

Best practices in Rubella outbreak Response in an International school in Nakuru County, Kenya

Elizabeth Kiptoo^{1*}, Magdalene Itumbi², Reuben Ngari³ and Samuel King'ori¹

¹Department of Health Services Nakuru, Kenya

²Molo Sub County Hospital, Kenya

³Molo Sub County Health Office, Kenya

The World Health Organization estimates that 1.5 million deaths among children under 5 years were due to vaccine preventable diseases, representing 17 per cent of under-five child mortality worldwide. Until recently Kenya did not have a rubella immunization program or a surveillance system for congenital Rubella Syndrome. Rubella Cases are being detected using measles case based surveillance system. World Health Organization recommended that countries including Kenya should conduct a wide age range campaign with MR vaccine, 6 months prior to its absorption into routine. The Kenya Ministry of Health with World Health Organization and UNICEF conducted measles Rubella catch up immunization campaign in May 2016 targeting children 9 months to 14 years. Nakuru County vaccinated 102% while Molo sub county where the rubella outbreak occurred vaccinated 95%. Turi International School which has an eligible population of 1200 children 9 months to 14 years was totally missed out during the vaccination exercise due to vaccine hesitancy by the school management. Four months later rubella outbreak occurred affecting a total of 20 children aged between 2 years and 12 years. The Objective of this study is to demonstrate the best practices in rubella outbreak response and to document the need to prioritize efforts to address Challenges of vaccine refusal in future vaccination campaigns. The study was done in Molo Sub County in Nakuru County. Case definition was used to identify suspected cases. Data was collected in an excel line list and analyzed using SPSS version 20. Chi square was used to measure the association between the risk factor and the occurrence of rubella. Samples were analysed in KEMRI lab. Majority of the cases were from St Andrews school Turi, Children aged between 5 – 14 years were mostly affected. Those who did not receive the vaccine during the campaign were mostly affected. There is strong association between the occurrence of rubella (Chi 28.863, p 0.025) and non vaccination during the May 2016 MR Vaccination campaign. Following the outbreak, The county Rapid response team was convened, Surveillance intensified, health workers skills updated, Isolation ward was established, social mobilization and advocacy meetings were conducted. Finally, 5 days vaccination was conducted targeting children 9 months to 14 years. A total of 14,137 (116%) children out of the 12,130 were vaccinated and the outbreak was controlled within two weeks.

Biography:

Elizabeth Kiptoo is a holder of Master of Public health Epidemiology and disease control at the age of 43 years from Department of Health service, Nakuru County. She has worked in the field of public health for the last 22 years. She is a member of faculty associate of Mount Kenya University. A young researcher who has published two papers in reputed journals.