**WHO confirms 3rd Polio case in Nigeria**

The World Health Organization has confirmed a third case of polio in Nigeria, Rotary Club said Monday: a crippled toddler found in an area newly liberated from Boko Haram Islamic extremists.

Two cases were discovered last month among refugees from areas recently won back by Nigeria's military from Boko Haram in what is seen as a major upset in the global war against polio.

Rotary Club's field coordinator, Aminu Muhammad, told The Associated Press the new case was found in Monguno local government area. The others were farther south in Jere and Gwoza. All are in Borno state.

Rotary is participating in a new emergency immunization drive that vaccinated more than 1.5 million children last week in Borno, where WHO has said the virus has been circulating undetected for five years and where Boko Haram began its Islamic uprising in 2009.

The campaign is to spread across the country, with a plan to reach 25 million children before the end of the year.

But the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) has warned that about 1 million children are in areas too dangerous to access.

Nigeria's military has helped with the vaccination drive, which included logistics and other aid from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, the United Nations and Britain's Save the Children as well as government health workers. Military helicopters flew vaccines into places too dangerous to reach by road, and truckloads of troops and armoured cars escorted vaccinators elsewhere.

Muhammad said they were using “hit and run” tactics to reach kids in areas where Boko Haram is present. A map used in the vaccination campaign however shows almost all of Borno state is only “partially accessible,” with four northern areas “inaccessible” and only the extreme south “accessible.”

“We cannot deny the connection between conflict and the continued threat of polio. The two new cases mean children across the Lake Chad region are now at particular risk. With our partners, we will not stop until we reach every child with polio vaccination,” UNICEF Polio Eradication Director, Reza Hossaini had commented when the first two cases were reported.

Both WHO and UNICEF had expressed deep sympathy over the detection of the new cases after more than two years without wild poliovirus.

As recently as 2012, Nigeria accounted for more than half of all polio cases worldwide, but the country has made significant strides, recently marking two years without a case on 24 July 2016.

**Lassa fever resurfaces in 4 states**

Marcus Fatunmole (Abuja)

Five cases of Lassa fever were reported from four states of the country within 24th August  to 2nd September this year, National Centre for Disease Control, NCDC, has said.

Two cases of the disease were reported from Plateau State, one from Rivers, and one each from Bauchi and Gombe, a release signed by management of the organization and made available to reporters recently said.

According to the NCDC, the cases reported from Gombe died on 22nd August 2016, while all other cases are alive.

The organization noted that public health response commenced immediately in all the affected states under leadership of the respective state’s Ministry of Health.

"Resources were immediately mobilised from the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and its partner, the Nigerian Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Programme (NFELTP), to support the investigation and management of cases in the affected states," part of the release said.

The statement quoted newly-appointed Chief Executive Officer of the NCDC, Dr. Chikwe Ihekweazu, as saying: “We commend the early detection and reporting of the most recent cases, as it significantly improves the likelihood of survival for the cases and also reduces the risk of further transmission. We also urge all states to report cases immediately for Lassa fever while improving on the timeliness of their reporting generally.”

The release furthered: "As a result of increasing number of cases, the NCDC is issuing an advisory to all states, reminding them of the steps they have to take to prepare and respond to cases of Lassa fever and other haemorragic fevers, as well as the resources that they can access for this. The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control remains committed to supporting the states to prevent the spread of Lassa fever in Nigeria.”

**Nigeria has potentials to produce drugs of international standard –** WHO

Marcus Fatunmole (Abuja)

Nigeria is capable of producing pharmaceutical products that meet international standard, World Health Organization, WHO, has said.

Regional Director, WHO for Africa, Dr. Matshidiso Moeti stated this recently at 66th Session of WHO African Regional Committee Meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia recently.

According to a release made available to National Mirror by Director, Media and Public Relations in the Federal Ministry of Health, Mrs Boade Akinola, the WHO chief said the organization was working with some manufacturing companies in the country to provide guidance on meeting the requirements of WHO prequalification for pharmaceutical companies in the country.

According to Dr. Moeti, “WHO has established a monitoring system at the global level to assist member states in this regard in line with the concern of WHO that citizens should have access to quality and affordable medical products.

Moeti submission was in response to request by the Nigerian government which called for continued support of the global health institution and other partners in achieving the prequalification status of more pharmaceutical manufacturing companies in the country to enable them take part in the global procurement process.

Acting Director-General, National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control, NAFDAC, Mrs Yetunde Oni, who made the call on behalf of government also solicited the support of WHO in strengthening the Pharmacovigilance and Post Market Surveillances Systems as a step towards fighting substandard, spurious, falsely-labelled, falsified counterfeit(SSFFC) medical products in a bid to making quality, safe, efficacious and affordable medical products accessible to the people.

Mrs Oni affirmed the commitment of the Nigerian government to sustain and strengthen her regulatory framework bearing in mind the importance of a robust regulatory system to the attainment of universal health coverage and improved health outcomes.

“Nigeria has continued to support over 300 local pharmaceutical manufacturers to attain international best standards and be prequalified by WHO. Once this is attained, cost of medical products will be reduced and counterfeiting will be minimized.” she said.

Minister of Health, Prof. Isaac Adewole, also emphasized the urgency which the issue required during the presentation and reaffirmed that counterfeit drugs are injurious to the health of people in the country. He added in the release that there was need for the WHO and African leaders in the health sector to work together to enable them better safeguard the health of their people.

**End**

**250 children in IDP camp receives milk donation from WAMCO**

**Franka Osakwe**

FrieslandCampina WAMCO Nigeria PLC has made a product donation to about 250 vulnerable children living in Kuchingoro Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp, Abuja.

This was made known in a press released signed by the Company’s Corporate Affairs Director, Ore Famurewa.

It said the gesture is aimed at increasing the nutritional status of about 250 vulnerable children living in the camp.

“The donation was made by CEO, Roelof Joosten, during a two-day official trip to Nigeria. Roelof was accompanied by Jacobs Ajekigbe, Chairman Board of Directors, Rahul Colaco, Managing Director and Ore Famurewa, Corporate Affairs Director.

Following this donation, each child will receive a daily provision of Peak Evaporated milk in 30g sachet as part of the Recommended Dietary Allowance.  The supply is planned for a period of 10 weeks, from August 10 to October 26, 2016.

FrieslandCampina WAMCO made this donation to the camp through the Nigerian Red Cross Society which will be fully accountable for the distribution of the products and also deliver the project with utmost professionalism”, it said.

**... as 1600 farmers benefit from dairy development programme**

**Franka Osakwe**

No fewer than one thousand six hundred Fulani and Oyo State dairy farmers have received training on local milk production through The FrieslandCampina WAMCO’s Dairy Development Programme (DDP).

This was made known in a press released signed by the Company’s Corporate Affairs Director, Ore Famurewa.

According to him, The DDP initiative is a private-public program aimed at enhancing dairy farming in Nigeria.

He explained that the milk producers were immensely supported through consistent trainings and demonstrations to upgrade their milk supply in terms of quantity and more importantly quality.

In addition, he said the company provided boreholes (mostly solar powered) to twelve communities in DDP locations and all the milk suppliers were given aluminium milk cans of 30,000L capacity to improve the quality of raw milk being supplied.

“Working in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) and International Fertilizer Development Centre- Towards Sustainable Clusters in Agribusiness through Learning in Entrepreneurship (IFDC-2SCALE), we also trained farmers in the use of crop residues and fortification as sources of good feed for cattle. Also, feed preservation through silage and hay making was also demonstrated, crossbreeding through artificial insemination was carried out as well as an instructive and continuous Quality Improvement Programme (QIP) put in place.

The total volume for the year was slightly over three million litres while one of the most important quality parameters, total plate count was improved to about 800,000cfu/ml. The DDP team also worked in partnership with Nigerian Institute of Trypanosomosis Research (NITRE) to control the prevalence of tsetse flies and therefore reduced trypanosomosis disease infections in the locations where DDP is active”, he said.

The Fulani women were engaged in vocational trainings and also linked up with WAMCO sales team to retail peak and three crowns products serving as additional sources of income to them, the release said.

It mentioned the company’s assurance to invest in the maintenance of its facilities: The Milk bulking Centre in Iseyin and four functional Milk Collection Centres (MCCs) in Fasola, Alaga, Maya and Iseyin.  The company has in its fleet, five insulated milk trucks of varying capacities for the conveyance of raw milk from the Milk Collection Centres to the Milk Bulking Centres en route the factory in Lagos.