

## **CHAD - MSF vaccinates 500 000 children against measles in N'Djamena**

A mass vaccination campaign against measles was launched in the Chadian capital on March 26<sup>th</sup>, following a quick increase of measles cases affecting children and adolescents.

Between the beginning of the year and the 20<sup>th</sup> of March, 3 550 cases were declared. Around 800 of them appeared during the third week of March. An emergency response was therefore organised in close collaboration with Chadian authorities.

More than sixty teams are deployed in the town to perform immunization for all children between 6 months and 15 years old, totalling around 580 000 people. Between the 26<sup>th</sup> of March and the 7<sup>th</sup> of April, 480 000 children were vaccinated – and the campaign continues.

MSF also provides support, including medicines and human resources, to several primary health centres in the town, where simple measles cases are treated.

For complicated cases, three medical structures have also been set up in the town.

Malnourished children who are screened on the vaccination sites and in health centres are treated in MSF therapeutic feeding centre in the town.

The vaccination was initially planned until 6<sup>th</sup> of April, but its length is re-estimated with Chadian health authorities, according to the coverage that will be reached.

Measles is a major cause of deaths for children and adolescents in the world, especially if they are already malnourished or have other immune system weakness.

In these cases, complications such as pneumonia or neurological consequences can intervene, and be sometimes lethal. In other cases, ocular complications can cause blindness.

Mass vaccination campaign is still the best way to reduce the intensity of epidemics when they're declared. To be effective, immunization should target all the children between 6 months and 15 years old.

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