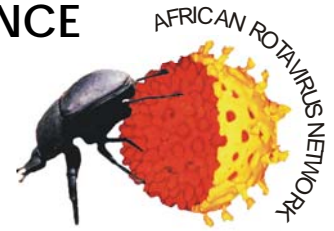




AFRICAN ROTAVIRUS SURVEILLANCE NEWSLETTER

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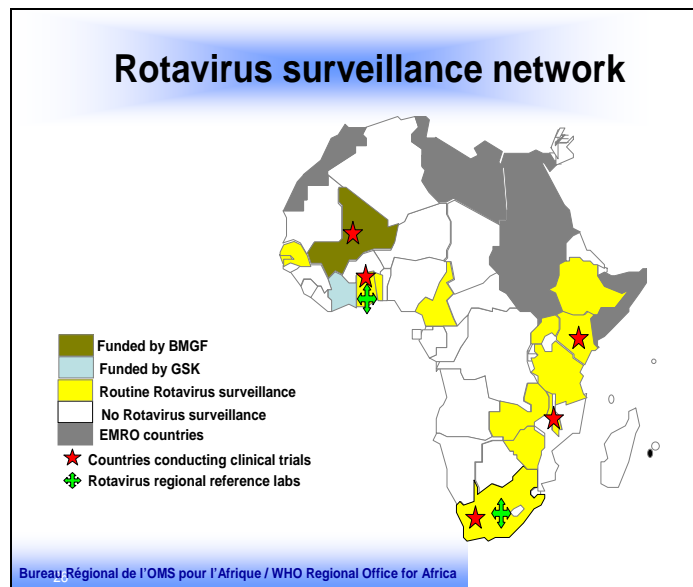
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www.rotainfrica.co.za
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Research Unit
www.who.int/en/
World Health Organization
www.rotavirusvaccine.org
PATH's Rotavirus Vaccine
Program
www.cdc.gov
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Up date on the AFR rotavirus surveillance network (AFR RSN)

The following twelve (12) AFRO countries (Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe) are conducting sentinel-hospital based surveillance to estimate the burden of rotavirus diarrhea in children under five years. Country plan from Mauritius has been reviewed and approved for support to initiate rotavirus surveillance by June 2008. Rotavirus surveillance is conducted by the respective ministries of Health (MoH) with the support from WHO as part of disease surveillance for new vaccines

Figure 1: Countries conducting routine rotavirus surveillance as part of MoH disease surveillance



Mali (supported by BMGF), Cote d'Ivoire (supported by GSK) and Malawi (Wellcome Trust and GSK) are conducting time limited rotavirus research projects not fully linked to MoH. Discussions are on going to integrate these activities with the MOH disease surveillance for new vaccines.

Table 1: Preliminary data: AFR Rotavirus Surveillance in children under 5 years

(a) Data from countries conducting surveillance for more than 24 months

Country/site	Duration of Surveillance	# <5 acute diarrhea hospitalizations	# (%) with stool specimen collected	# (%) EIA Rotavirus confirmed cases
Ghana (KBTH)	Aug 06 – July 08	1271	664 (52)	344 (52)
Kenya (KNH)	Aug 06 – May 08	1702	1702 (100)	680 (40)
Uganda/MNH-ACU	June 06 – May 08	1681	1348 (80)	551 (41)
Zambia/UTH	Aug 06 – May 08	686	642 (94)	250 (39)
South Africa (Dr George Mukhari Hospital)	Jan 06 - July 08	3053	1878 (62)	509 (27)

(b) Data from countries conducting surveillance for less than 24 months

Country/site	Duration of Surveillance	# <5 acute diarrhea hospitalizations	# (%) with stool specimen collected	# (%) EIA Rotavirus confirmed cases
Cameroon/Chantal BIYA Hospital, Centre Mère et Enfant.	Sept 07 – May 08	639	278 (44)	130 (47)
Cote d'Ivoire	Jan 08- March 08	68	58 (89)	21 (36)
Ethiopia/ AAU-MF	Sept 07 – Aug 08	208	208 (100)	57 (27)
Mauritius (3 sites)	June – July 08	367	81 (22)	38 (47)
Senegal (CHNEAR)	July 07 – May 08	782	782 (100)	147 (19)
Tanzania/MNH	Sept 07 – June 08	181	116 (64)	34 (29)
Togo	Feb 08 – July 08	80	80 (100)	24 (30)
Zimbabwe (3 sites)	Jan 07 – June 08	224	224 (100)	65 (29)

NB) Malawi, has recently completed 10 years of hospital-based surveillance of rotavirus infection, (1997-2007) in Blantyre. In this study, children under age 5 years with acute gastroenteritis who presented to the Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital, were enrolled from the inpatient wards and from the outpatient clinic. Stool samples were collected from a total of 3,779 children and rotavirus was detected in 1260 (33%) of specimens.

Regional Workshops and Meetings

8th Rotavirus Genotyping workshop: A training workshop on molecular typing methods for rotavirus strain characterization was held at the Diarrhoeal Pathogens Research Unit (DPRU),

University of Limpopo, MEDUNSA Campus, South Africa, 5th – 30th May 2008, for the African Rotavirus Surveillance Network. The workshop was attended by 11 participants from 8 countries, Cameroon, Cote d' Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Senegal, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The training workshop covered topics on disease surveillance, rotavirus epidemiology, rotavirus vaccines and practical training on molecular biological techniques for rotaviruses genotyping. Participants from the ministries of Health used the opportunity to characterise rotavirus isolates from their countries.

4th Rotavirus symposium: The symposium, held in Mauritius, 16th – 18th July 2008 was organized jointly by PATH, CDC, WHO (AFRO and EMRO) and the Rotavirus Regional Reference Laboratory(RRL), MRC Diarrhea Pathogens Research Unit, MEDUNSA, South Africa. Fifty six (56) participants from a total of sixteen (16) countries attended the symposium. Twelve (12) countries that are conducting rotavirus surveillance with support from WHO/AFRO made presentations highlighting the progress, challenges and plan of action for the period, 2009-2010.

2nd WHO/AFRO Paediatric Bacterial Meningitis (PBM) and Rotavirus Disease Surveillance meeting: The 2nd meeting of the PBM and rotavirus surveillance networks and data management training is scheduled to be held in Lusaka, Zambia 8-11 September 2008.

The specific objectives of this meeting will include:

- To review the performance and make recommendations on practical strategies to strengthen the PBM and Rota surveillance networks.
- To conduct training and introduce an up dated PBM and Rotavirus surveillance data management tool to PBM and rotavirus network members.

Acknowledgement:

The up date on AFR RSN is a summary of the reports submitted to WHO/AFRO by the following;

1. Dr. Mina Kinkela NJIKI, Chantal BIYA Hospital, Centre Mère et Enfant & MoH Cameroon
2. Dr. Christabel Enwerou-Laryea, Korle Bu Teaching Hospital & Prof. George Armah, NMRI & MoH, Ghana
3. Dr. Adelaide Kituyi, Mr. Munyi Bakari (KNH), James Nyangao, KEMRI & MoH, Kenya
4. Dr. Mwaka Monze and Ms. Julia Namwaka, UTH & MoH, Zambia
5. Dr. Almaz Abebe, Tilahun Teke, Berhane Asfaw, Department of Pediatrics-Addis Ababa University Medical Faculty & MoH Ethiopia
6. Dr. Amos Odiit, Mr. Augustine Mulindwa, Mulago Teaching Hospital & MoH, Uganda
7. Ms. Mapaseka Seheri, Diarrhea Pathogens Research Unit, MEDUNSA, SA
8. Dr. I. Pazvakavambwa, Ms. Chipo Berejena, Parirenyatwa Hospital, & MoH, Zimbabwe
9. Dr. O. Diop, Dr. K. Ndiaye, Institut Pasteur de, Prof. Moussa Fafa Cissé, Dakar & MoH, Sénégal
10. Dr Enyonam TSOLENYANU and MoH, Togo
11. Dr. Nicola Page, DPRU, South Africa
12. Dr. Nigel Cunliffe, University of Liverpool, UK & University of Malawi, Lilongwe & MoH, Malawi
13. Dr. C. Akoua-Koffi, Department of Epidemic viruses, Institut Pasteur de Côte d'Ivoire, ABIDJAN & MoH Cote d'Ivoire
14. MoH and WHO liaison office, Mauritius
15. EPI & IST teams, WHO/AFRO

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