



**Dr Jason M. Mwenda, H.Prof Sci**

**WHO Regional Office for Africa (WHO/AFRO), Immunization and Vaccines Development (IVD), Family and Reproductive Health (FRH), WHO Regional Office for Africa (WHO/AFRO), Brazzaville, Republic of Congo.**

Dr. Jason M. Mwenda is currently the Regional Co-ordinator responsible for co-ordinating surveillance for Vaccine Preventable Diseases in the African Region. As part of his responsibilities he co-ordinates surveillance for meningitis, pneumonia, Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), Typhoid Fever and rotavirus diarrhea, primarily providing guidance to countries in the African region and support for evidence based decision making to introduce and monitoring impact of new and under-utilized vaccines.

Since joining WHO in 2007, he has supported countries in the African Region to initiate surveillance for rotavirus to document disease burden, describe the epidemiology, and to monitor circulating rotavirus strains in Africa to support introduction of new rotavirus vaccines. Over the years, the African Rotavirus Surveillance Network (ARSN) co-ordinated by WHO/AFRO has expanded include to 32 countries. These activities involve working closely with national Governments and key immunization partners to support introduction of new vaccines into national routine immunization programs. These efforts have resulted in 35 out of 47 (74%) countries in the WHO African Region rapidly introducing rotavirus vaccines in the national immunization programs.

A number of these countries are now using established regional sentinel surveillance system to evaluate the impact of rotavirus vaccines on diarrhea hospitalizations and monitoring intussusception.

He has published over 200 scientific publications in peer international reviewed journals and co-ordinated publication of five special journal supplements on Rotavirus disease burden and impact of rotavirus and pneumococci conjugate Vaccines (PCV) vaccination in Africa.

- Rotavirus Infection in Africa: Epidemiology, Burden of Disease and Strain Diversity, *Journal of Infectious Diseases* (JID), 2010
- Rotavirus Disease Burden, *Pediatric Infectious Diseases Journal* (PIDJ), 2014
- Health Benefits of Rotavirus Vaccination in Developing Countries, *Clinical Infectious Diseases* (CID), May 2016
- Impact and Effectiveness of Rotavirus vaccines in Africa, *Vaccine*, November 2018
- Early Impact of pneumococci conjugate Vaccines (PCV) in Africa, *Clinical Infectious Diseases* (CID), In press, 2019

Prior to joining WHO Dr Mwenda was involved in health research for over 25 years. He worked in various capacities in various institutions in different countries including Kenya, UK, Japan, Italy and USA in the area of vaccine development, public health, control and prevention of infectious diseases.

He also has mentored and supervised many cadres of students ranging from under graduates, post graduates including PhDs, post-doctoral students and international students on exchange programs. He was awarded Honorary Professor, Medical Sciences and Health Research and development (H. Prof Sci) in recognition of his contribution to health research and development and capacity building including training and teaching students and mentoring scientists and disease surveillance officers in Africa.

Dr Mwenda serves in various international advisory bodies and provides technical and policy guidance on vaccine implementation and policy, strategic development and management of health research globally and working with national governments and institutions in the African Region.