



### **Prof Jason M. Mwenda, WHO Regional Office for Africa (WHO/AFRO)**

Prof Jason M. Mwenda is currently the Regional Advisor responsible for co-ordinating surveillance for Vaccine Preventable Diseases and vaccine performance monitoring in the WHO Region Office for Africa (WHO/AFRO), Brazzaville, Republic of Congo. As part of his responsibilities, he co-ordinates hospital-based surveillance for diarrheal diseases, invasive pneumococcal diseases (IPD) and provides guidance to countries in the African Region to use evidence to support decision-making on the introduction and monitoring impact of new vaccines including rotavirus vaccines, PCV and COVID-19 vaccines.

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 40 out of 47 countries in the WHO African Region introducing PCV in the national immunization programs, while 38 out of 47 countries in WHO/AFRO have introduced rotavirus vaccines.

A number of these countries are now using established regional sentinel hospital-based surveillance system to evaluate the impact of rotavirus vaccines, intussusception and also PCV on meningitis and pneumonia hospitalizations including monitoring the meningitis safety signals during the RTS,S or Mosquirix Malaria Vaccine Implementation Project (MVIP).

He has published 277 scientific publications international peer reviewed journals, contributed to several book chapters, has been guest editor and reviewer manuscripts in several journals. He has also co-ordinated publication of six journal supplements on rotavirus disease burden and impact of rotavirus vaccines and pneumococci conjugate Vaccines (PCV) vaccination in Africa including;

- Epidemiology of Intussusception in Sub-Saharan Africa, *PAMJ*, 2021

- Early Impact of Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccines in African Countries, *Clinical Infectious Diseases (CID)*, 15 September 2019
- Impact and effectiveness of rotavirus vaccines in Africa, *Vaccine*, November 2018
- Health benefits of rotavirus vaccination in developing countries, *Clinical Infectious Diseases (CID)*, 2016
- Rotavirus disease burden in Africa, *Pediatric Infectious Diseases Journal (PIDJ)*, 2014
- Rotavirus infection in Africa: Epidemiology, burden of disease and strain diversity, *Journal of Infectious Diseases (JID)*, 2010

Prof Mwenda is also co-ordinating activities of AFRO-MoVE, a network established in March 2021, comprising of 19 countries conducting COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness (VE) studies and genomic surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 variants as part of COVID-19 pandemic response. This network is being expanded into a broad-based network that will co-ordinate all activities related to evaluation of impact and effectiveness of all new vaccines during implementation into national immunization programs in Africa.