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African Vaccination Week

Vaccines protect everyone, get vaccinated

Vaccines reduce burden of infectious diseases - ministry

Commemoration. African Vaccination Week is an annual event celebrated from April 24 to 30 in synchronisation with the other WHO regions and the World Immunisation Week.

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Today, Uganda joins the rest of the African region to commemorate the African Vaccination Week (AVW).

The AVW is meant to increase awareness of the importance of every person's (particularly every child and woman) need and right to be protected from vaccine-preventable diseases.

The Ministry of Health (MoH) spokesperson, Vivian Sserwanjja, says AVW is a programme conducted by World Health Organisation (WHO) and provides an opportunity for countries and partners to strengthen national immunisation programmes through advocacy and partnerships.

"The goal of AVW is to strengthen immunisation programmes in the African region by increasing awareness of the importance of every person's need and right to be protected from vaccine-preventable diseases particularly every child and woman," Ms Sserwanjja says.

She says vaccination is a proven public health intervention with many social economic benefits as documented by WHO.

"Globally, vaccines have greatly reduced the burden of infectious diseases and continue to protect nations from communicable disease outbreaks such as measles, polio and meningitis," VIVIAN SSERWANJJA, MINISTRY OF HEALTH SPOKESPERSON

"Globally, vaccines have greatly reduced the burden of infectious diseases and continue to protect nations from communicable disease outbreaks such as measles, polio, meningitis, meningitis and others. These diseases have devastating impact on the health of individuals and communities hence the need to ensure that communities are fully covered by the necessary vaccines," She adds.

Community engagement

Community engagement has been used in many African settings to strengthen the trust and confidence of the communities in health services using a bottom-up approach.

Ms Sserwanjja says there is great need to use community structures to support District Health Teams to raise public awareness about immunisation, promote social/behavioral change and increasing demand for vaccination services.

"It is critical to use community structures to dialogue with communities for greater access to health care, raise awareness to cultural barriers inhibiting immunisation uptake and improve better understanding of the benefits of immunisation," she adds.



Immunisation. A nurse immunises a baby in Mbulamuti, Kamuli District recently.
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