Strengthening public health systems in Côte d'Ivoire

photo credit: Conexion Photography

Introduction

VillageReach began working in Côte d'Ivoire in 2017. Since then, we have built strong relationships with government and country partners and implemented several programs to strengthen public health systems and provide targeted solutions for emerging health challenges, including COVID-19.

Through our work in Côte d'Ivoire, VillageReach focuses on getting products to people and increasing pathways to primary health care. By transforming health care delivery and fostering a people-centered health system, we can ensure equal access and move the country closer to universal health care.

Vaccinodromes for high-volume vaccine delivery

With vaccination rates stalled in Côte d'Ivoire in September 2021, VillageReach worked with the Ministry of Health (MoH) to increase vaccination rates with complementary programs. In Yopougon, an area in Abidjan identified by the MoH with low coverage, we established the first COVID-19 vaccinodrome, or high-volume vaccination site. It opened in December 2021 with the capacity to vaccinate up to 1,000 people a day.

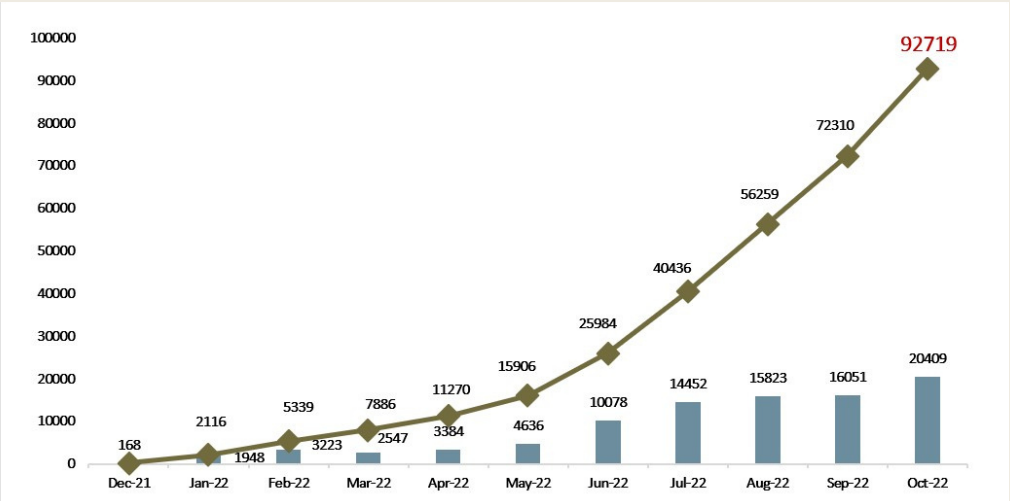
As the average number of people vaccinated initially did not meet the target, the MoH and VillageReach pivoted to an outreach-focused model paired with demand generation activities.

As of October 2022, the vaccinodrome reached the target of 1,000 vaccines per day, and the vaccindrome program has administered over 92,000 vaccines. There are plans to expand this hybrid model to all 10 districts of Abidjan.

Using data to amplify vaccine activities with outreach campaigns

In February 2022, VillageReach and the MoH, after reviewing data, launched daily outreach activities to increase COVID-19 vaccinations. In addition to the large vaccinodrome, VillageReach set up smaller mobile vaccine sites in concentrated urban areas throughout Yopougon, while also vaccinating people directly in their homes. Due to this strategy shift, vaccine administration increased from approximately 3,000 to 20,000 vaccines per month, with 95% of vaccines administered during outreach sessions.

photo credit: Conexion Photography

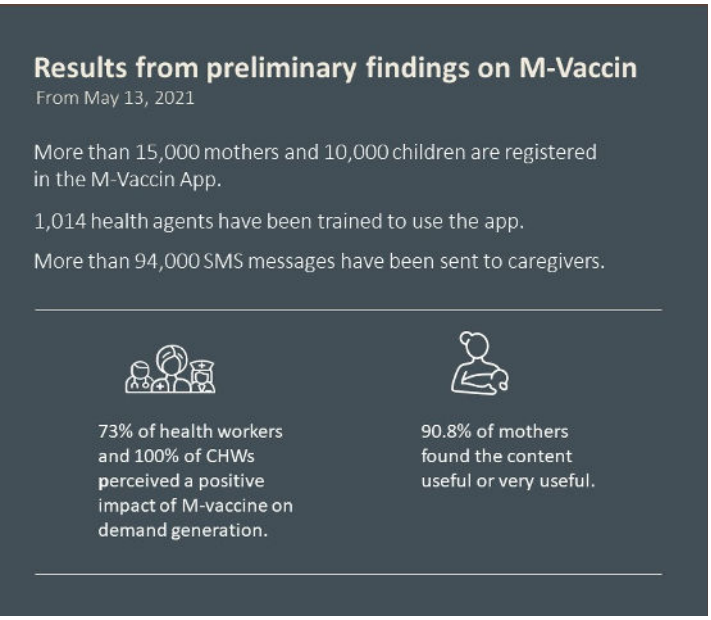


COVID-19 vaccine administration

Since the launch of our high-volume vaccine sites in Côte d'Ivoire, we've seen an increase in the number of COVID-19 vaccines administered each month (blue bars) and the cumulative number of COVID-19 vaccines administered (green line).

Electronic Immunization Registries: M-Vaccin program

In Côte d'Ivoire, a lack of information is a primary cause of incomplete vaccination. To address this, VillageReach partnered with the MoH and Public Hygiene of Côte d'Ivoire (MSHP), Orange Côte d'Ivoire S.A. and Gavi to develop the M-Vaccin program. This program uses mobile technology to improve vaccine coverage in 51 health districts. Through a customized application, we use text and voice messaging to inform caregivers about the importance of vaccination and send appointment reminders in local languages.



The M-Vaccin solution aims to reduce dropout rates through sending vaccination reminders by phone, relying on mobile penetration and caregiver adoption. VillageReach has an evaluation planned for determining the impact of the solution on vaccination rates.

The program has been integrated into 13 languages to increase accessibility, including Baoulé, Guere, Lobi, Malinké, Moré, Mahouka, Koulango, Godié, Kroumen, Peulh, Yacouba, Senoufo and Bete. The M-Vaccin program has been deployed in 17 districts, including Nassian, Duekoue, Touba, Ouaninou, Koro, Bangolo, Biankouma, Fresco, Korhogo 1, Korhogo 2, Meagui, Odienné, Ouangolo, San Pedro, Sassandra, Soubré and Tabou.

VaccineCheck platform

In Côte d'Ivoire, 65% of the population has access to mobile data. To leverage this access, VillageReach has developed the VaccineCheck platform to share accurate information about COVID-19 vaccines. The platform is easy to use and is accessible across the country. The information this service provides includes: where to register for the vaccine; vaccine data (e.g. side effects); COVID-19 prevention and symptoms; and the latest number of cases.

The Côte d'Ivoire government has integrated the solution into the Nutrition Information System (NIS) for 2022 - 2025. The Extended Program on Immunization (EPI) is interested in expanding VaccineCheck to cover routine immunization topics.

To learn more about our work in Côte d'Ivoire, please reach out to Sié Kambire, M-Vaccin Deputy Project Manager in Côte d'Ivoire.

sie.kambire@villagereach.org

VILLAGEREACH