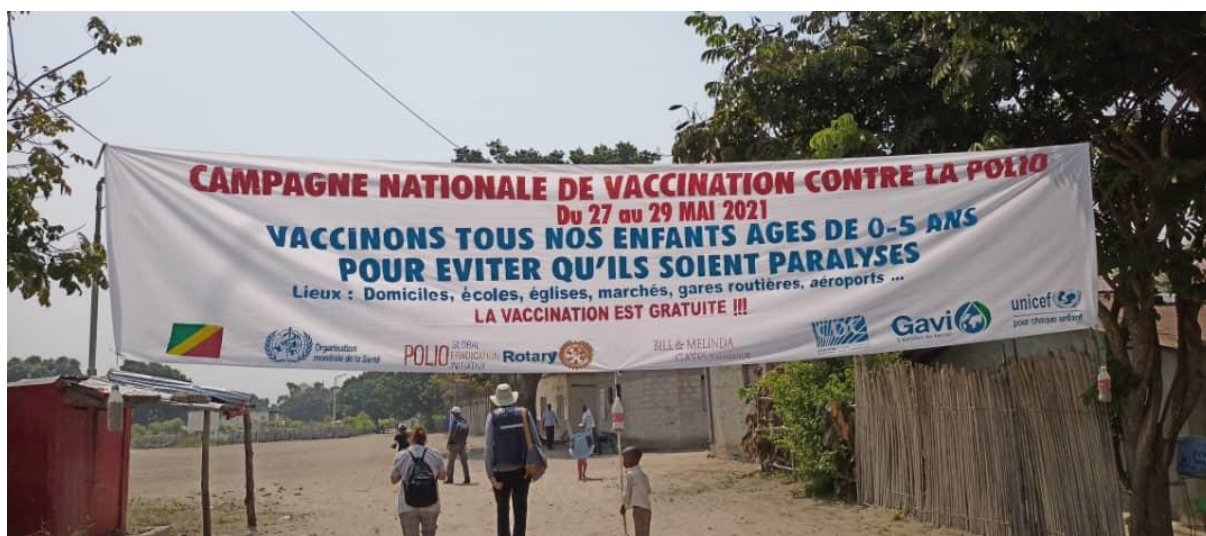


Vaccination of special populations during campaigns

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Upstream from the two closest capital cities in the world, in the middle of the Congo River, is an island called M'Bamou. Divided into several villages and with an area spanning 180 km², this island is home to an estimated population in 2021 of 12,731 inhabitants, importantly 2,546 children from 0 to 59 months. Accessibility to these areas is a major challenge both in routine immunization and in polio vaccination campaigns. With the support of partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, including UNICEF, greater efforts have been made than ever to reach every child during the first phase of the national polio campaign.



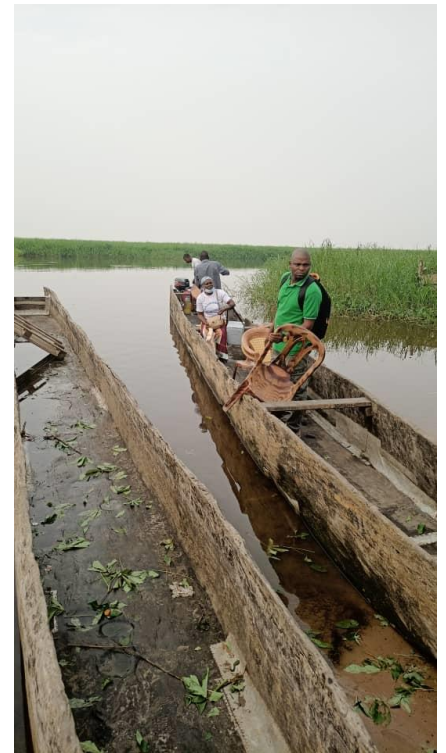
From 27 to 29 May 2021, M'bamou Island vibrated at the same pace as other localities in the country with the launch of the polio vaccination campaign. Advocacy meetings were held with officials or opinion leaders to gain their support for campaign activities.



Every morning and evening throughout the mobilization process, town criers were heard informing those within earshot about the campaign. On the day of the campaign launch, the local prefect kicked off the official campaign launch and frontline workers (FLWs) began their activities.



On foot, by motorbike, by canoe or by boat, these local actors deployed to reach each child of the island, through three strategies: 1) the fixed strategy, 2) the advanced strategy and 3) the mobile strategy. Reaching the most remote corners and difficult-to-access areas, FLWs sought to grant the children of Mbamou Island the same chance as children living in more easily accessible areas of the country.



Those involved in this vaccination work tirelessly and take risks for the well-being of the children living on this island. At the end of the campaign, 2,505 children had been vaccinated, or 98.38% of the target. The reason for not vaccinating the remaining children was that they had moved from this remote area.

