

Prof Jason M. Mwenda

Prof Jason M. Mwenda is a public health specialist currently the Regional Co-ordinator responsible for co-ordinating surveillance for Vaccine Preventable Diseases in the WHO African Region. As part of his responsibilities he co-ordinates surveillance for paediatric diarrhea, invasive pneumococcal diseases (IPD), meningitis and pneumonia in children. He is providing guidance to countries in the African Region and support for evidence-based decision making to support introduction 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 diarrhea to document disease burden, describe the epidemiology and to monitor circulating rotavirus strains in Africa to support introduction of new rotavirus vaccines. He led the efforts to establish the African Rotavirus Surveillance Network (ARSN) co-ordinated by WHO/AFRO that has expanded to include 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 36 out of 47 (76%) 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 hospital-based surveillance system to evaluate the impact of rotavirus vaccines on diarrheal hospitalizations and monitoring intussusception.

He has published 253 scientific publications in peer international reviewed journals, contributed book chapters and has been guest editor and has co-ordinated publication of six 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)*, 15 September 2019

- Intussusception in Infants in sub-Saharan Africa, Pan African Medical Journal (PAMJ), August 201

Prof Mwenda is currently co-ordinating WHO/AFRO monitoring of vaccine effectiveness (AFRO-MoVE) recently established network comprising of 19 countries to support COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness (VE) studies and SARS-CoV-2 variants genomic surveillance monitoring as part of COVID-19 pandemic response.

Prof Mwenda was awarded Ph.D. (Immunology and Virology) degree by the Faculty of Medicine, University of Liverpool, UK in 1993. He has been awarded several honors and awards in recognition of his immense contribution to health research and development and capacity building activities including public health research, training and teaching of students and mentoring young scientists with a focus on vaccines against infectious diseases in Africa.

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

He also has mentored and supervised many cadres of students postgraduates including PhDs, post-doctoral students and facilitating international students exchange

Prof Mwenda has undertaken many strategic and change management courses and 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.