

## NEWS RELEASE

June 2021



### **Capacity Building for Stakeholders In charge for Monitoring the Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines and the New Oral Polio Vaccine Type 2 (nVPO2)**

In January 2021, the Republic of Congo planned two vaccination campaigns. One, against poliomyelitis (through the introduction of the new oral polio vaccine type 2 "nVPO2") and the other - COVID-19 (using the SARS-cov-2 vaccines manufactured by Sinopharm and Sputnik V manufactured by Gamaleïa). These vaccines having received an authorization, the Ministry of Health deployed them for emergency use in the country, on the condition, among other things, the rigorous implementation of coordinated activities in order to monitor their safety during these campaigns. Due to this, the Congo has reinforced its surveillance system for any after-effect during post-vaccination, by keeping the actors of the various links in this chain, on the alert. It has also set up (to complement the existing system) a Causality Analysis Committee (CAC) responsible for assessing the causal link for a given case of MAPI (MANifestation Post-vaccinale Indésirable) relating to one of the vaccines.

Among the actors responsible for monitoring the safety of vaccines in the country, are the focal points of departments and districts, with the responsibility to compile and provide first quality assurance of MAPI notifications (in the 10 departments and 52 health districts of the country) and the CAC's ultimate responsibility for evaluating the causal link for MAPI-Vaccine.

In a bid to better equip these actors with the MAPI surveillance system to carry out their missions, the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with WHO and the AFRICLINIQUE Network, organized a series of capacity-building workshops for these different actors.

The aim of these workshops was to train vaccine safety surveillance actors on topics related to their respective activities. Specifically, these were:

- Reinforce the capacity of CAC members on the causal analysis of MAPI and Adverse Event of Special Interest (AESI)
- Train departmental and health district focal points on MAPI surveillance and active AESI research

From the calendar of activities put in place by the organizers, these workshops took place on the following dates and locations:

- Training of CAC members on causal analysis of POST-VACCINE ADVERSE EFFECT MANIFESTATIONS (MAPI), 17–20 May 2021, Grand Hotel, Kintélé
- Training of Departmental Focal Points on MAPI surveillance and active AESI research, May 2021, Hôtel Mouese, Kintélé



Group Photo during training of CAC members



Group Photo during the training of Focal Points at Ignié



Group photo during the training of Focal Points at Dolisie



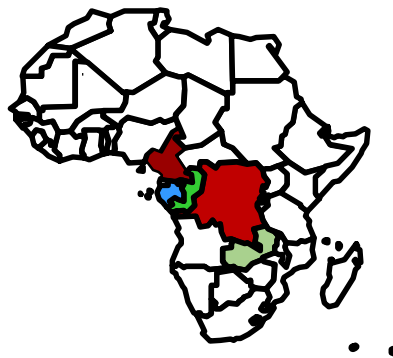
Photo during the training of Focal Points, Owando

- Training of the focal points of the Brazzaville and Pool health districts on MAPI and AESI surveillance and active EIIP research, 16 June 2021, Hotel Ikia Ignié
- Training of the focal points of the Pointe-Noire, Kouilou, Niari and Bouenza health districts, 18 June 2021, Hotel Foula Palace, Dolisie
- Training of the focal points of Plateaux, Cuvette, Cuvette Ouest, Sangha and Likouala health districts, 21 June 2021, Owando

The training workshops organized for actors of safety monitoring, made it possible, to strengthen in a practical way, the capacities of the departmental and health district focal points, as well as those of the causal analysis committee members, who can now carry out their missions in a more serene and interactive way.

These actions contribute in providing the Republic of Congo with an effective mechanism for monitoring the safety of vaccines used in the two ongoing campaigns and on sustainable and permanent basis, those used routinely within the framework of the Programme Elargi de Vaccination (PEV) as well as other vaccine-preventable diseases.

In Congo, the outstanding dynamism for developing skills and procedures of the ANR, goes on. The Africlinique Network is thrilled to stand by the country during the consolidation of these actions of great interest. Africlinique thanks EDCTP and the European Union, who all put hands on desk to make this possible.



For more information, contact:

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