

## African Immunization Week in DRC: “Immunized communities-Healthier communities”



**Kinshasa, 27 April 2018 (caritasdev.cd):** Promote and increase awareness of vaccine-preventable diseases and immunization services in Africa to increase the provision and use of immunization services and mobilize more resources for immunization activities, this is the goal of the African Vaccination Week (SAV).

Organized by the Expanded Program of Immunization (EPI) of the Ministry of Public Health, this activity takes place in several African countries from 23 to 29 April 2018. It is placed on the theme "vaccines work, do your part".

According to the timeline of this 8th edition of the African Vaccination Week, the Expanded Program on Immunization in the Democratic Republic of Congo conducts several activities on the fringes of this celebration to mark the occasion. This is the organization of an advocacy dinner with economic operators to leverage resources for the implementation of the country roadmap on the Addis Ababa Declaration on Immunization. Also, it addressed the issue of the production and broadcasting of a spot by leaders of groupes de théâtre populaire. These activities include the organization of an open day at the EPI headquarters for media professionals. It should be noted that all

These activities were preceded by the official launch of the African Vaccination Week, coupled with Parliamentarians' awareness day on the importance of immunization and its funding. This launch took place on Monday, April 23, 2018 at the Kin Plaza Hotel, in the Gombe commune, in Kinshasa. The opening ceremony was attended by the Ministers of Public Health and the Environment and by the Quaestor of the National Assembly, Representative of the President of the National Assembly.

As a reminder, this Expanded Program on Immunization is a program of the Ministry of Public Health. Its mission is to reduce morbidity and mortality due to vaccine-preventable diseases. This program is also in line with the global goals of polio eradication. It also aims to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus as well as measles control. The Congo State is committed to mobilizing the necessary human, material and financial resources to ensure the correct implementation of vaccination activities.

**Nestor Max Lutumba (intern)**