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PERFORMANCE OF ACUTE FLACCID PARALYSIS SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM IN ZAMBIA: 2000 TO 2009- ANALYSIS OF SECONDARY DATA

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Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) surveillance was adopted by World Health Organization (WHO) following the World Health Assembly (WHA) Resolutions in May 1988, to monitor progress towards poliomyelitis eradication in all member countries. It was introduced in Zambia in 1993. Since then, health workers collect AFP surveillance data however; there is no documented evidence of the review of the performance of the system and epidemiological analysis of the data. The purpose of this study was to review performance of the AFP surveillance system between 2000 and 2009, discuss the epidemiological distribution of cases tested at the national polio laboratory in the period under review and identify components in the AFP surveillance system that require strengthening. A retrospective descriptive analysis was conducted on secondary AFP surveillance data for the period 2000-2009, consisting of all children aged <15years and performance evaluated using WHO-specified core AFP global surveillance indicators. During this period, a total of 1,452 cases were investigated. Completeness of data from case-based forms was very inadequate. The non-polio AFP rate ranged from 1.8 -3.3/100,000 and stool adequacy from 65% - 96%. There was low Non-Polio Enterovirus (NPENT) rate. The aim of the presentation is to show performance of the AFP surveillance system and to describe the epidemiological patterns. A high level of surveillance performance was achieved during this period, though there were a lot of gaps in the national AFP surveillance data base. Improvement in the identified gaps could achieve optimal standards recommended by WHO and provide a good model for poliomyelitis eradication.

Biography

Rufaro Murebwa Chirambo graduated from the University of Zambia, School of Medicine with a Bachelor's degree in Nursing, then did Masters in Public and consequently a PhD in Public Health at the same University and she has been working at WHO in the Disease Prevention and Control unit, as well as an International Consultant and Technical Advisor. She is also a part time Lecturer at the Copperbelt University, School of Medicine. Rufaro has her expertise in disease surveillance of vaccine preventable diseases, monitoring and evaluation, as well as immunizations.

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