AFENET
African Field Epidemiology Network
A healthier Africa

OCTOBER–NOVEMBER 2026

STOP PROGRAMME NEWSLETTER

STOP Highlights from the Field



Field supervision and verification during the Sokoto polio campaign.

Strengthening disease surveillance, reaching missed children and supporting immunisation across Africa

From identifying previously unreported cases of vaccine-preventable diseases to supporting catch-up vaccination for thousands of children, STOP consultants are contributing to frontline efforts to eradicate polio, eliminate measles and control other vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs) across Africa. This edition highlights field activities in Guinea, Namibia, Malawi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of the Congo and Nigeria.

IN THIS ISSUE

Guinea, Namibia & Malawi 02

Democratic Republic of the Congo 03

Republic of the Congo 04

Nigeria · Sokoto State 05

Nigeria · Yobe State 06

STOPers deployment map 07

GUINEA / NAMIBIA / MALAWI

Surveillance in the field

104
priority-site visits

92%
of monitored eligible children vaccinated

GUINEA

Surveillance and measles vaccination

STOP consultants supported surveillance and immunisation activities in Kissidougou and Tougué, completing 104 priority-site visits across the two districts. In Kissidougou, capacity-building activities reached 335 frontline personnel. During the measles follow-up campaign, 132 of 143 monitored eligible children were vaccinated (92%). The activities combined active surveillance, frontline capacity building and vaccination monitoring.

51
previously missed or unreported cases

NAMIBIA

Identifying missed or unreported cases

In Namibia's Zambezi Region, STOP Consultant Domitila Musau supported active case searches and supportive supervision that identified 51 previously missed or unreported cases: 49 measles cases and 2 acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) cases. These findings highlight the value of active surveillance for identifying suspected cases early, improving reporting and strengthening health-worker capacity. Activities included supervision across facilities in Zambezi and microplanning and training in Otjiwarongo.

15
AFP cases detected in epidemiological week 44

5
community cases from districts visited

MALAWI

Community engagement strengthens AFP detection

STOP Consultant Patrick Freeman Eweh supported mentorship of Health Surveillance Assistants and sensitisation of community care providers to strengthen AFP detection. During integrated supportive supervision with district officers, the team addressed knowledge gaps in case definitions and promoted collaboration with traditional healers and other community care providers.

In epidemiological week 44, 15 AFP cases were detected, including 5 community cases from districts visited in the Southern Region. Early detection and timely reporting of AFP are essential to polio surveillance, enabling suspected cases to be investigated promptly and helping identify potential poliovirus transmission. The reported national cumulative tally reached 273 cases, compared with 270 in the corresponding period of 2025.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Reaching missed children

HAUT-LOMAMI / MULONGO HEALTH ZONE

In Mulongo Health Zone, STOP Consultant Dr Jinoji Kadjidoumde provided technical and logistical support to routine immunisation catch-up activities from 1–14 October 2026. Across 163 of 167 villages, 3,115 of 3,265 identified zero-dose children aged 0–59 months were brought up to date (95.4%), alongside 27,983 of 29,609 under-vaccinated children (94.5%). In total, 31,098 children were brought up to date.



STOP-supported routine immunisation catch-up activities in Mulongo Health Zone, Haut-Lomami Province.

31,098
children brought up to date

95.4%
of identified zero-dose children brought up to date

94.5%
of identified under-vaccinated children brought up to date

HAUT-KATANGA / KAMBOVE HEALTH ZONE

Restoring access in Nkala

An investigation into two circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 cases in Kambove Health Zone revealed that Nkala village had been without immunisation services for more than a year. STOP Consultant Dr Jeanne Adjoua Bonzou mobilised community health workers, traditional healers and religious leaders for door-to-door engagement.

Within two days, 60 households were visited and more than 119 community members engaged. Discussions indicated that the main barrier was the prolonged absence of services rather than vaccine hesitancy. A subsequent catch-up session vaccinated 82 children and 11 pregnant women.





Community engagement and vaccination access activities in Nkala, Haut-Katanga Province.

REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Surveillance and measles response

NGOYO / POINTE-NOIRE

Reviving AFP surveillance

Ngoyo Health District in Pointe-Noire had not reported an AFP case since 25 June 2025. STOP-supported teams mobilised 30 community health workers to engage 31 traditional healers, 36 spiritual healers and 4,088 people in 1,297 households over four days. In subsequent weeks, community volunteers detected three AFP cases at healing sites. The non-polio AFP reporting rate reached 3.9 per 100,000 by the end of October 2026, compared with zero during weeks 1–33.

3 cases
of AFP detected by community volunteers at healing sites



Briefing of community actors in Ngoyo Health District.



Sensitisation of a spiritual healer on AFP surveillance in Ngoyo.

MFILOU / BRAZZAVILLE

Improving measles coverage

In Mfilou Health District, Brazzaville, STOP consultants supported the measles outbreak response by engaging authorities, community leaders and volunteers. Training reached 15 health workers, 30 community volunteers and eight neighbourhood chiefs. A targeted vaccination response vaccinated 735 children with RR1 and 739 with RR2. First-dose coverage increased from 74% in September to 80% in October, while second-dose coverage increased from 48% to 62%.

74% to 80%
FIRST-DOSE COVERAGE

48% to 62%
SECOND-DOSE COVERAGE



Vaccination of children in the community during the Mfilou response.



Team mobilised for the measles vaccination response in Mfilou.

NIGERIA / SOKOTO STATE

Supporting polio campaign quality

DANGE SHUNI LGA / 7–12 NOVEMBER 2026

STOP Consultant and Field Epidemiologist Baba Ceesay supported the 7–12 November 2026 polio vaccination campaign in Dange Shuni LGA, Sokoto State. The statewide campaign targeted 23 LGAs, 244 wards and 10,458 settlements. His work included team supervision, finger- and household-marking checks, vaccine handling, community engagement and real-time troubleshooting in hard-to-reach settlements.

The report recorded administrative coverage above 100% for nOPV2 and bOPV in Dange Shuni. Such figures should be interpreted against estimated target populations. The deployment highlighted the importance of supportive supervision, timely logistics and community participation.

STATEWIDE CAMPAIGN TARGETS

23
local government areas

244
wards

10,458
settlements



Flag-off at Shuni settlement, Dange Shuni LGA.



Early morning take-off briefing at Shuni Upgraded PHC.


Spot checks at Fajaldu settlement, Dange Shuni LGA.



Field supervision and verification during the Sokoto polio campaign.

NIGERIA / YOBE STATE

Reaching the last mile

1,689,990
nOPV2 vaccinations

89,609
zero-dose children vaccinated

17
local government areas covered

During the 7–12 November 2026 polio vaccination campaign in Yobe State, more than 1.68 million children were vaccinated across all 17 local government areas. The campaign reported 1,689,990 nOPV2 vaccinations, equivalent to 108% administrative coverage against an estimated target, and identified and vaccinated 89,609 zero-dose children.

STOP Data Manager Abdinur Bishar supported planning, team supervision, campaign monitoring and data quality assurance, particularly in Fune and Damaturu LGAs. Twenty-four supervisors received orientation, and 11 vaccination teams received supportive supervision. Daily data reviews helped guide corrective actions, while field engagement contributed to resolving four instances of vaccination non-compliance.

The campaign reached approximately 90.4% of 11,022 targeted settlements; 1,056 settlements remained unreached, with insecurity among the major barriers. The findings reinforce the need for targeted microplanning, sustained community engagement and reliable reporting to reach children still missed by vaccination services.



Community leaders and vaccination teams mobilise communities for polio vaccination in Yobe State.



STOP-supported supervisor orientation in Fune LGA, Yobe State.



November 2026 polio vaccination campaign launch in Fune LGA.



Daily campaign review meeting in Fune LGA.



Vaccination team supervisor orientation in Fune LGA.

ACROSS THE FIELD

These updates demonstrate the range of STOP support: active case finding, routine immunisation catch-up, campaign supervision, community engagement and health-worker mentorship. Through these deployments, AFENET and its partners continue to support countries in strengthening immunisation systems, advancing polio eradication and protecting communities against vaccine-preventable diseases.

STOPers deployment in Africa



Country boundaries from Natural Earth

10 deployment countries

1. Guinea-Conakry
2. Nigeria
3. Democratic Republic of Congo
4. Republic of Congo
5. Ethiopia
6. Malawi
7. Namibia
8. Liberia
9. Sierra Leone
10. Senegal

Deployment country