

Some 1.3 million infants in Sudan are targeted in a nationwide The first infant to receive the pneumococcal conjugate<sup>[]</sup> vaccine at a health centre in Jebel Awlia, near Khartoum. pneumococcal conjugate (PCV13) vaccination scheduled to commence on 1 August 2013. The vaccine will address three of the major killers among infants in the country – pneumonia, meningitis, and septicemia.

The Ministry of Health with support from GAVI Alliance, World Health Organization (WHO), and UNICEF, decided to introduce the vaccine into the routine expanded programme on immunization after reviewing local surveillance data and WHO position papers recommending global use of the new vaccine. Sudan joined the Regional Surveillance Network for bacterial meningitis in 2007.

that causes several serious illnesses, including: bacterial meningitis, pneumonia, otitisStreptococcus pneumoniaePneumococcal disease is an infection caused by the bacteria media or an inner ear infection, bacteremia, as well as sinus infections. Infection with pneumococcus is a major cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide. In Sudan, the incidence of pneumonia among under five children is 19% and it represents 27% of hospital admission causes. Pneumonia is also responsible for 10% of hospital deaths among under-five children, and is the second major cause of death after septicemia.

Today's event represents a major step forward in Sudan's efforts to improve the health of its future generations. With GAVI Alliance support since 2001, Sudan has been able to introduce various vaccines against childhood diseases, including hepatitis B, Hib (haemophilius influenza type b) and rotavirus.

WHO and UNICEF commit to decrease disabilities and deaths from vaccine preventable diseases, a shared major strategic objective with the Ministry of Health.



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