RISK OF MENINGITIS EPIDEMICS IN AFRICA:
HIGH THREAT IN 2018-2019

A new meningococcal meningitis clone of serogroup C is expanding in Sub-Saharan Africa, associated with a huge risk of a major epidemic in the next two years.

- The new strain is hyper invasive
- Population immunity is low
- Spread to neighbouring countries

Number of suspected meningitis cases during Nm C outbreaks, 2013-2017

- Nigeria
- Niger

![Graph showing meningitis cases in Nigeria and Niger from 2013 to 2017](chart)

- Insufficient vaccine stockpile
  - The current international vaccine stockpile is not sufficient to cope with the eventual response needs.

- >10 million doses needed
  - Additional C-containing vaccine doses, preferably from a conjugate vaccine, would be necessary to complement the current stockpile levels for 2018-2019.

**Actions for WHO and Partners**

- Increase global vaccine availability
- Increase preparedness in countries

[World Health Organization logo]