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Pertussis Outbreak Investigation, Kpanyan Health District, Sinoe, 2019

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Introduction

Whooping cough is a bacterial infection that causes persistent coughing follow by vomiting,

Fever for more than two weeks among under five years Children

 All the vaccine preventable diseases including pertussis are part of surveillance system in Liberia and it is reported under unexplained cluster of health events

On Jan 5 2019 the District Health Team of Kpanyan was informed by the both OIC Kilo Town that children between the ages of 0-<5yrs and 5yrs and above were affected with persistence cough and some of them were vomiting in Kayeedea and Gboyee communities. The aim of the investigation were to treat and line list all cases identify, control the spared of the disease and vaccinate all the children under one year

**Method**

Kpanyan Health district is located in Sinoe with over 59 communities and population of 14,053 inhabitants, The Kayeedae and Gboyee communities were the outbreak is occurring are hard to reach communities with the population of 1321 inhabitance and is about five hours walk to the Kilo Town Clinic where the community dwellers usually seek health care.

**Results**

Of 57 children who presented with the signs and symptoms of pertussis, 32 (56%) were female while 25(54%) were male, there were 6 children who did not complete their vaccination while 16 of the children completed their vaccine most especially Penta3 and 35 out of the 57 children vaccination status was by history. Moreover 2017 vaccination coverage of Penta 3 in this facility was 108.5% While 2018 Penta 3 coverage is 49%, median age is 3yrs while the range is 3months to 11yrs

Conclusions

Lack of logistical support to conducted regular outreach in both communities and long distance walk(5hrs) from community to the health facility preventing patients from accessing facility to complete vaccines are contributing factor, while all the cases were treated and all the under one were vaccinated, Government should regularly support EPI outreach to health facility