

EC Partners

- **NPI**, now **NPHCDA**
- **WHO**, *Nigeria*
- **UNICEF**, *Nigeria*

Facts and Figures

- EC contribution: **€38.2 million** committed for **6 focal states (52%** of the total) granted **2002-2007**
- Routine immunisation has been presented as the sustainable way to ensure the reduction of infectious childhood diseases including Poliomyelitis

Did you know?

In 2006, the Kebbi State Government committed about 1 billion naira (€6 million) for the procurement of immunisation equipment.



**EUROPEAN
COMMISSION**

*WHO May 2007 survey report on immunisation

Health

Reducing the burden of Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPDs) in Kebbi State, Nigeria

"Immunisation is your child's best body guard"

"I have no doubt in my mind that EU-PRIME Project is God sent to Kebbi State in order to reawaken us as policy makers to live up to our expectations by ensuring that all eligible children are fully and timely immunised with potent vaccines to prevent them from the effects of VPDs."

Prof MK Abubakar,
Hon Commissioner Health, Kebbi State



Context: A progressive increase in cases of death and disability from VPDs

The low immunisation coverage for Nigeria has meant an increase in death of susceptible children before age 5 from diseases like measles. In 2003, the indicator for monitoring routine immunisation coverage (DPT3) in Kebbi state still remained far below (1.7%) the national average. Despite radical reforms at the National level, funding for routine immunisation (RI) activities in Kebbi state remained far from adequate. Since June 2004 the European Commission has been helping to strengthen routine immunisation by funding the EU-PRIME (Partnership to Reinforce Immunisation Efficiency) project to support the government in improving management of vaccination services, create awareness, and build capacity of health workers as well as foster collaboration with other stakeholders.

Objective: Reducing the burden of VPDs

- To improve the management of immunisation services in the context of primary health care services;
- To build the capacity of health workers through training and retraining on routine Immunisation;
- To increase community participation and acceptance of RI activities through intensive social mobilization at all levels.

Impact: What has been achieved?

- Increase in Government and community commitment to RI services;
- Phenomenal increase in RI coverage from 1.7% to above 80%;
- Over 6,000 health workers trained;
- 97% increase in health facilities conducting and reporting routine immunisation.

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Husaini Sahabi's story

Husaini Sahabi is the Kebbi State cold chain officer. He is married with children. He is saddled with the enormous responsibility of ensuring efficient vaccine procurement, storage and distribution across the state. With the support of the EU-PRIME project, he has undergone training and retraining to better equip him for this task. *"I thank the EU-PRIME project; the state project team has been very supportive by providing equipment for immunisation and funding for distribution of vaccines. This has challenged the government to be more responsive towards health issues and immunisation in particular thus fostering ownership and sustainability".*

Husaini Sahabi had a hard time keeping the vaccines under his care in a valid state as the cold store was dilapidated and most refrigerators were out of order. Transportation was also a major problem. The EU-PRIME project has helped to facilitate timely delivery of vaccines from the State to the health facilities. *"In the past this building (cold store) was very old and hardly conducive for safe storage of vaccines, now EU-PRIME has renovated it, supplied us with a standby-generator to keep our refrigerators working optimally and supported the transportation of vaccines to health facilities. This has helped to boost our immunisation coverage considerably and reduced the seasonal outbreak of diseases like measles".*

The EU-PRIME project also enjoys good collaboration with other development partners in the State like WHO and Unicef. *"The project has helped to renovate and equip a meeting room where training sessions and meetings by partners and government are held regularly".*



EU-PRIME ensuring ownership – Health facilities built by the communities