



Plus Project: Experience and lessons learnt from implementation

Lilly Claire Ekobika Ngom Priso
Country Lead Plus Project Cameroon



A mother brings her infant to a PMC implementing clinic to receive a dose of SP for PMC. Cote d'Ivoire 2023.



The Plus Project, briefly:

In Benin, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire and Mozambique (focus countries) co-design and implement country-adapted models of PMC integrated into existing health systems.

Evaluate the feasibility, effectiveness, and cost-effectiveness of PMC in focus countries using impact, process, and economic evaluations, policy adoption studies, and SP resistance mapping to help countries decide where and how to scale. Conduct limited evaluations in 3 additional countries (DRC, Ghana, and Zambia) to support consideration of PMC.

Disseminate implementation learnings and research evidence broadly to help other countries decide if and how to use PMC as part of their malaria prevention strategies.

Provide targeted technical assistance to countries (DRC, Tanzania, Burundi, etc) to support introduction of PMC.

Project Goal

Reduction in morbidity and mortality due to malaria and anemia in children under age two in countries adopting PMC.

Project Outcomes

- Increased access to high-quality PMC among children under two in each focus country.
- Evidence generated to catalyze sustained uptake of PMC in the focus countries and others in SSA.



PMC Co-design: what did we do?



Co-Design Workshop in Mozambique, June 2022

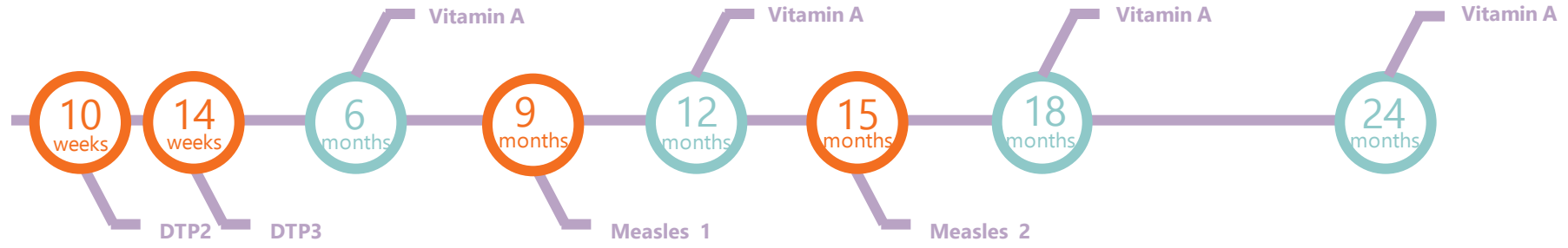
- Partnership with the National Malaria Programs from the beginning; NMPs were focal points and connected us to EPIs, MCH, etc.
- Stakeholder mapping to better understand the different influence of stakeholders, understand who to include at the co-design workshop.
- Collected and reviewed available data, program and policy information.
- Worked with Swiss TPH on modelling IPTi+/PMC impact to share with country governments during co-design workshop.
- Drafted master agenda using different facilitation techniques (interactive, small group, etc) and then adapted to each country.



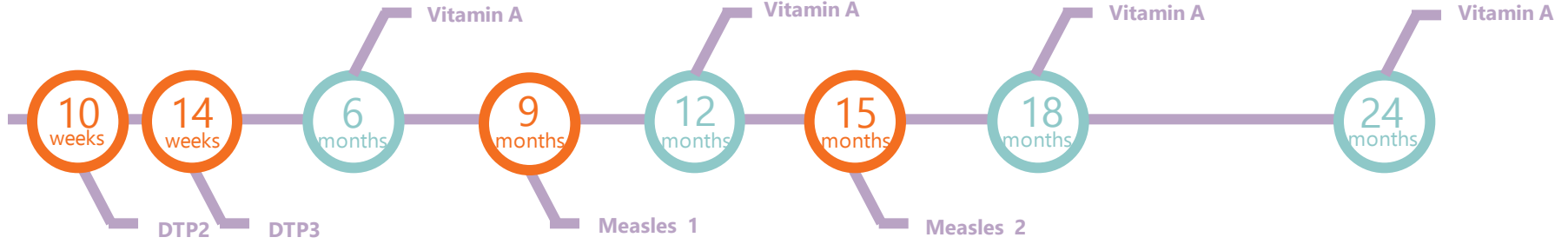
PMC Models in Focus Countries



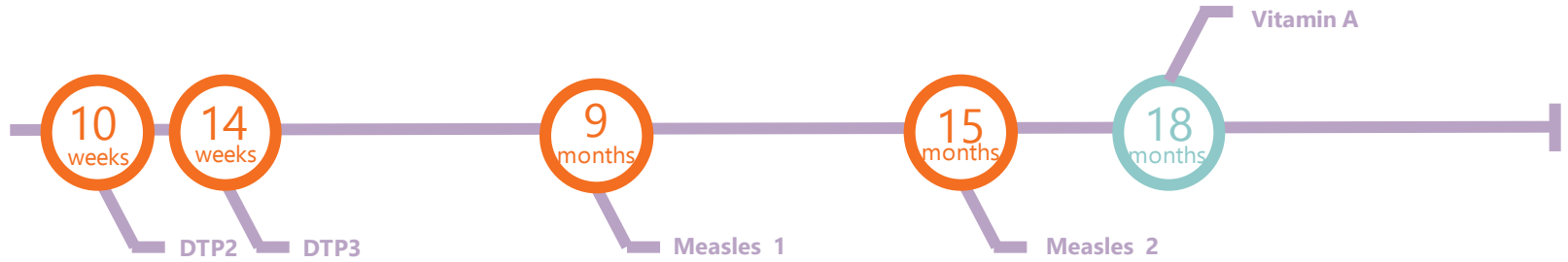
BENIN:
8 target doses



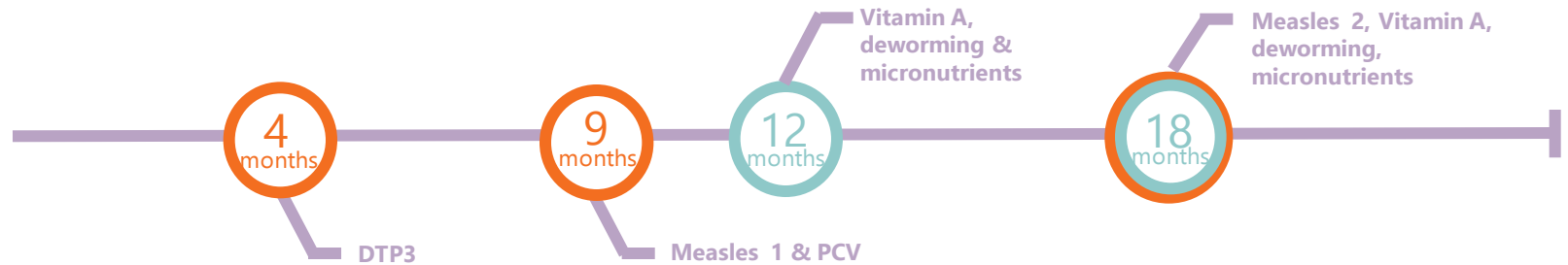
CAMEROON:
8 target doses



COTE D'IVOIRE:
5 target doses



MOZAMBIQUE:
4 target doses



PMC Implementation Start-up

- Training of Trainers and step-down training to providers and CHWs
- Work with NMCP and EPI to (ideally) adapt existing data collection tools for PMC data collection or to develop PMC specific data collection tools.
- Develop PMC supervision plans and checklist which are integrated into existing supervision system.
- Design Community Engagement activities with national and subnational stakeholders, focusing on caregivers of children under 2, Community Health Workers, and Providers as the key target audiences.
- Order, import, and integrate SP into existing stock systems and pharmacovigilance systems.
- Complete sub-national introduction of PMC gaining support for start of PMC from sub-national stakeholders and community members.
- Training of pharmacovigilance focal points and develop a pharmacovigilance plan



Documentation of SP doses administered in registry books and vaccine booklets by providers at CSU Appoiso.



PMC Implementation Highlights

- Over 188, 490 doses of SP for PMC delivered at 600 health facilities in four focus countries between November 2022 and June 2023.
- Supportive Supervisions happening in focus countries.
 - Observation and non-observational supervisions.
 - No major concerns with PMC delivery; small improvements identified through visits and improved.
- Pharmacovigilance activities identified based on country context and developed to integrate with and strengthen existing systems.



Child receiving first dose of SP for PMC, Abengourou, Cote d'Ivoire.



PMC Implementation Highlights

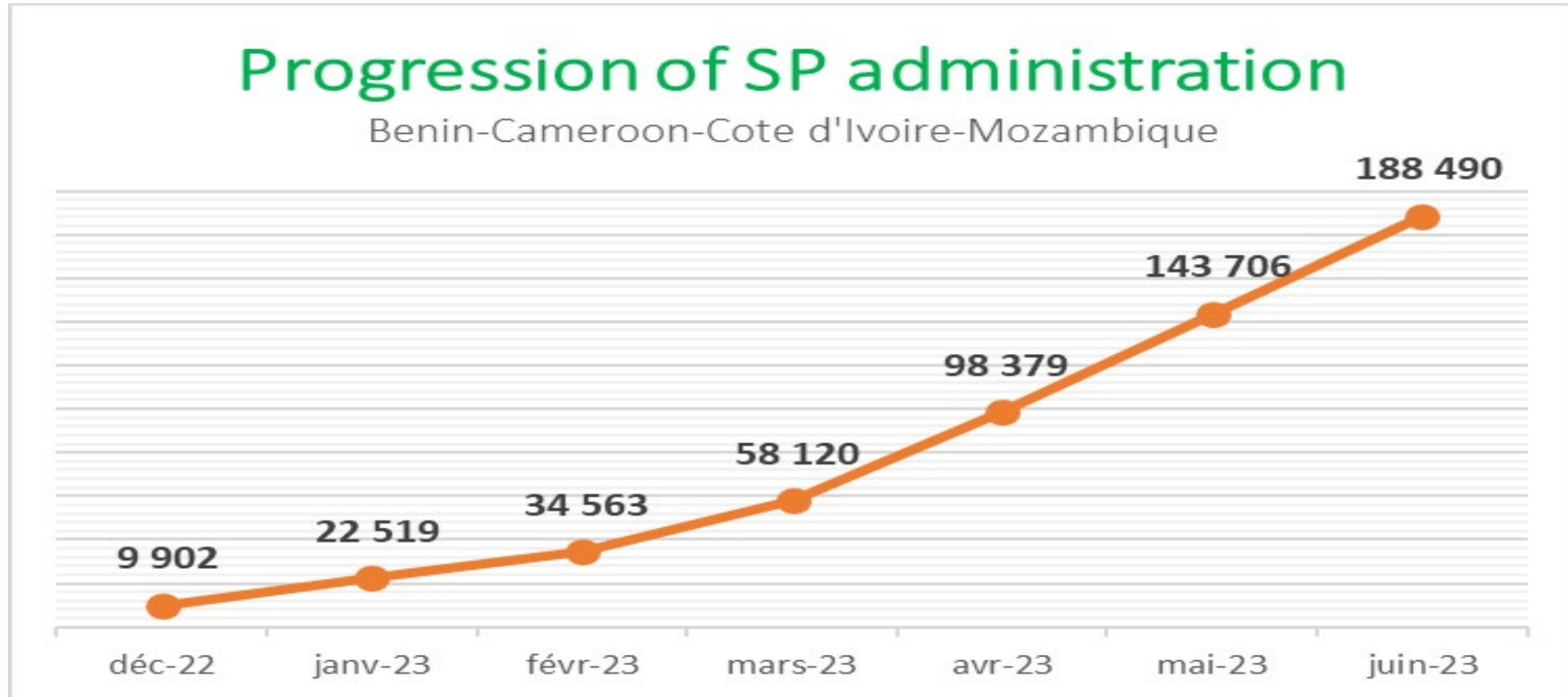
- Routine M&E data systems are operational
 - Integrated M&E in Benin, Cameroon, and Mozambique.
 - Parallel tools in Cdl lead to longer time for data entry.
- DQA (Data Quality Assurance) activities have started and are conducted routinely in all four focus countries.
- Community Engagement activities:
 - Cote d'Ivoire and Cameroon actively implementing CE including with CHWs, local leader involvement, radio spot development, etc.
 - Benin and Mozambique CE strategies & materials under development.



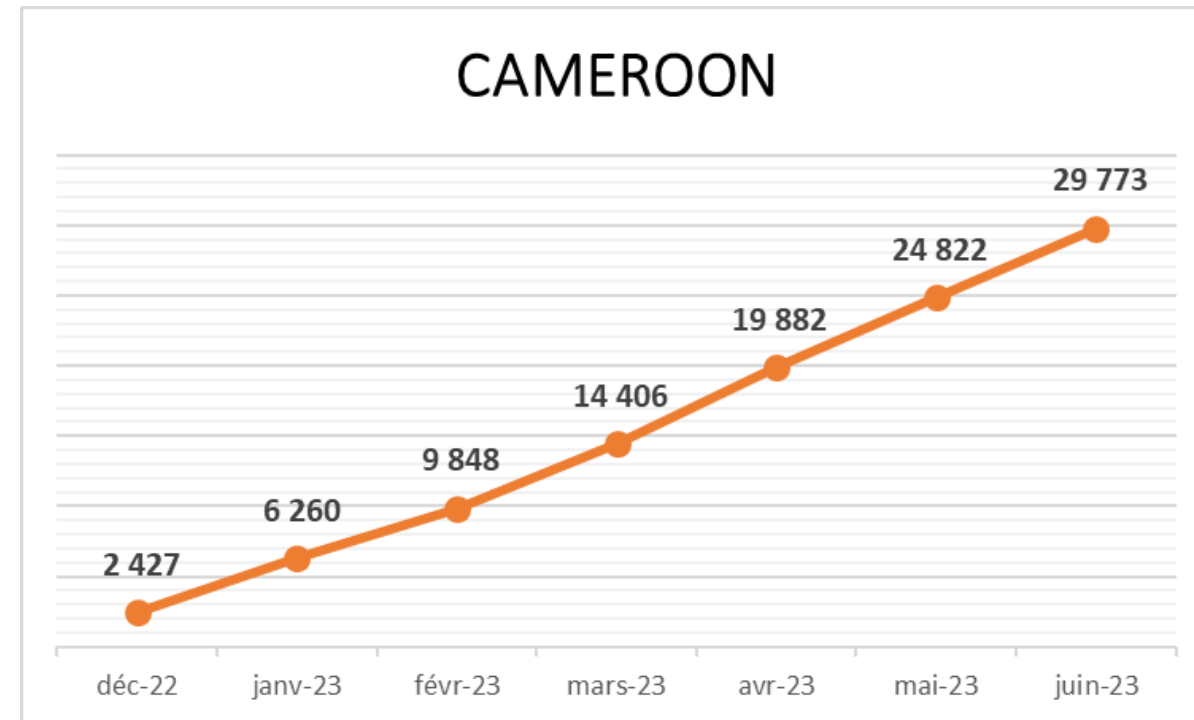
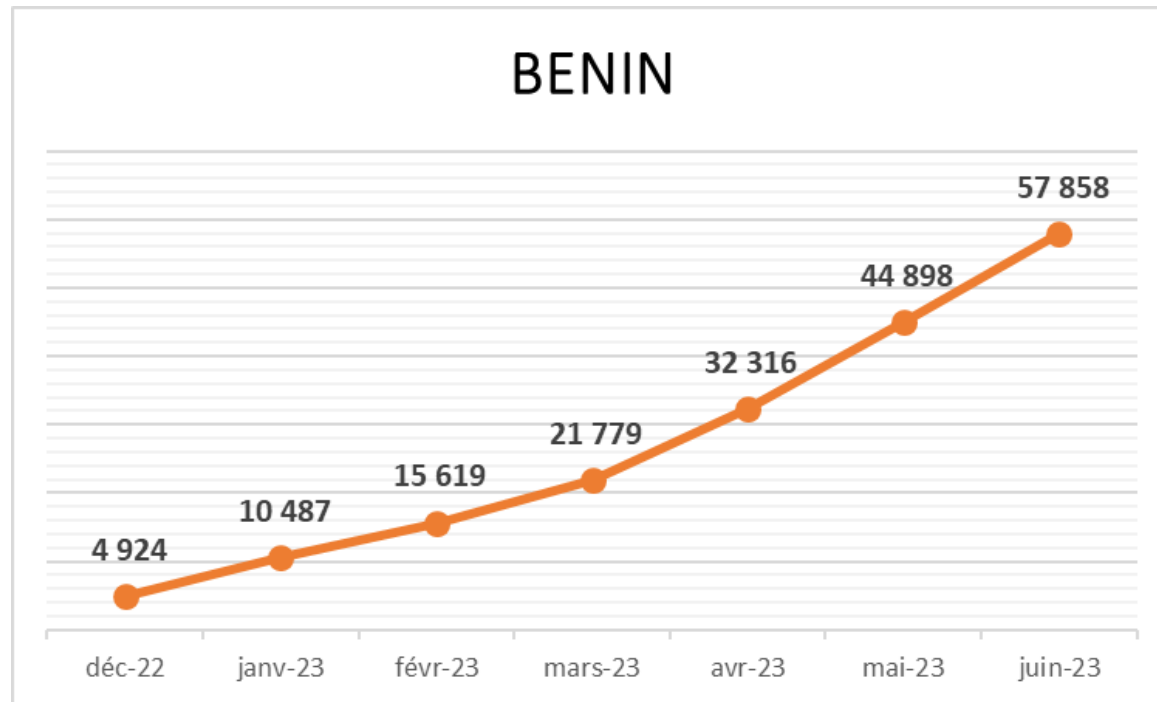
Mother and child who received SP for PMC in Nhamantanda, Mozambique. June 2023.



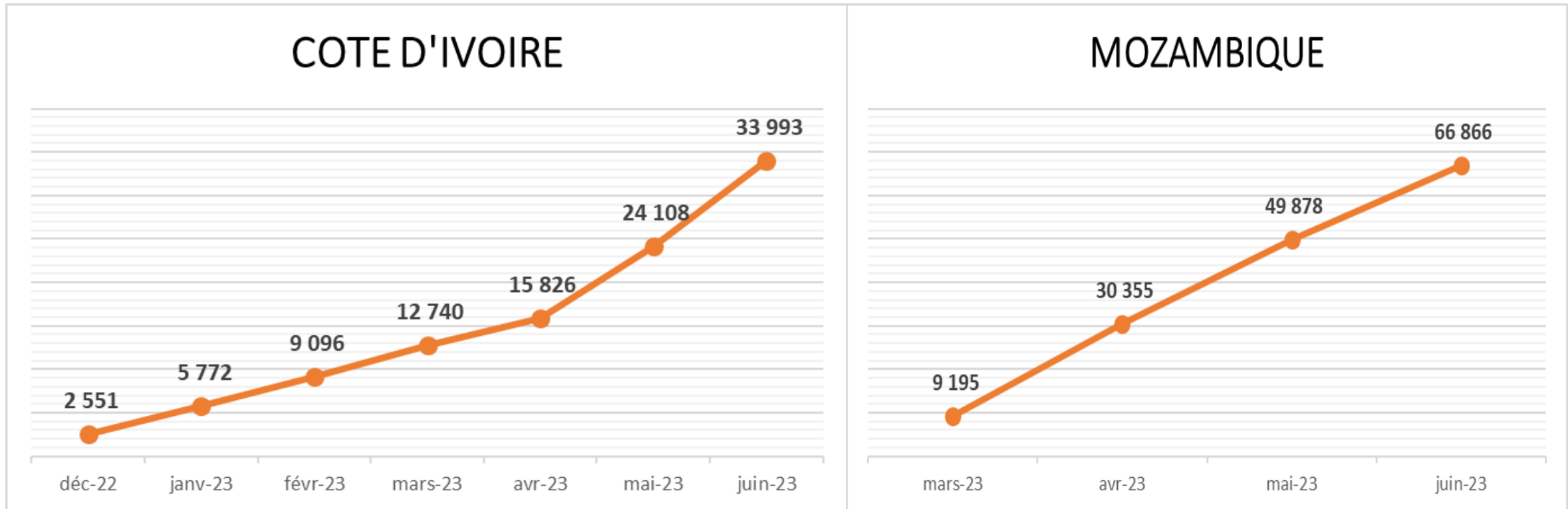
Progress on SP administration



Progress on SP administration by country



Progress on SP administration by country (con't)



Early PMC Implementation: Main challenges

- Filling new registers
- Accuracy and completeness of data
- Some confusion identified about catch-up schedules and data collection (what is SP1?)
- Anticipation of SP replenishments by the health care providers though the districts, which sometimes leads to stock-outs
- Motivation and real involvement of health care providers not always optimal because of the additional workload perceived as a result of this new intervention
- Adverse events not systematically reported because of lack of reporting forms for ALL activities (not just PMC)
- Involvement of EPI not very clear in some countries



Providers filling out vaccine booklets during vaccine clinic at health facility implementing SP for PMC



PMC Implementation: Lessons learnt

- Getting MoH approval on matters beyond NMCP control sometimes can take longer than expected, even with NMCP commitment and leadership
- Bringing together key partners to co-design the intervention helps everyone understands its role from scratch and bring in valuable inputs
- Vaccination remains the major platform for PMC delivery. Thus, it is important to bring EPI on board right from the co-conception to ensure success of the intervention
- The involvement of NMCP and local authorities at all levels facilitates ownership of the intervention by the implementing partners



Children receiving SP for PMC during vaccination day, Nkolbisson Cameroon



PMC Implementation: Lessons learnt (con't)

- Community engagement is key to the uptake of intervention by target groups
- PMC supervision can be integrated into existing supervisions and is adapted to match the context: in this case the EPI schedule (i.e. vaccine & non-vaccine day supervisions)
- PMC catch-up strategy optimizes the uptake of SP for children
- Frequent coordination and data review meetings help improve on data quality



Child receiving SP for PMC, Soa-Cameroon



PMC & The Plus Project: Stay Involved

- Two meetings of the PMC Community of Practice have been held.
 - Next meeting planned for September 27, 2023
 - In-person meeting being planned for ASTMH 2023.
 - In-person meeting for 2024 also considered.
- Learning Dissemination – majority of materials are available in English & French; Portuguese being added
 - Quarterly External Bulletins continue
 - Website with ongoing updates: <https://www.psi.org/project/plusproject/>
 - Webinar series (2 done on supervision/catch-up strategy and community engagement; next one in November)
- ASTMH Symposium accepted: Benefits and challenges of WHO chemoprevention guidelines giving increased autonomy for decision-making to countries

Please share your email with me, Lilly Claire or email Malia Skjefte at muskjefte@psi.org to be added to mailing lists.





Thank you

www.psi.org/project/plusproject

