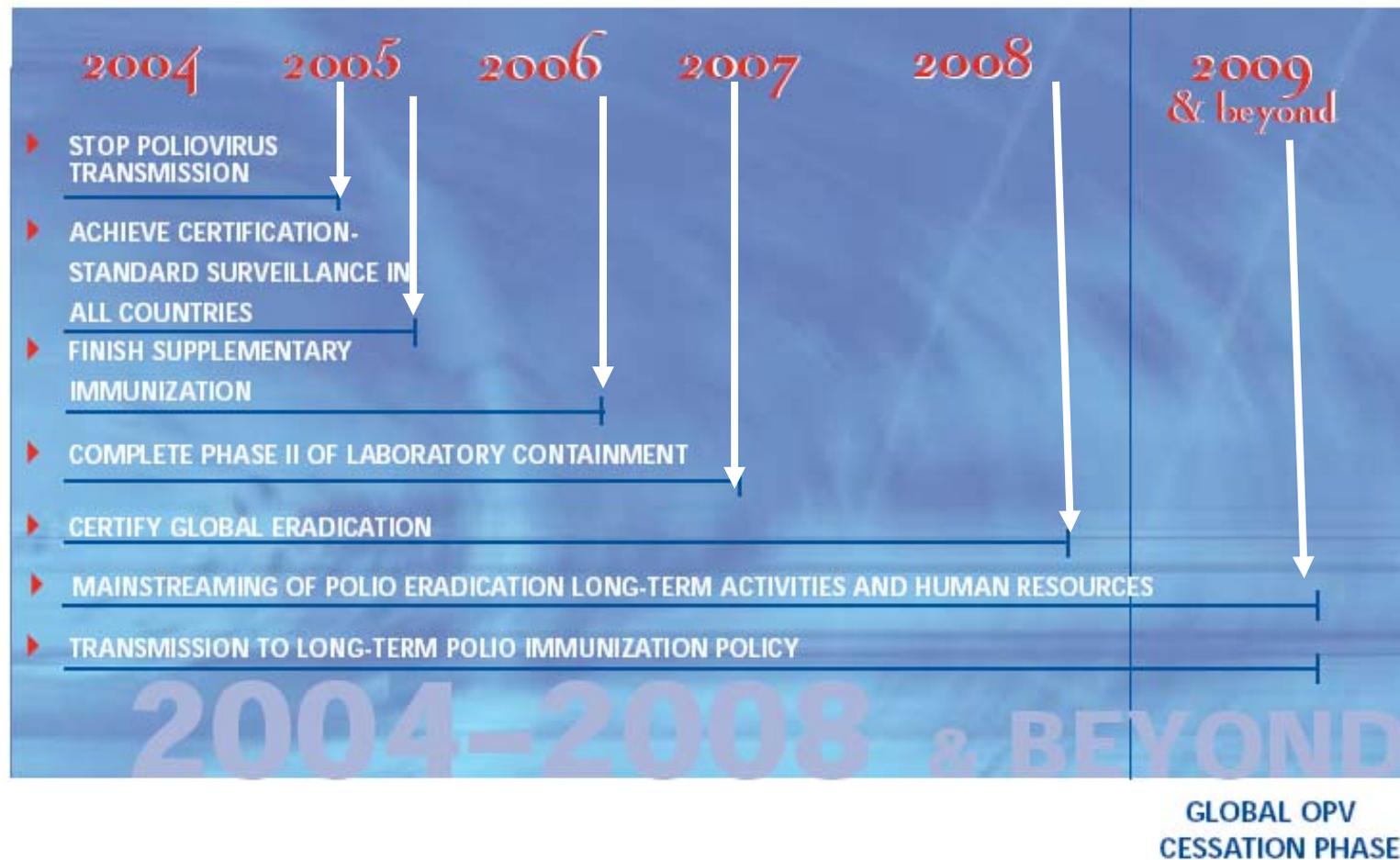


# **POLIO ERADICATION IN NIGERIA WHY? WHEN? AND HOW?**

**Polio Immunization: Moving Forward  
National Institutes of Health  
William H. Natcher Building  
September 19-20 2007**



**Figure 1:** Key targets to interrupt poliovirus transmission (2004-2005), achieve global certification and mainstream the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (2006-2008), and during the Global OPV Cessation Phase (2009 & beyond)



# QUESTIONS QUESTIONS QUESTIONS

Why has the **NIGERIAN** polio eradication program not met its goals in the anticipated timeframe?

What were the roles of the following factors?

- i. The high "force", speed and intensity of wild virus transmission
- ii. The low efficacy, effectiveness and herd effect of oral polio vaccine
- iii. The poor balance between "routine" and "supplementary" vaccinations.



# QUESTIONS QUESTIONS QUESTIONS

- What should be done to enable/ensure success by **NIGERIA** (latest, if at all feasible) by 2010?
- What is the vulnerability of **NIGERIA** in terms of importations and consequent outbreaks?
- What sustainable systems should be established /strengthened in **NIGERIA** to meet this challenge?



# POLIO ERADICATION IN NIGERIA

- STATUS

- WHY so late?

- WHEN will it end?

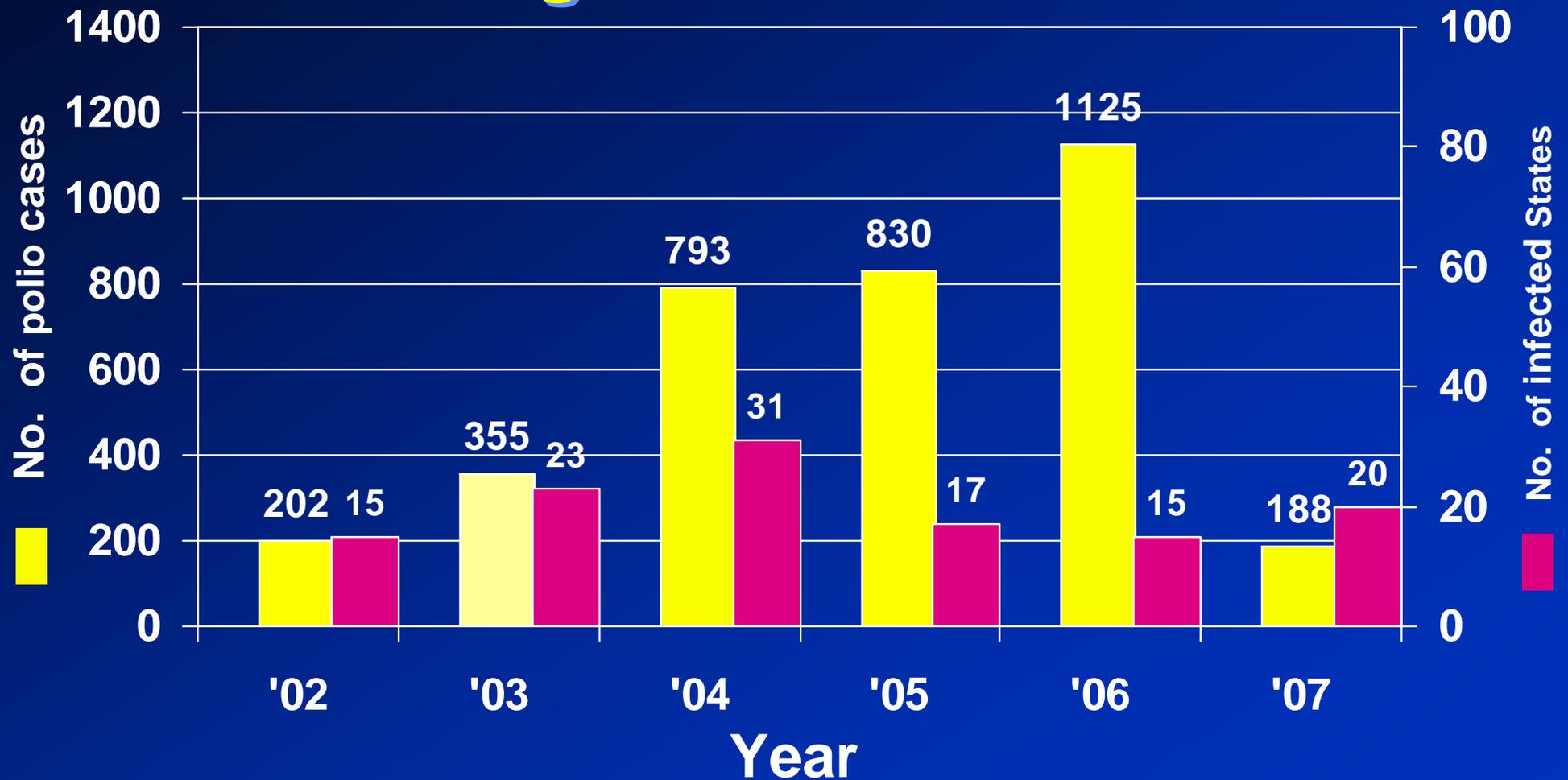
- HOW will it be done?

- WHAT lessons learnt?

- CONCLUSION



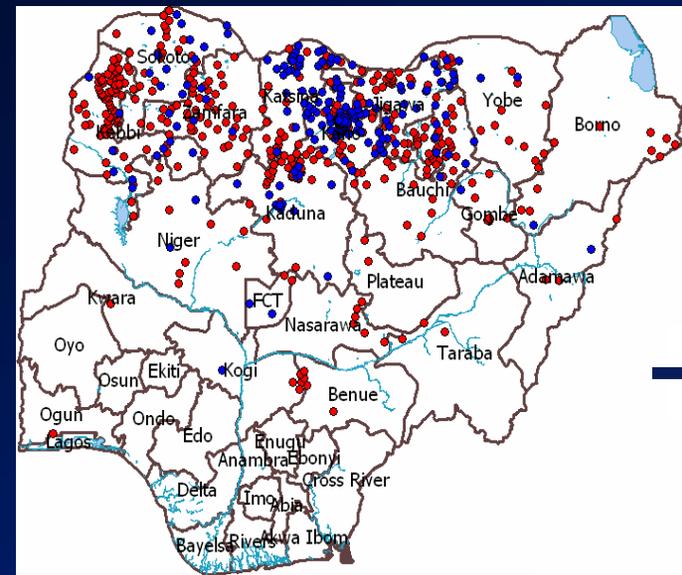
# Polio Cases and Infected States: Nigeria 2002-2007\*



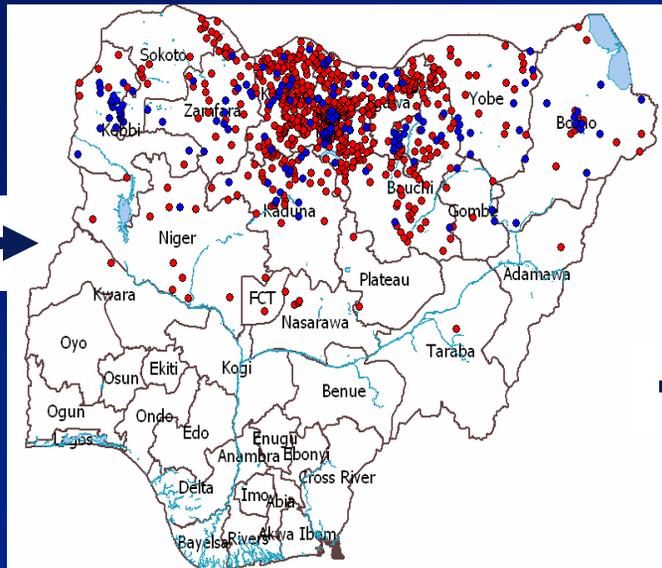
\*, as of September 17 2007



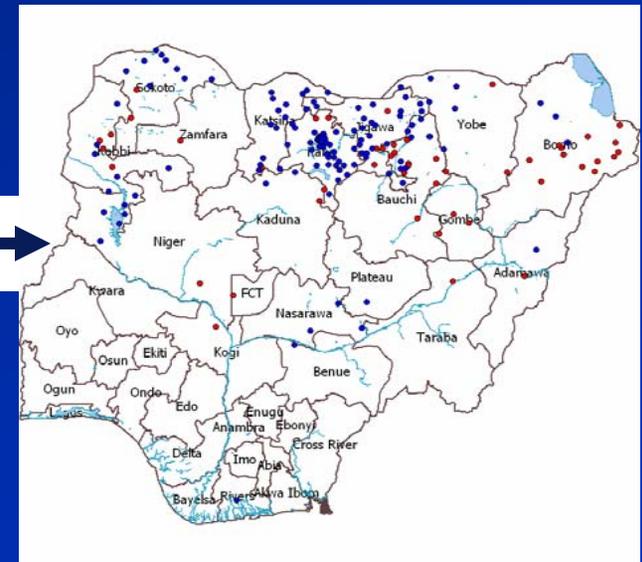
# WILD POLIOVIRUS CASES, NIGERIA, 2005 – 2007\*



**2005** (830 cases)



**2006** (1125 cases)



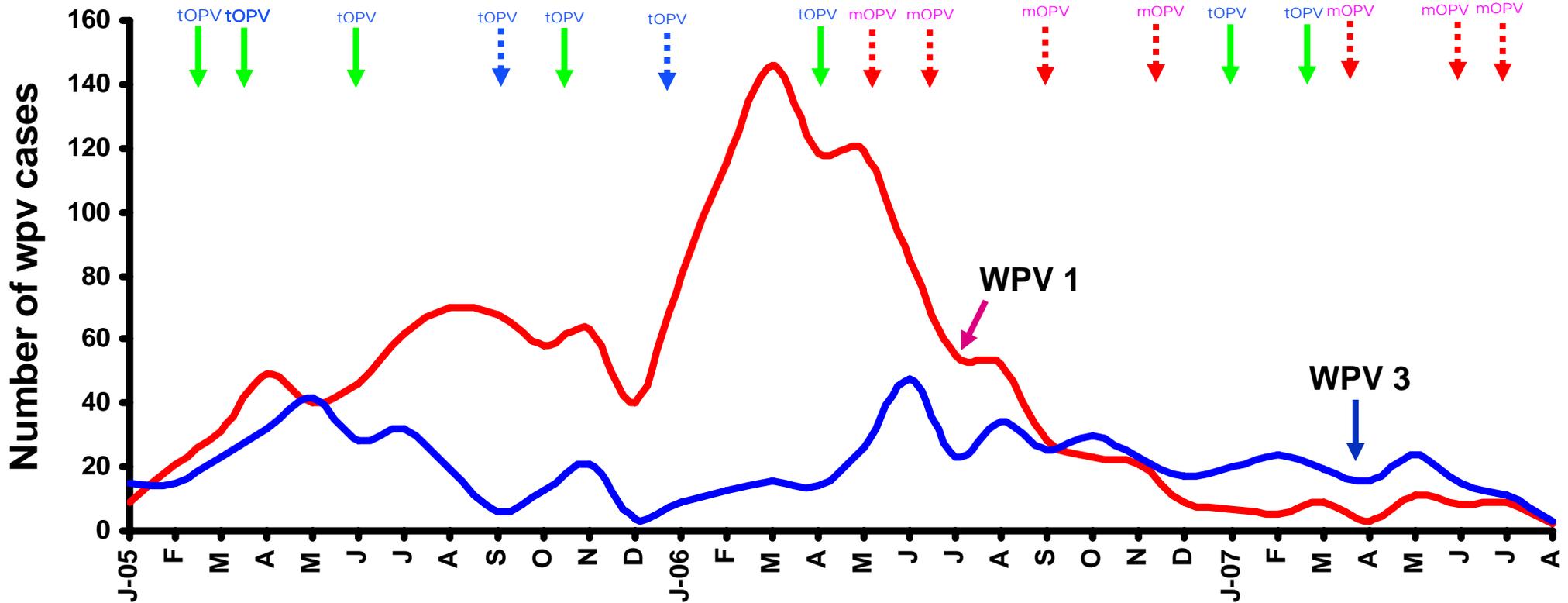
**2007** (188 cases)

- Wild Polio 1
- Wild Polio 3

\* , data as of Sep. 17



# 2005 – 2007 INTERVENTIONS & WPV ONSET BY MONTH AND TYPE



NIDs



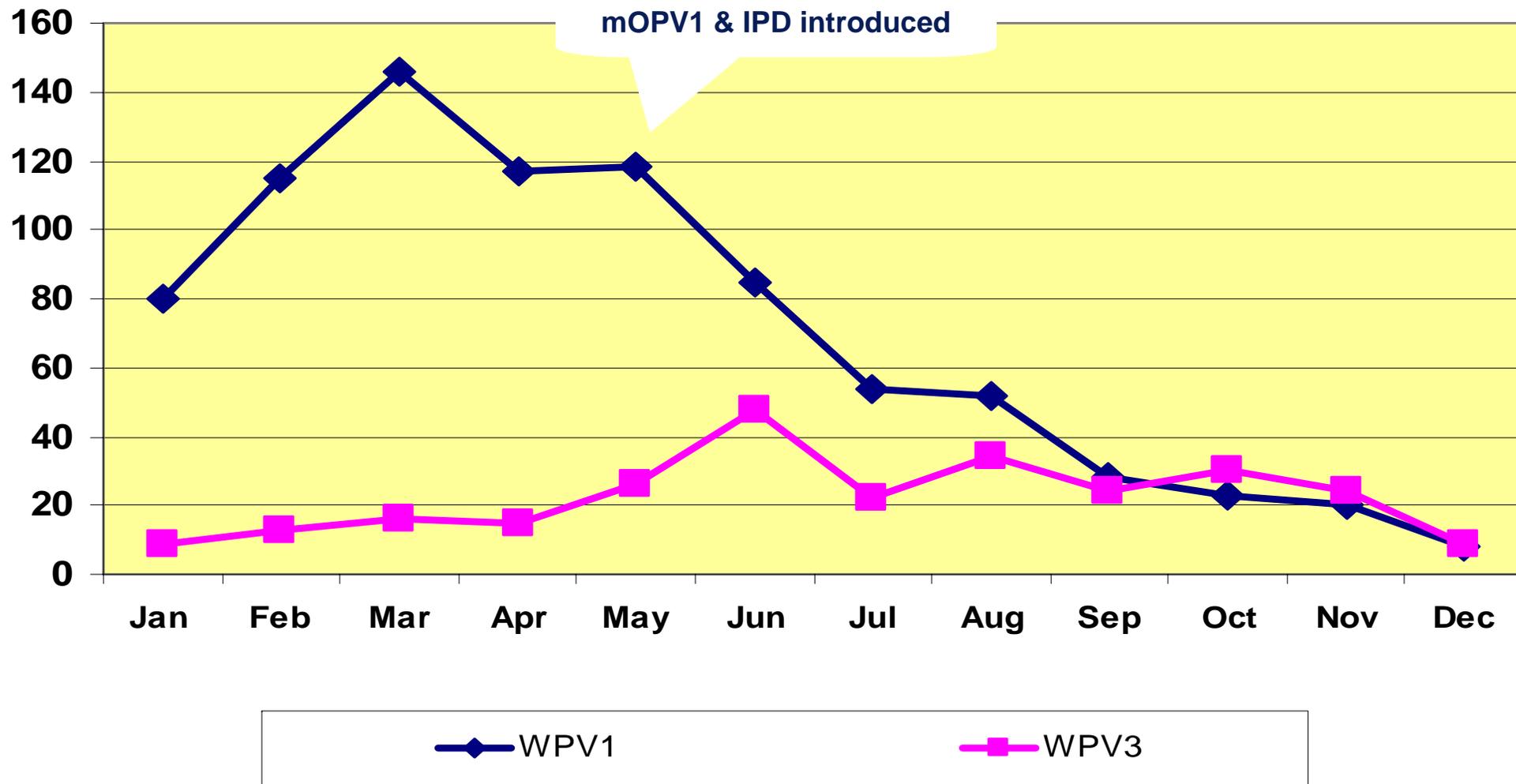
sNIDs



IPDs



# WILD POLIO VIRUS CIRCULATION POST *m*OPV1 & IPD INTRODUCTION, NIGERIA, 2006



# WHY WAS THERE A RESURGENCE OF POLIO IN NIGERIA AFTER 2003?

**2003**  
**355**

**2004**  
**793**

**2005**  
**830**

**2006**  
**1125**



# Polio Cases On the Increase

## This Day Newspapers (Lagos)

February 17, 2005, (Posted to the web February 18 2005) Agha Ibiam Lagos

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.....noted that a lot of factors contributed to the deterioration of the situation between 2003 and 2004. Some of the factors, he said, include:

- low quality supplemental immunisation activities (SIAs) in some areas of the country
- the well publicised suspension of immunisation in Kano, which later spread to other states,
- insufficient financing



# 1. Poor Quality SIAs

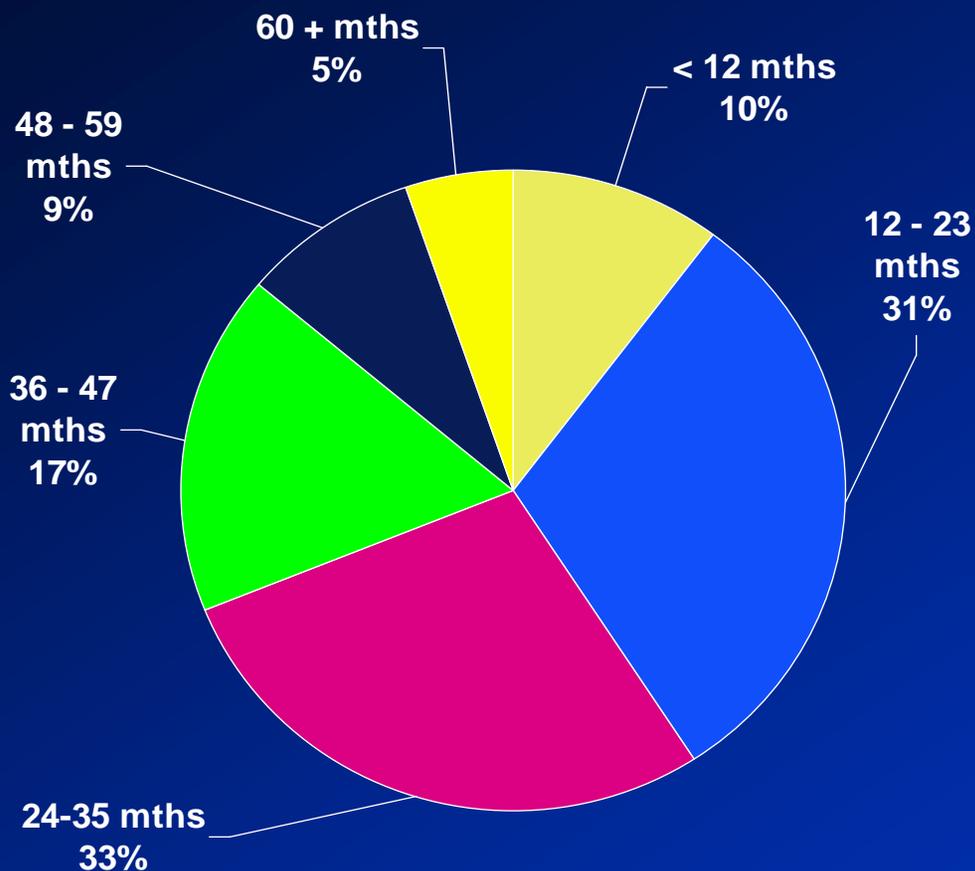


# Age and OPV status of 2007 WPV cases

n = 186

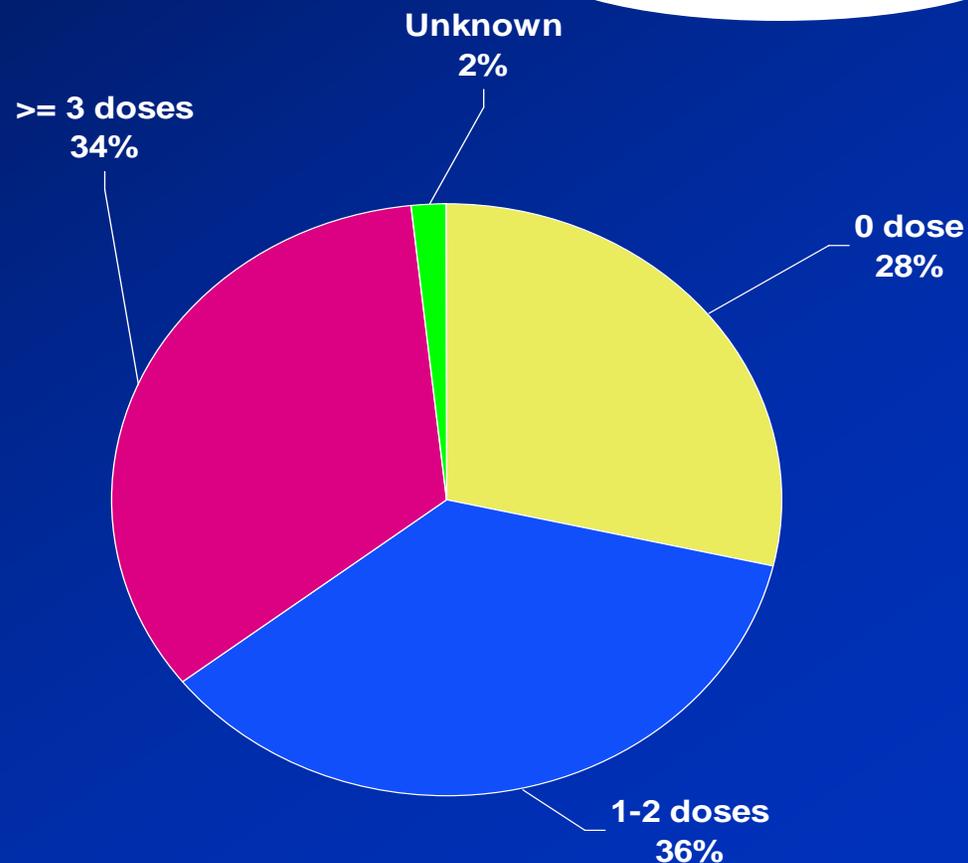
## AGE

74% < 3 years



## OPV

64% < 3 doses



# TRACK RECORDS OF POOR QUALITY IMMUNISATION

## Polio Eradication Race: Will Nigeria Finish Last?

40% of vaccinated children contracted diseases against which they were vaccinated

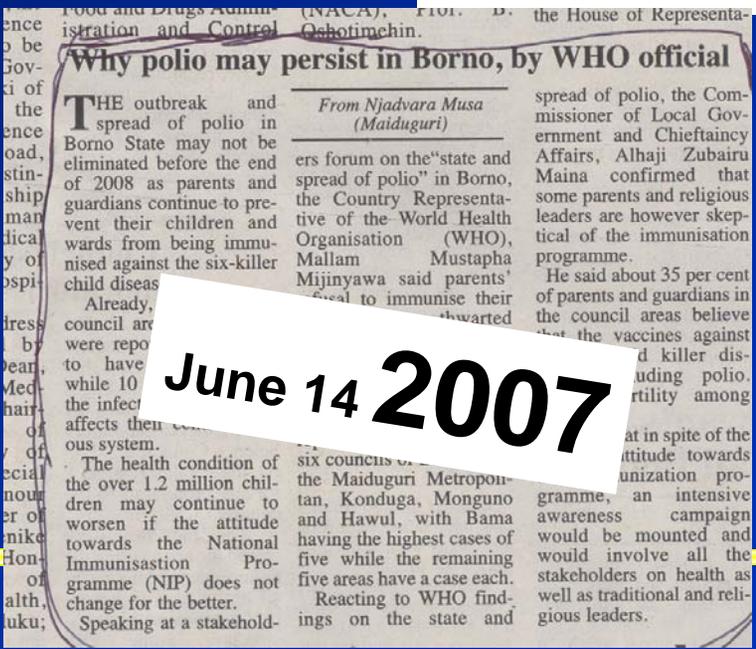


September 12 1989

Skeptical Parents Refuse to Bring children out for SIA



July 11 1994



June 14 2007

Urgent Need for Change of Attitude to Immunisation

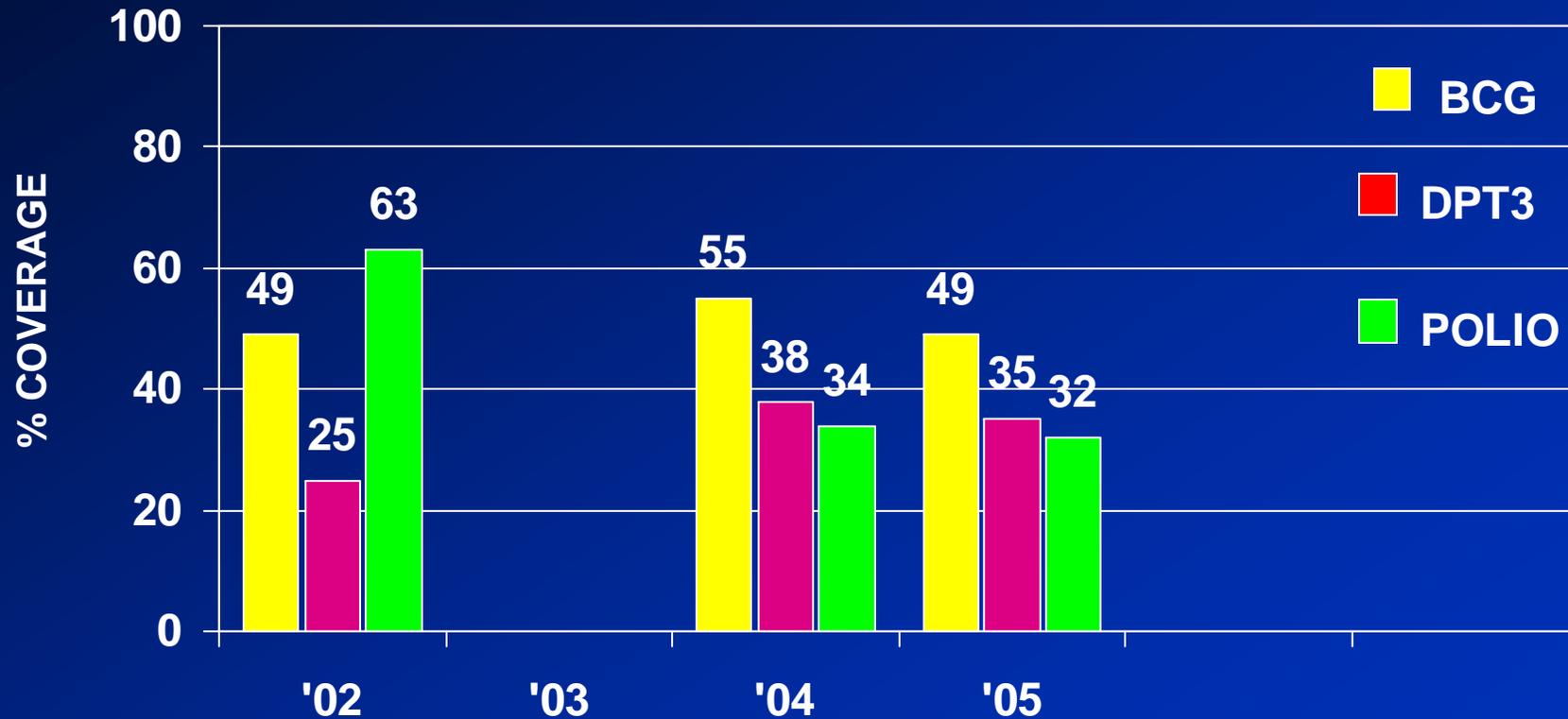
Oyewale TOMORI  
Redeemer's University,  
Nigeria



## 2. POOR QUALITY SIAs REPLACED ABANDONED ROUTINE IMMUNISATION”

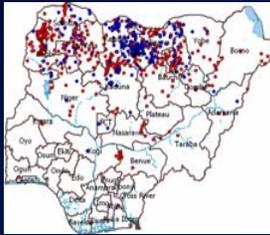


# IMMUNISATION COVERAGE, NIGERIA



# 3. SOCIAL & RELIGIOUS ISSUES NOT HANDLED WITH DESERVED SERIOUSNESS AND TACT!





**BBC NEWS**

## Nigeria sues drugs giant Pfizer



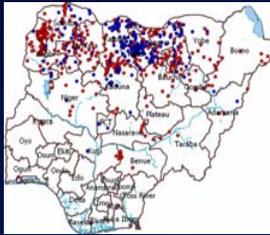
**Nigeria has filed charges against the pharmaceutical company Pfizer, accusing it of carrying out improper trials for an anti-meningitis drug.**



Story from BBC NEWS:  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/1/hi/world/africa/6719141.stm>

**Oyewale TOMORI**  
Redeemer's University,  
Nigeria





BBC NEWS

Nigeria sues drugs giant Pfizer



The BBC's Alex Last in Nigeria says the case has added to suspicion of western medicine and drug trials in northern Nigeria and that has had **a DAMAGING EFFECT ON ATTEMPTS TO GET THE WHOLE POPULATION TO ACCEPT POLIO IMMUNISATION.**

Kano was one of the Nigerian states which refused to take part in a WHO vaccination programme, leading to a re-emergence of polio in Nigeria and neighbouring countries.



# **Blogging Nigeria's Health Scene Saturday, 23 June 2007**

**Pfizer and the 1996 meningitis outbreak in Nigeria:  
 Who is lying? And 9 other questions**

- ✓ It is now common knowledge that Pfizer used Trovan, an unlicensed drug for treating meningitis in a 1996 CSM outbreak in Nigeria's KANO.**
- ✓ Of the 200 children who participated in the trial, five died and many others were left with disabilities.**



# Blogging Nigeria's Health Scene

## Pfizer & the 1996 meningitis outbreak in Nigeria: Who is lying? And 9 other questions

- Many believe that this single event, has led to the mistrust by the population of public health interventions that in turn was probably responsible for the ***rejection of polio vaccination, resulting in a massive outbreak in Northern Nigeria from 2003.***
- This set back the entire polio eradication programme several years, costing the world billions of dollars. Many Nigerians have become pessimistic on the achievability of this goal.



## 4. FUNDING GAPS

- Gaps resulting from:
  - Insufficient funds
  - Untimely release of funds
  - Misuse of released funds

All contributed to current situation



# LESSONS LEARNT

- Pay equal attention to social mobilization as was done for the science & vaccine of eradication
- Next time we set a date for eradication, let us NOT leave the most difficult to the last.
- We need to support every country to begin action at the same time.
- Nigeria needs a MAJOR attitudinal mutation
- Never give up!



# Looking into the future!



**A**S of August 2002, only Afghanistan, India, Niger, Pakistan,

Somalia, and Nigeria are still reporting cases of polio in the world. It was in April 1999, on the occasion of World Health Day, and at the invitation of the WHO office in Nigeria, that I delivered a lecture titled: polio eradication race: Will Nigeria be the last? Seven years later, with only six countries in which wild polio virus is still circulating, I make bold to say that Nigeria will not be the last. In writing this article, I had toyed with different titles:

"Polio eradication race: Nigeria should not be the last", "polio eradication race: Nigeria must not be the last", "polio eradication race: Nigeria cannot be the last". Each of these titles, reveal elements of doubt as to Nigeria taking the unenviable honour of being the last country in the world to be polio free. But who will be so bold to assert that Nigeria will not be the last, going by the second nature of my country to dish out the unexpected and spring unpleasant surprises? Such confidence can only come from someone who knows that once Nigeria puts her mind to do something positive or negative, it succeeds admirably and beyond anyone's imagination.

The stigma of being the last in the league of nations remains with you and your unborn generation. Each time I see that picture of the Somali man, who was the last case of smallpox in the world, I wonder how his countrymen must be feeling, knowing that every history book has Somali as the last country to be free of small pox. Notwithstanding that Britain

## Polio eradication race: Nigeria won't be the last

By Oyewale Tomori

Tomori makes the case, that given Nigeria's resources, it ought not be the last to eradicate polio disease.

stole the honour, through a laboratory accident in Birmingham in 1998, the history books will never show the British face of the accidentally smallpox infected person. For the so-called Third World countries, a bad name on a poor reputation sticks like mud to refuse. The developed world can afford a few stigmas, here and there, but it does not stick as much as a disgrace on a "Third World" country. A thousand "Enrons" plus ten thousand "World.com" would still not give America a name as bad as Nigeria would get if it comes out last in polio eradication race. What do you expect? Are you surprised? Would be the logical *quesponse* (*quesponse* is the hybrid of a question and response). Why should Nigeria NOT be the last country to be declared free of polio?

Several reasons, but I will just mention a few. Let us look at the six countries that are still reporting polio cases. Afghanistan and Somalia have never really known peace for the last 30 years or more. Perhaps India and Pakistan still have a score to settle over Kashmir, while Niger would have been free of polio, if not for sharing borders with us from Sokoto State, all the way to Borno State, and receiving

the spillover of polio virus from us. Nigeria cannot give the excuse of being at war, nor can we lay our misfortune on poverty. So tell me, what reason does Nigeria have to be the last country in the world to be free of polio virus? Do you know that countries like Angola, Eritrea, and Democratic Republic of Congo have been free of polio for the last two to three years? These are countries that have been ravaged by war for decades, yet they took time out of the wars, to do what it takes to rid their countries of the scourge and the permanent disability and paralysis of polio. They had time to care for their children.

Nigeria is the same country that has spent billions of dollars, through ECOMOG to bring peace and democracy to Sierra Leone and Liberia. Our own Obasanjo has of recent, been in the forefront of ridding countries in the ECOWAS region of polio. On October 19, 2001, he joined Tejan Kabba of Sierra Leone and Alpha Konare of Mali to sign the Lungi Declaration, committing themselves, among other things, to "pursue the polio eradication initiative...until the ECOWAS subregion is certified polio free". Today, apart from Nigeria and Niger, all other countries in West Africa, even Sierra Leone and Liberia, are free of wild polio virus. Never again will we see any child in Sierra Leone supporting with calipers, the leg that polio virus did not cripple, the days are gone when we will point at a polio maimed child scrambling and

begging for alms in the dusty streets of Buchanan in Liberia. Why then should any child in any part of Nigeria continue to be numbered among polio victims? Why should any child in Nigeria remain, forever, a permanent polio paralysed problem to his or her family? You know, many Nigerians are serving as consultants and experts, providing support to assistance and technical support to several African countries, which today are no longer reporting polio cases. If the nation collectively and individually has contributed to stopping polio transmission in Liberia and Sierra Leone, why has *Falana* not looked after his own problem? Charity, at one time, used to begin at home. Even if it no longer does, it can at least return home to benefit her children.

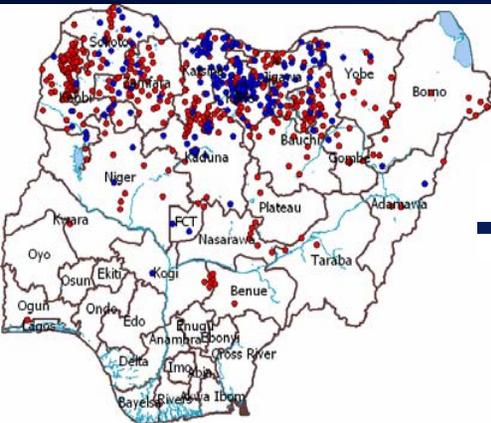
Another reason why Nigeria should NOT be the last country to be declared free of polio is because at home, we have the resources: human, monetary and material to rid our country of polio. Only in recent years have there being serious political commitment and support for polio eradication in Nigeria. Not that political commitment was lacking since 1996 or 1997, but the translation of the commitment to useful plan and implementation may not have met acceptable standards. Perhaps, the children, the target and beneficiary of the immunisation programmes, did not reap the maximum benefits from the political commitment and attendant financial input. However, one thing we can say about President Obasanjo's government is that his government has, by action and words, given support to polio eradication programme in Nigeria. The government has continued to provide billions of naira to ensure that every child, who should, gets his or her polio vaccine. The hope is that no Nigerian child would be lame and rendered dependent on someone else for the rest of his or life.

• To be continued

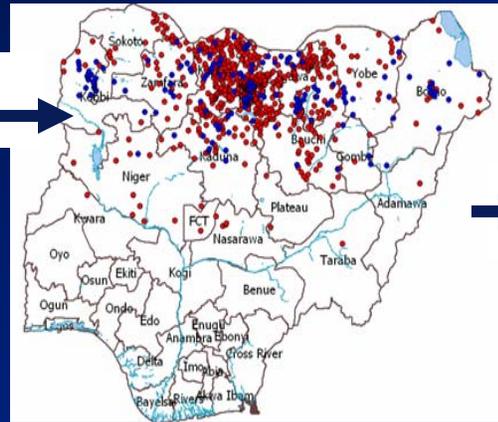
Oyewale TOMORI  
Redeemer's University,  
Nigeria



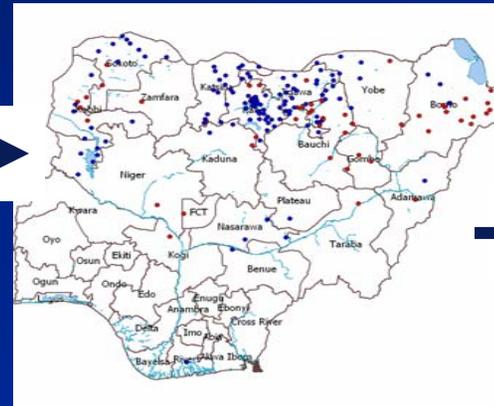
# POLIO ERADICATION BY 2010



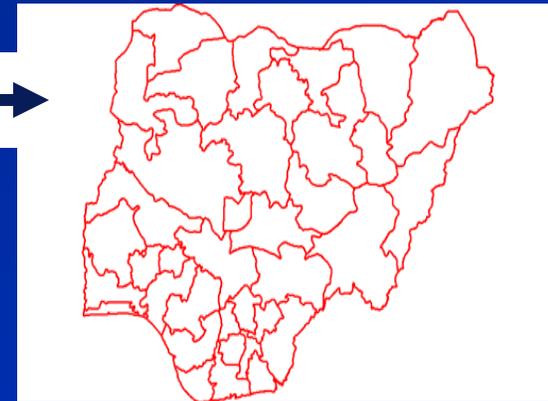
**2005** (830 cases)



**2006** (1125 cases)



**2007** (188 cases)



**2008** (0 case)

- Wild Polio 1
- Wild Polio 3

