

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

**SOUTH SUDAN**  
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## MAY NEWS FROM CGPP SOUTH SUDAN

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### MALE ENGAGEMENT IN CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION

By *Jemima Tumalu*, CGPP Communications Officer

"Vaccines are good for our children because there is an outbreak of measles in the country. Vaccines can save my daughter and other children from contracting the disease and it's the responsibility of both parents...if all get involved, the women will be encouraged to make the right choices for their children and families, and their burdens will reduce," said Jimmy Apire, as he recalled the recent measles outbreak in his community. Jimmy, a father of four, resides in Hai Baraka, a suburb of Juba City whose nearest health facility is five kilometers away. He has become a strong advocate for vaccines in his community and a role model for other men to understand that vaccinating children is not only the responsibility of the mothers.

The CORE Group Partners Project (CGPP), in collaboration with the Central Equatoria State Ministry of Health, joined the rest of the world to commemorate the African Vaccination Week from 24-30 April 2023 under the theme **The Big Catch-up** in Hai-Baraka in Juba County. This event is commemorated regionally to highlight the importance of childhood immunization, create massive awareness to the community and advocate for uptake of immunization services at all levels. For Central Equatoria State, in South Sudan, the celebration of the African Vaccination Week also marked the rollout of South Sudan's national integrated measles follow-up campaign. The country had registered 9,729 cases of measles, 811 laboratory confirmed, 173 deaths registered affecting 70 counties - with Central Equatoria inclusive. The outbreak posted a major threat to the health of the children, that informed the action led by the National Ministry of Health supported by implementing partners to conduct Measles follow-up campaign nationwide.

Jimmy, who also participated in the event, shared that accessing vaccines had been a challenge in Hai-Baraka. "We have never received vaccines in this area. We always go to Gurei Primary Health Care Center, which is too far. Traveling to the facility is expensive."

**“ We have never received vaccines in this area. We always go to Gurei Primary Health Care Center, which is too far. Traveling to the facility is expensive. ”**  
- Jimmy Apire

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The event brought together over 450 people from the County Education Department, John Snow Inc. (JSI), Intra Health, Health Link, Rescue Initiative South Sudan, Health Pooled Fund, youth leaders, women representatives, local chiefs, caretakers, and schoolchildren. The day was celebrated through marching by the brass band, drama by Junubin chronicles, recitation of poems on immunization by schoolchildren, testimonies from polio survivor's parents, a comedy, and launching of the vaccination activity, which resulted in vaccinating 140 children with different antigens or disease-preventing vaccines for life-threatening diseases such as tuberculosis, polio, Penta (diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, and hepatitis B and Hib), and measles.

During the event, Celestino Oryem, the Juba County Health Director, encouraged parents to report any health events to the health facilities before it is too late to save their lives. "The African Vaccination Week is an important opportunity for caregivers and the community to get their children vaccinated against vaccine-preventable diseases," he said. He also emphasized that the vaccines are safe and accessible and that all those whose children are vaccinated should act as ambassadors to encourage other parents to bring their children for vaccination.

"Vaccination is the only efficient and cost-effective public health intervention to reach vulnerable children and women with lifesaving vaccines. This African Vaccination Week reminds us of our commitment to this noble cause," CGPP South Sudan Director, Anthony Kisanga, said.



#### **BUILDING EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS WITH PVOs, NGOs & REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN POLIO**

CORE Group Partners Project (CGPP) Secretariat staff participated in several coordination meetings. On 26 April 2023, CGPP Deputy Director and M&E Coordinator participated in the Monitoring and Evaluation – Collaboration, Learning and Adaptation Technical Working Group (M&E – CLA TWG) meeting at Integrity Global Conference Hall.

The purpose of the M&E-CLA TWG is to advance monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) across programs and activities by providing space and opportunity for implementing partners and USAID MEL focal points of contacts. During the meeting, it was agreed that USAID implementing partners meet on a quarterly basis to discuss technical support needs, create synergies, provide advisory support to USAID and foster partnerships. It was attended by USAID and all its partners, namely Integrity Global, John Snow Institute (JSI), Intra Health, World Vision South Sudan, Jhpiego, IMA, Health Pooled Fund (HPF), Education Development Centre (EDC) and International Rescue Committee (IRC).

- **On April 3**, CGPP, attended the EP&R TWG Bilateral meeting at the EPI Hall. The focus was on integration of PIRI into measles follow-up campaign and on areas of collaboration in CGPP implementation areas. Attended by representatives from WHO, GAVI, MOH and WVI-CGPP, the meeting agreed on benefits of PIRI to children, and on areas of collaboration including training, deployment of PIRI vaccinators alongside measles vaccinators, last mile deliveries, and reporting tools.
- **On April 13**, CGPP South Sudan, participated in the EPI TWG meeting on measles follow-up campaign updates and debriefing on DHIS2 workshop in Rwanda, African Vaccination Week, Country JRF 2022 Progress and updates on annual work plan and dashboard framework. The meeting was attended by MOH, JSI, UNICEF, WHO, IRC, ICRC, GAVI and WVI-CGPP.
- **On April 18**, CGPP South Sudan attended the USAID Implementing Partners Meeting in Integrity Global Conference Hall, with focus on sharing of experiences and updates by USAID implementing partners. MELS, WVI-CGPP, Jhpiego, IMC, Momentum, ICAP, WR, and Chemonics attended the meeting.

## **THE CGPP POLIO INFRASTRUCTURE HAS BUILT CAPACITY OF NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

*By Mike Soro, Executive Director, SPEDP*

The Support for Peace and Education Development Program (SPEDP), a national nongovernmental organization, was founded in 2007. It started its partnership with CORE Group Partners Project (CGPP) in 2015. Its operations were in five states of Northern Bar al Ghazal, Central Equatoria, Unity, Eastern Equatoria and Jonglei. In 2016, the SPEDP annual budget rose to 3 million US Dollars. SPEDP main project were in education, WASH, food security and livelihoods, health, and peace building, with health portfolio being the lowest budget at 3 million USD.

Before collaborating with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded CGPP, SPEDP was already running eight projects with donors such as USAID, Family Health International 360, IGAD, Global Community, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Programme, Food and Agriculture Organization, Strømme Foundation, Dan Church Aid, and Christian Aid.

Through the partnership with CGPP, it is evident that SPEDP has expanded on its health program. We were only in eight counties, but now we are in 39 out of the 79 counties in South Sudan with 25 projects currently. SPEDP has a presence in South Sudan, Uganda, and Democratic Republic of Congo.

We gained skills on cross-border activities, which connected us to the district officials in Uganda who gave us approvals to open an office in Koboko town, Uganda; this was through the meaningful collaboration with CGPP. The health department grew bigger. We have a primary health project running in Upper Nile State in Manyo County. SPEDP has additional funding for the community peace-led monitoring in eight states and 14 counties.

We have built a strong network of volunteers, creating visibility for the organization and projects in the different states - attracting more partnerships. In addition, through our partnership with CGPP, the capacity of the health program staff across all levels from technical leads to the volunteers was strengthened.

The lesson we have learnt is that a partnership built on mutual understanding leads to a greater impact. CGPP goes for supportive supervision and helps in addressing issues that arise in the field sites. It is also a two-way monitoring tool. The yearly review meetings of the project with the different stakeholders such as the Ministry of Health, and other health partners has helped the project grow. Let us work together and recognize the partners as an entity that you are working with. This is not only a grants project but also capacity building and mentorship in form of trainings and workshops to build the capacities of national organizations.

The joint planning has helped in the localization agenda. We are being involved in project development of concept notes, and we are happy because it shows that we have something to bring on board. We should continue to work together as a team.

The leadership is a strong one and this shows that local staff can be in senior positions and we hope that other organizations and United Nations agencies can borrow the same culture, especially on the localization strategy through advocacy.

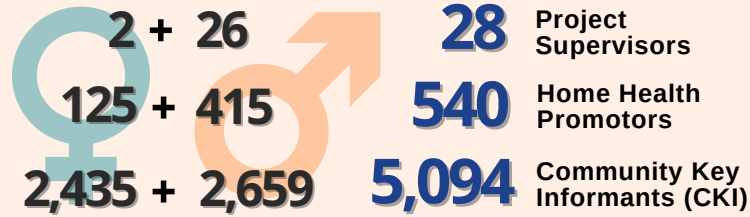
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**—Mike Soro**

## POLIO ERADICATION EFFORTS



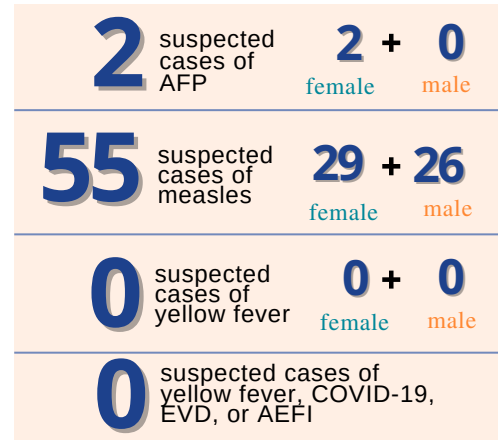
*Nivin, a 15-year-old polio survivor with her mother and sibling during the state launch of the immunization week in Hai-Baraka.*



### ACHIEVEMENTS IN CBS

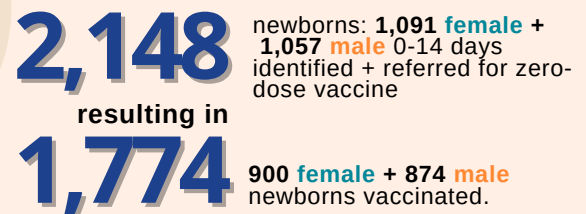
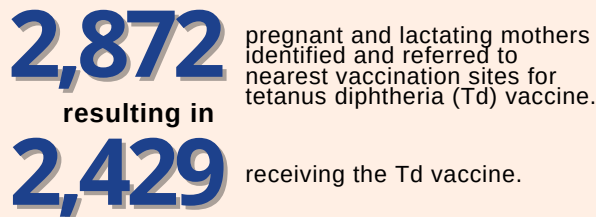
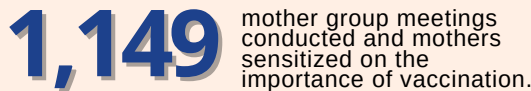
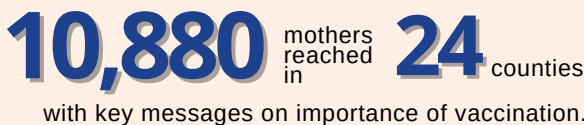
CGPP supports integrated community-based surveillance (CBS) for:

- acute flaccid paralysis (AFP)
- measles
- yellow fever
- Ebola virus disease (EVD)
- COVID-19
- adverse effects following immunization (AEFI)



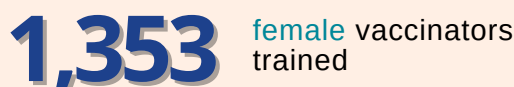
Under this objective, CGPP's main activities included mother-to-mother group meetings, defaulter tracing and referrals, identification and referral of newborn (zero dose) babies aged 0-14days, and periodic routine immunization. Consequently, the achievements below were registered.

- Mother group meetings for immunization demand generation.
- Tracing and tracking of immunization defaulters and unvaccinated newborns.
- Referrals of defaulters, newborns and pregnant mothers to the nearest vaccination sites.
- Support quarterly periodic intensification of routine immunization outreach activities..



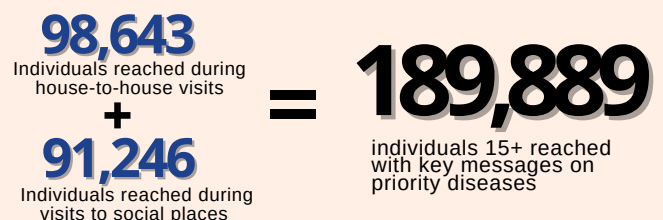
## TRAININGS

In partnership with the World Health Organization, CGPP supported refresher training for 2,676 (1,353 female and 1,323 male) routine immunization outreach vaccinators on Immunization in Practice between 19 and 26 April 2023, across the 24 counties of Central, Eastern and Western Equatoria.



## RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (RCCE)

CGPP implemented RCCE mainly through house-to-house visits and visits to social places such as markets, water points, churches/mosques, funeral places, parties, cattle camps and sports grounds. During these sessions, community members aged 15 years and older are given awareness on various infectious diseases.



## SUPPORTIVE SUPERVISION



**CORE Group Partners Project supervisor for Nagero County, Anthony Sidigi mentoring one of his home health promoters during a monthly supportive supervision visit.**

In order to build the capacity of field teams and improve the overall quality of project implementation, CGPP and its implementing partners continue to conduct county level supportive supervision for project supervisors in their respective counties. Similarly, project supervisors conduct supportive supervision for home health promoters at the Boma level and, in turn, the home health promoters mentor community key informants at the village / community level to continually refresh them on their roles and community case definitions.

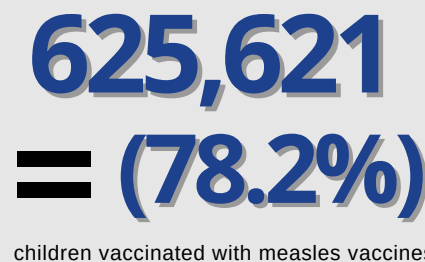
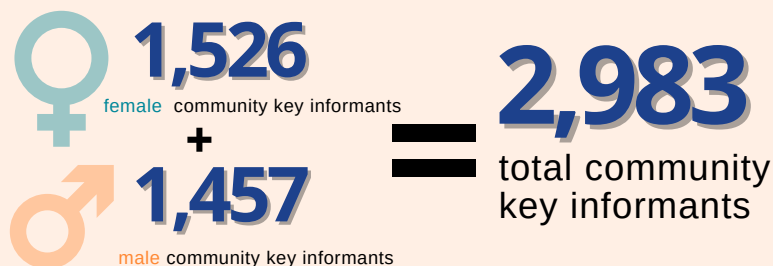
- 7 out of 28 project supervisors for Ibba, Maridi, Ezo, Torit, Magwi and Lafon counties were supervised.
- 349 home health promoters were supervised by project supervisors across the 24 counties.
- 2,983 community key informants (1,526 females | 1,457 males) received mentorship visits.

## PERIODIC INTENSIFICATION OF ROUTINE IMMUNIZATION



**Jimmy, a father of four, brought his daughter to be vaccinated against measles during an outreach in Juba County.**

As a result of the integration, CGPP vaccinated 625,621 (78.2%) children with measles vaccines and administered 148,888 doses of other antigens. CGPP also vaccinated 38,973 pregnant women (14,723) and women of childbearing age (24,250) with tetanus and diphtheria toxoid.



### Achievements in the PIRI activities:

Vaccine antigens	BCG	OPV0	OPV1	OPV2	OPV3	IPV 1	IPV 2	Penta1	Penta2	Penta3
Females	6,229	4,566	9,060	7,520	9,216	8,722	4,266	8,894	7,486	9,119
Males	5,967	4,409	8,997	7,469	8,812	8,680	4,521	8,724	7,380	8,851
Total	12,196	8,975	18,057	14,989	18,028	17,402	8,787	17,618	14,866	17,970

## UPCOMING PLANNED ACTIVITIES


- Conduct a nationwide post campaign evaluation for the recently concluded measles follow-up campaign between 10 and 30 May 2023.
- Conduct a bi-annual review meeting for home health promoters and community key informants in Ibba, Mvolo, Mundri East, and Mundri West counties in Western Equatoria and all counties of Central Equatoria State from 5 to 28 May 2023.
- Conduct supportive supervision in the counties of Tambura, Kapoeta South, Kapoeta North, Juba, Terekeka, Morobo and Kajo-Keji between 1 and 30 May 2023 involving county health departments, project officers, project coordinators, project supervisors and home health promoters.
- Fast track the roll out of COVID-19 integration into routine immunization through COVID-19 grant.

## OUR PRESENCE IN SOUTH SUDAN


### Western Equatoria

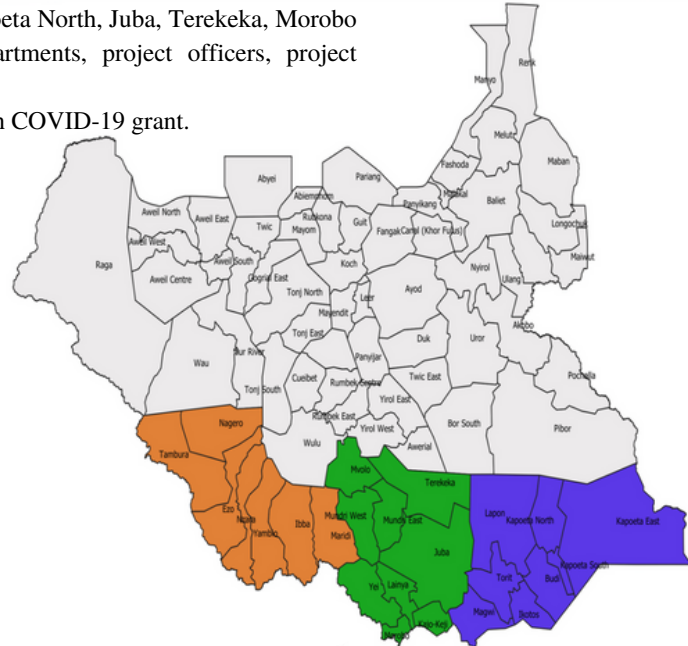
 World Vision South Sudan

### Central Equatoria

 Support for Peace & Education Development Program (SPEDP)

### Eastern Equatoria

 Organization for People's Empowerment & Needs (OPEN)



## ABOUT CGPP SOUTH SUDAN

CORE Group Partners Project is funded by USAID. CGPP South Sudan is advancing community health through the establishment of a robust integrated community-based surveillance (CBS) to timely detect and report suspected cases of acute flaccid paralysis for polio, measles, COVID-19, yellow fever, and adverse events following immunization. The CGPP CBS network comprises of 29 project supervisors at the county level, 540 home health promoters at the boma level, and 5,096 community key informants at the village level. CGPP implements its activities in the 26 counties of Eastern, Central, Western Equatoria and Upper Nile States. Our interventions focus on:

- Integrated community-based surveillance on acute flaccid paralysis, measles, yellow fever, COVID-19, and Adverse Events Following Immunization,
- Polio supplementary immunization campaigns.
- Immunization systems strengthening.
- COVID-19 outbreak response.

## CONTACT US



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