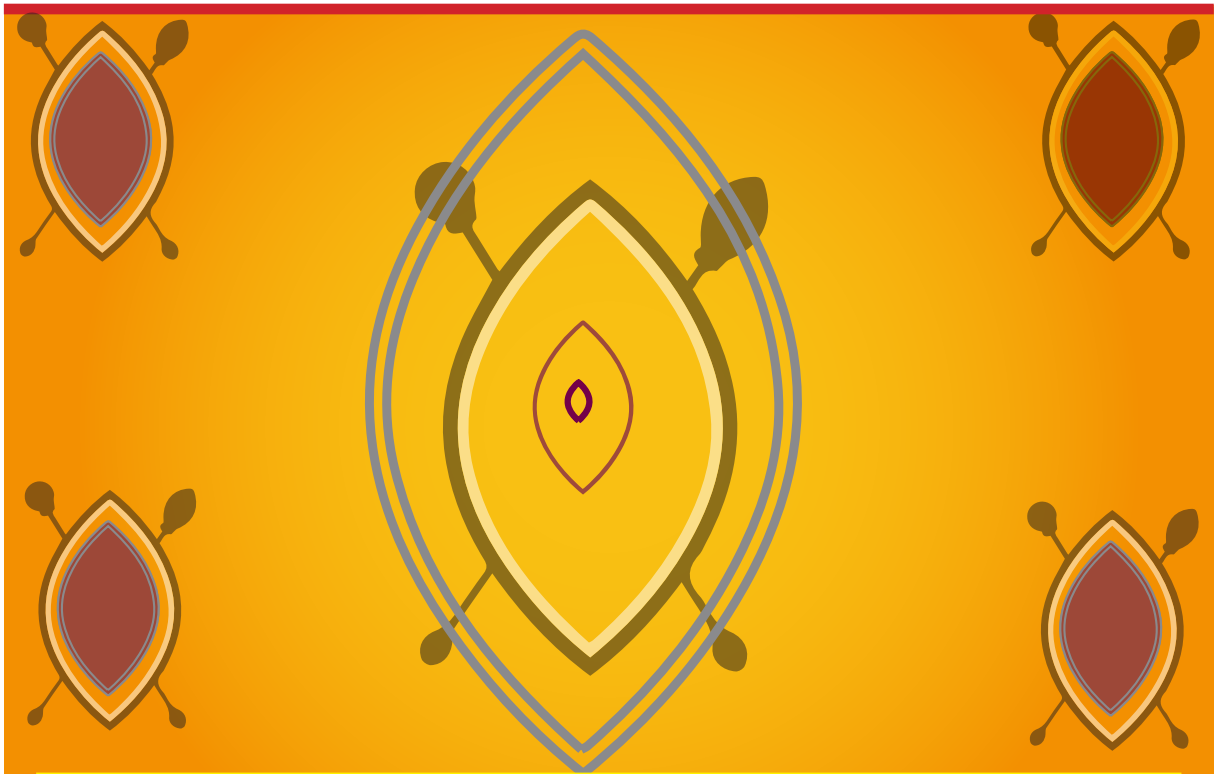




THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

ROLE OF CULTURAL LEADERS IN PROMOTING IMMUNISATION SERVICES



**Cultural leaders,
it is time for your urgent
action to get all children
in your communities
fully immunised**

INTRODUCTION

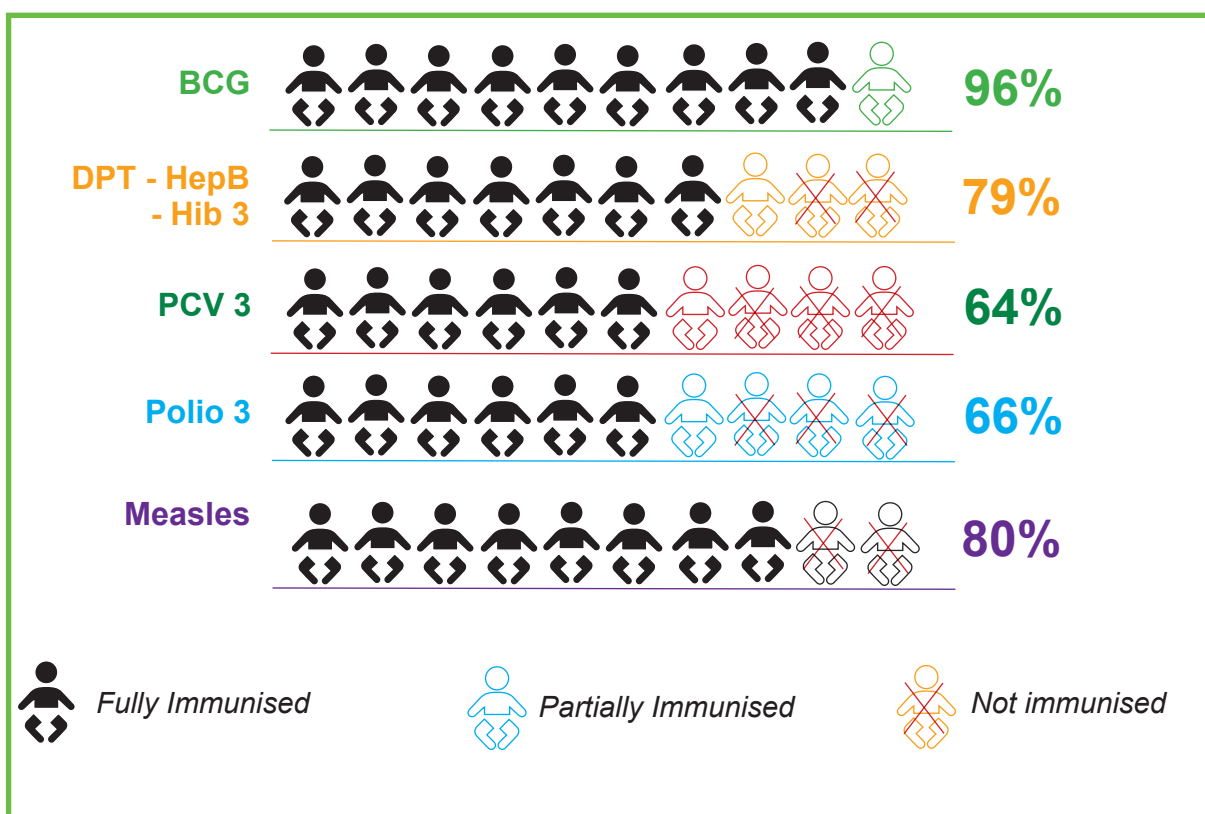
Immunization is one of the most important health interventions that protects people (especially children (boys and girls) and women of child bearing age) from vaccine preventable diseases. The Uganda National Expanded Program on Immunization (UNEPI) was established in 1983 with a mandate of ensuring that infants and women of child bearing age are fully immunized. In 1987, the program was re-launched by His Excellency the President of Uganda with a call on the leaders to support immunization services throughout the country.

The UNEPI programme protects the under one year children (boys and girls), against the following vaccine preventable diseases: Tuberculosis, Polio, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Measles, Neonatal Tetanus, Hepatitis B, Diarrhoea caused by Rotavirus, Haemophilus Influenza, Pneumococcal infections and the 10 years old girls against cancer of the cervix and women of childbearing age against Tetanus.

According to Uganda Demographic Health Survey (UDHS - 2016), the National Immunization Coverage for the following antigens/vaccines were:

VACCINE	TARGET (%)	COVERAGE (%)
BCG	90	96%
DPT-HepB-Hib 3	90	79%
PCV 3	90	64%
Polio 3	90	66%
Measles	90	80%

The scenario is illustrated in the pictorial below, in terms of how many out of ten were immunised



The National target for all antigens/vaccines is 90%. However, the coverage in 2016 was suboptimal except for BCG. According to Uganda Demographic Health Survey of 2016, the national coverage for all antigens/vaccines were below 90%. The low uptake is due to inadequate awareness and mobilization for routine immunisation. This is why the country is experiencing outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases like Measles

Fully immunized children is at 55% (UDHS 2016) and HPV 2 coverage is 22 % (DHIS2 2016).

The low coverage above is the reason the country has been experiencing outbreaks of some vaccine preventable diseases .This shows that some children have not been fully immunized. This therefore calls for urgent action to get all children in the community fully immunized.

This circular therefore aims at providing cultural leaders with facts about immunization, its benefits and the key messages to deliver to the parents and caregivers. The aim is to ensure that all children in your communities are fully immunised to protect them against the vaccine preventable diseases.

FACTS ABOUT IMMUNISATION

- Immunisation protects children against vaccine preventable diseases.
- Immunisation is important for the health, well-being and survival of a child.
- The vaccines used are effective when given at the right time according to the immunization schedule.
- A child should be taken for immunization 5 times to complete all doses before the 1st birthday.
- Girls aged 10 years in and out of school, should receive two doses of HPV to be fully protected against cancer of the cervix.
- All Women of child bearing age (15-49 years) should receive Tetanus vaccination five times to be fully protected.
- The vaccines are available at all government and non-government facilities.
- The vaccines are approved by Ministry of Health, World Health Organisation (WHO) and UNICEF.
- Remind parents, guardians and school children to keep their child health cards.
- It is safe to immunize a child who has a minor illness, disability or is malnourished.
- The vaccines are **SAFE, EFFECTIVE, FREE**.

BENEFITS OF IMMUNISATION

- It strengthens a child's ability to fight diseases
- It reduces the chances of children suffering from childhood immunisable diseases
- It protects children from liver disease and cancer of the cervix, later-on in life.
- It prevents complications such as lameness and blindness in children.
- It reduces the burden/costs on parents/caregivers and communities in terms of time and

money spent on treatment. This contributes to socio-economic development.

- It contributes to a child's proper growth and development.
- It protects the entire community from childhood vaccine preventable diseases
- It protects the mother and her unborn baby from Tetanus
- Once a child is fully immunised, he/she is protected against vaccine preventable diseases for his/her entire life

WHO SHOULD BE IMMUNISED?

According to Ministry of Health policy, the following categories of persons are targeted for routine immunisation:

- All children (boys and girls) below one year
- All 10 year old girls in and out of school should be protected from Cancer of the Cervix
- All women of child bearing age (15-49 years) should be vaccinated against Tetanus



All children below one year



Girls aged 10 years in and out of school



All adolescent girls and women of child bearing age (15-49 years)



WHO PROVIDES IMMUNISATION SERVICES?

Immunisation services are provided by qualified health workers.

HOW IS IMMUNISATION DONE?

Immunisation is done by administering vaccines through the mouth and/or by injection



Giving vaccines through the mouth



Giving vaccines by injection



LIST OF VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASES

DISEASE	DESCRIPTION	VACCINE
• Tuberculosis	Tuberculosis -- or TB, as it's commonly called -- is caused by bacteria. It is a contagious infection that usually attacks the lungs.	BCG
• Poliomyelitis	Polio is a highly infectious viral disease that can cause irreversible paralysis.	OPV/IPV
• Diphtheria	Diphtheria is a highly contagious and potentially life-threatening bacterial disease that usually affects the upper respiratory tract, but can also infect the skin.	DPT --HepB -Hib
• Whooping Cough	Whooping cough is a serious disease caused by bacteria. Whooping cough is also known as pertussis.	DPT --HepB -Hib
• Tetanus	Tetanus is caused by a bacterium. Common in dirty wounds or in the umbilical cord if it is not kept clean. It produces a toxin which can cause serious complications or death.	DPT-HepB -Hib
• Measles	Measles is a highly contagious disease caused by a virus, which usually results in a high fever and rash, and can lead to death.	Measles Vaccine
• Hepatitis B infection	Hepatitis B is a viral infection that attacks the liver.	DPT-HepB -Hib
• Cancer of the Cervix	Human papilloma virus is the most common viral infection of the reproductive tract, and can cause cervical cancer, other types of cancer, and genital warts in both men and women.	HPV vaccine
• Pneumococcal infections (pneumonia and meningitis)	Pneumococcal diseases include pneumonia, meningitis as well as sinusitis and bronchitis.	Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine
• Haemophilus Infuenza	Haemophilus influenza type b (Hib) causes meningitis and pneumonia.	DPT --HepB -Hib
• Diarrhoea	Rotaviruses are the most common cause of severe diarrhoeal disease in young children.	Rotavirus vaccine

1. SCHEDULE FOR CHILDREN BELOW ONE YEAR

- The schedule reflects all the vaccines a child should get before their first birthday and to be considered as fully immunised
- The child must be taken for immunisation 5 times before their first birthday, according to the immunization schedule below:

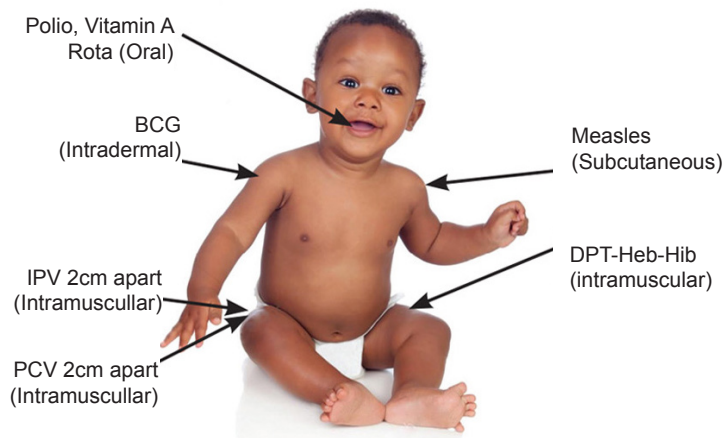
NUMBER OF VISITS	AGE OF THE CHILD	VACCINE	DISEASE PREVENTED	HOW AND WHERE VACCINATION IS GIVEN
1st	AT BIRTH	Polio 0	• Polio	2 Drops in the mouth
		BCG	• Tuberculosis	Injection on the right (upper arm)
2nd	AT 6 WEEKS (One and a half month)	Polio 1	• Polio	2 Drops in the mouth
		DPT-HEPB-HIB 1	• Diphtheria, • Whooping cough, • Tetanus, • Hepatitis B, • Haemophilus influenza type B	Injection on the (left thigh)
		Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine 10 (PCV1)	• Meningitis and • Pneumonia (caused by streptococcal Pneumoniae)	Injection on the (right thigh)
		Rotavirus Vaccine1	• Diarrhoea	Slow release into the mouth (Baby sucks)
3rd	AT 10 WEEKS (Two and a half months)	Polio 2	• Polio	2 Drops in the mouth
		DPT-HepB-Hib 2	• Diphtheria, • Whooping cough, • Tetanus, • Hepatitis B, • Haemophilus influenza type B illnesses	Injection on the (left thigh)
		Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine 10 (PCV 2)	• Meningitis and • Pneumonia (caused by streptococcal Pneumoniae)	Injection on the (right thigh)
		Rotavirus Vaccine 2	• Diarrhoea (caused by Rotavirus)	Slow release into the mouth (Baby sucks)
4th	AT 14 WEEKS (Three and a half months)	Polio 3	• Polio	2 Drops in the mouth
		Injectable Polio Vaccine (IPV)	• Polio	Injection on the (left thigh)
		Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine 10 (PCV 3)	• Diphtheria, • Whooping cough, • Tetanus, • Hepatitis B, • Haemophilus influenza type B illnesses	Injection on the (right thigh)
	At 6 months and every 6 months until child is 5 years	Vitamin A Supplement	• Prevent blindness and strengthen resistance against other diseases	Drops in the mouth
5th	AT 9 MONTHS	Measles Vaccine	• Measles	Injection on the (left arm)

Parents take your children for immunisation 5 times before their first birthday
All vaccines are SAFE, EFFECTIVE and FREE
(For further information please contact: Toll free line: 0800100066)




EPI VACCINES AND ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION

Vaccines are given to a child through the mouth (orally) and/or by injection.



2. SCHEDULE FOR TD VACCINE

- The schedule for Tetanus and Diptheria (TD) shows the number of doses a women should get to be fully immunised against Tetanus and Diptheria.






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UGANDA TETANUS - DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION SCHEDULE


Number of visits	Age	Vaccine given	Disease Prevented	How and where the vaccine is given
1st Dose	Women of Child bearing age (At 15 to 49 years)	Tetanus Diptheria (TD1) Vaccine	Tetanus Diptheria	Injection on the upper arm
2nd Dose	1 Month after 1st dose	Tetanus Diptheria (TD2) Vaccine	Tetanus Diptheria	Injection on the upper arm
3rd Dose	6 Months after 2nd dose	Tetanus Diptheria (TD3) Vaccine	Tetanus Diptheria	Injection on the upper arm
4th Dose	12 Months (1 Year) after 3rd dose	Tetanus Diptheria (TD4) Vaccine	Tetanus Diptheria	Injection on the upper arm
5th Dose	12 Months (1 Year) after 4th dose	Tetanus Diptheria (TD5) Vaccine	Tetanus Diptheria	Injection on the upper arm

The TD vaccine protects Women of Child Bearing Age from Tetanus and Diptheria
All vaccines are **SAFE, EFFECTIVE** and **FREE**
For further information please contact: Toll free line: 0800100066

3. SCHEDULE FOR HPV VACCINE

- The HPV schedule shows the number of doses to be given and to be fully immunised against cervical cancer.



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UGANDA HPV VACCINE IMMUNISATION SCHEDULE

Immunisation Schedule for HPV vaccine to protect girls against Cancer of the Cervix

Number of Visits	Age	Vaccine given	Disease prevented	How and where the Vaccine is given
1 st Dose	Girls at 10 years of age, in and out of school	Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Vaccine HPV 1	Cancer of the Cervix	Injection on the upper arm
2 nd Dose	Six Months after 1 st dose	Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Vaccine HPV 2	Cancer of the Cervix	Injection on the upper arm

KEY MESSAGES FOR THE CULTURAL LEADERS

- Immunization is important for the overall well-being and survival of a child.
- Every child should be taken 5 times to the health facility and/or to an outreach centre, to ensure completion of the immunisation schedule before the 1st birthday.
- The vaccines are **SAFE, EFFECTIVE, FREE** and available at Government and Non-Government facilities. The vaccines are approved by Ministry of Health, World Health Organisation (WHO) and UNICEF.
- It is safe to immunize a child who has a minor illness, disability or is malnourished.
- It is safe to give multiple vaccine injections in one visit.
- It is better for the child to experience one brief moment of discomfort from multiple injections, than pain on two separate days/visits.
- Children have a right to be immunized.
- Immunized children are a foundation for social and economic development of the nation.
- All leaders have a responsibility to mobilize communities and ensure that all children are fully immunized against childhood vaccine preventable diseases.

EXAMPLES OF COMMUNITY CASE DEFINITIONS

Disease / Condition	Case Definition (Key signs which the affected persons shows)
Diseases Targeted for Eradication or Elimination	
Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) Polio	Any sudden lameness in a child, less than 15 years of age
Neonatal Tetanus (NNT)	Any newborn who is normal at birth, and then after two days, becomes stiff and unable to suck or feed or has convulsions.
Epidemic Prone Diseases	
Measles	Any person with fever and a skin rash
Meningitis	Any person with fever and neck stiffness

ROLE OF CULTURAL LEADERS

As a cultural leader:

- Be a role model by making sure that your own children are fully immunized
- Remind parents and caretakers to keep their child health cards and take them along each time they visit the health facility.
- Educate children, parents/caregivers and communities on the value and benefits of immunization
- Demystify rumors and misinformation about immunization and provide the correct information as provided in this circular
- Work closely with health workers in your area in planning, implementation and monitoring of immunization services
- Use local radios and other available communication channels to announce and remind parents and caregivers about immunization services
- Distribute health promotion materials to the community during mobilization sessions (e.g. posters, leaflets etc.)
- Look out for children with immunisable diseases and advise parents and caretakers to report such cases to the nearest health facility immediately
- Advocate for immunisation services during cultural functions

For more information about immunisation

Contact: The Health Promotion and Education Division
 Ministry of Health, Uganda
 P. O. Box 7272 Kampala Uganda
 Plot 6 Lourdel Road
 Toll free line: 0800100066

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