



SUCCESS STORY

Achieving 95% Vitamin A Coverage



Below: Dr Miakala mia Ndolo, Secretary General MOH launches the Vitamin A Campaign in Mbuji Mayi, Kasai Oriental, April 6, 2009.



Photos: Project AXxes.

Helen Keller International (HKI) is a technical assistance partner to Project AXxes for the introduction and use of micronutrients such as Zinc and Vitamin A. One of HKI's roles is to collaborate with the national program (PRONANUT) on behalf of Project AXxes to organize an integrated mass distribution campaign for Vitamin A distribution and treatment of Soil Transmitted Helminthes (aka de-worming).

Preparation for this integrated campaign was finalized during the last quarter with micro-planning workshops in all AXxes-supported health zones and during regional coordination meetings in all provinces. Due in large part to planning and co-financing by USAID/AXxes, the campaign was successfully completed in all AXxes-supported 57 health zones. These health zones have a total population of more than 8 million and a targeted population of 1.3 million children (6-59 months).

Preliminary results from the campaign indicate that on average, over 95% of all targeted children received both Vitamin A supplementation and Mebendazole for deworming!

HKI also took advantage of the contact with nurses from nearly 2000 supported health clinics to distribute flip charts and Behavioral Change Communication (BCC) materials regarding the correct use of rehydration solutions (SRO) and Zinc. These are essential adjuvants for the management of diarrheal illnesses, a major cause of pediatric mortality in DRC. These BCC materials were printed in local languages and distributed to all USAID/AXxes supported health facilities.

It is noteworthy that this one coordinated campaign in 57 AXxes-supported health zones is equivalent to organizing and achieving national campaigns for several West African countries. Such planning, coordination, financing, partnership with the MOH, and results are characteristic of the work which Project AXxes has been able to attain through dedicated partners such as HKI, a strong working relationship with the Ministry of Health, and support from the American People under the auspices of USAID.