



COALITION to STRENGTHEN
the HPV IMMUNIZATION
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The Gambia HPV Vaccine Delivery; current delivery strategy and plans for restoring coverage following Covid-19 interruption

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Gambia Expanded Programme on Immunisation

CHIC SPC Symposium

HPV Vaccination Programs: From Pre-introduction Planning to Restoration and Sustainability

24 – 25 Sept 2022 – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Presentation outline

- Demonstration of HPV vaccination in The Gambia
- HPV national Rollout and Introduction into routine immunization
- Lessons learnt
- Challenges
- Way Forward



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Demonstration of HPV vaccination in The Gambia



Gambia HPV Demo Area: West Coast Region/Western 1 & 2



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DEMONSTRATION OF HPV VACCINATION IN THE GAMBIA

- The Gambia implemented the HPV demonstration programme in Brikama Local Government Area from **10 Dec 2014 to 16 May 2016**
- Two cohorts of schoolgirls in grade 3 and their peers out of school aged 9 to 13 were targeted with the HPV vaccine
- Delivery Strategy: School vaccination using campaign



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HPV Demo Results

Year	Targets	Admini Coverage	Survey coverage
1	9432	87%	82%
2	9459	89%	91%



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HPV NATIONAL ROLLOUT AND INTRODUCTION INTO THE ROUTINE PROGRAM

HPV introduced and rolled out nationally in November, 2019

1. Girls in School in Grade 3
2. Out of schoolgirls 9 – 14yrs
3. Multi-age cohort

Grade 4-6 in demo areas (West Coast Region)

Grade 4-8 in non demo areas (Remaining Regions)

- Total Girls Targeted: **144647**
- 2% are out of school girls, **2893**



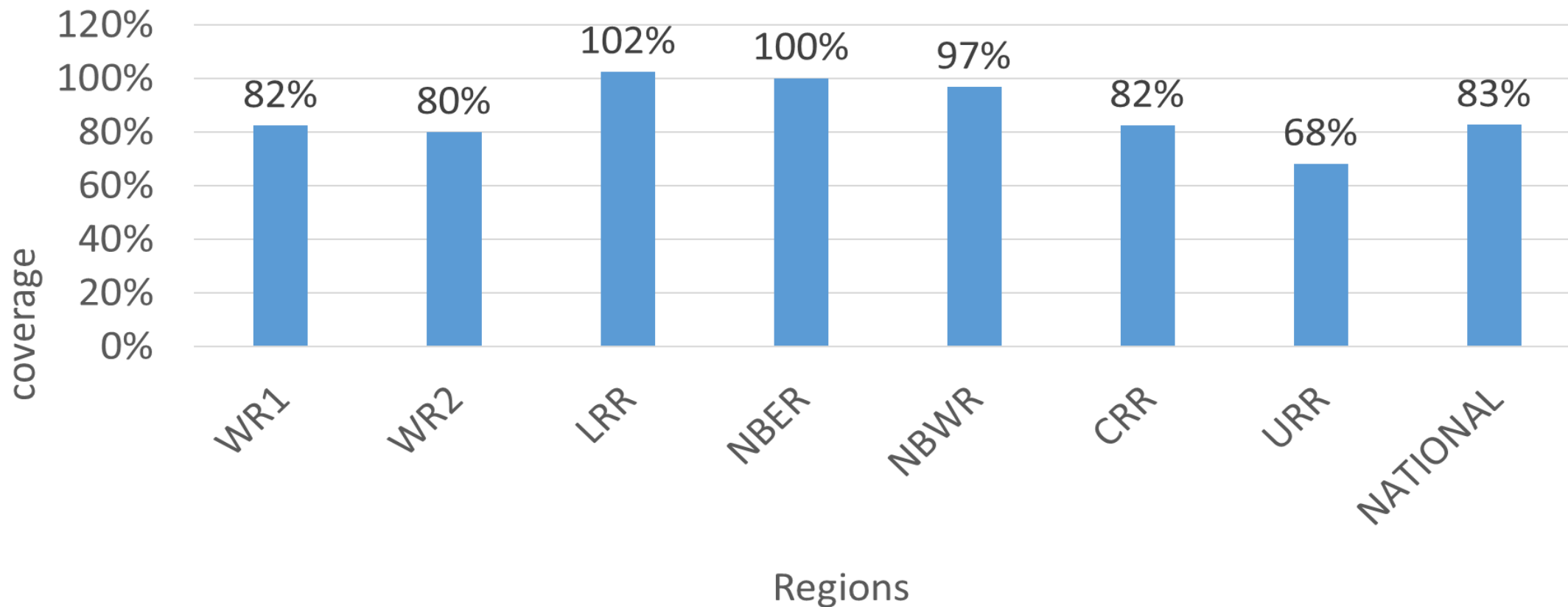
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HPV Rollout DOSE 1 COVERAGE BY REGION, 2019



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HPV YEAR 2 TARGET POPULATION 2021

GIRLS	HPV 1 TARGET POPULATION	HPV 2 TARGET POPULATION
IN SCHOOL GIRLS	34104	114629
OUT OF SCHOOL GIRLS	696	4777
TOTAL GIRLS	34800	119406
TOTAL GIRLS FOR HPV DOSE 1 AND 2		154,206

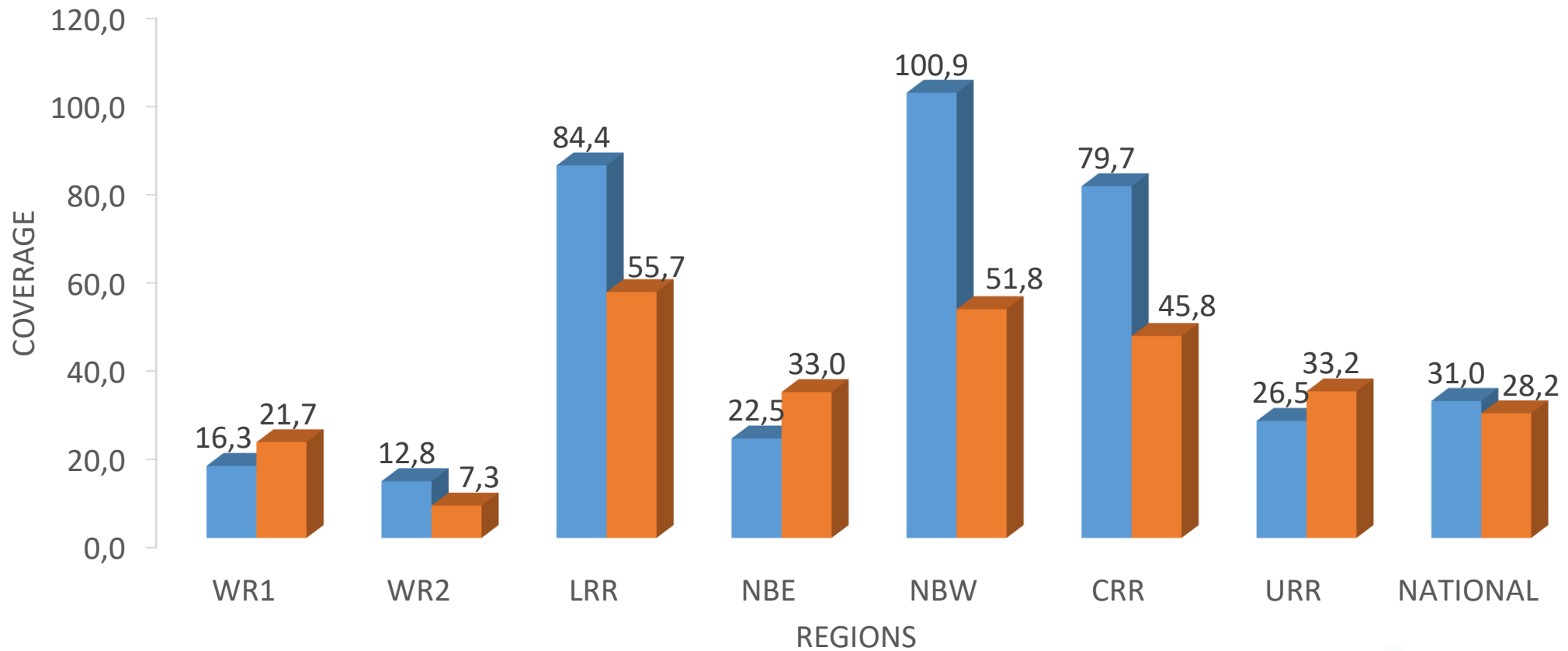


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HPV YEAR 2 DOSE 1 & 2 COVERAGE BY REGION, 2021



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E ■ HPV2 COVERAGE



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Challenges

- Refusal and vaccine hesitancy due to Rumours and information on Covid-19 Vaccination trails in Africa
- COVID-19 Restriction that lead to closure of schools
- Inadequate funding for HPV Implementation
- Competing Priorities among health workers
- Limited Knowledge of some parents / targeted girls
- Inadequate tracking of adolescent girls due to use of manual registers



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COVID-19 RESPONSE STRATEGY

- Mapping and Engagement of Vaccine hesitant Communities
- Integration HPV in all COVID-19 Risk Communication and Community Engagement
- Orientation and engagement of MoBSE, Regional Education Directors, cluster monitors and school heads
- National and regional level advocacy
- Building Vaccine Confidence through Engaging community structures, Community Health Workers and influential leaders
- Media engagement at all levels



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Lessons learned

- High level political will and Commitment
- Involvement of Ministry of Education and other stakeholders in the entire preparation
- Establish well functional coordinating technical working group
- National and regional level advocacy.
- Engaging community structures, Community Health Workers and influential leaders early in preparedness,
- HPV vaccine delivery through a campaign mode is more effective in The Gambia



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Way forward

- Integration HPV vaccination with COVID-19 vaccination and other school health interventions
- Implement the SAGE Recommendation of one dose regimen
- Strengthen school health education
- Building vaccine confidence through community engagement and participation
- Engagement of Educational structures-such as Cluster Monitors, School Management Committees and Mothers Cubs



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Way forward

- Conduct defaulter tracing
- Media Engagements
- Use of electronic HPV registers
- Strengthen collaboration between national cancer registry and o cancer-survivors association
- Mobilization of resources to support HPV vaccine delivery

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION



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