



World Health Organization (WHO) Immunization Schedule in Nigeria:

Vaccine	Age of Vaccination	Cost of Vaccine (WHO/UNICEF 2002)	Description of the Infectious Disease
BCG (Tuberculosis)	Birth	7 cents	Airborne. Usually causes pulmonary infection, but can spread to many other organs, causing serious illness, death and disability. An untreated person with active TB disease can infect on average between 10 and 15 people every year. In 2005, 30% of global incidence of TB occurred in Africa amounting over 2.5 million new infections. (WHO)
DTwP (Pertussis / Whooping Cough)	6, 10, 14 weeks	7 cents	Pertussis, or whooping cough, is a disease of the respiratory tract caused by bacteria that live in the mouth, nose, and throat. Many children who contract pertussis have coughing spells that last four to eight weeks. Very dangerous in infants. In 2000, approximately 39 million new cases emerged and the disease claimed 297,000 lives worldwide. (WHO) Diphtheria: an upper respiratory tract infection with throat swelling and an adherent membrane that can cause death by asphyxiation. Tetanus-see below
Hepatitis B	Birth; 10, 16 weeks	32-90 cents	Hepatitis B is a potentially life-threatening liver infection caused by the hepatitis B virus. It is a major global health problem and the most serious type of viral hepatitis. It can cause chronic liver disease and puts people at high risk of death from cirrhosis of the liver and liver cancer. Worldwide, an estimated two billion people have been infected with the hepatitis B virus (HBV), and more than 350 million have chronic (long-term) liver infections. A vaccine against hepatitis B has been available since 1982. Hepatitis B vaccine is 95% effective in preventing HBV infection and its chronic consequences, and is the first vaccine against a major human cancer. (WHO)
Measles	9 months	14 cents	Measles is a highly contagious, serious disease caused by a virus. It remains a leading cause of death among young children globally, despite the availability of a safe and effective vaccine. An estimated 197 000 people died from measles in 2007, mostly children under the age of five. It is a common precursor of nutritional blindness and noma.
Meningitis	High-risk groups	40 cents	Meningitis is an infection of the meninges, the thin lining that surrounds the brain and the spinal cord. Several different bacteria can cause meningitis and Neisseria meningitidis is one of the most important (WHO)
OPV (Polio)	Birth; 6, 10, 16 weeks	10 cents	Mainly affects children under five years of age. One in 200 infections leads to irreversible paralysis. Among those paralyzed, 5% to 10% die when their breathing muscles become immobilized. Persistent pockets of polio transmission in India, northern Nigeria and Afghanistan and Pakistan are key epidemiological challenges. (WHO)
TT (Tetanus toxoid)	1st contact pregnancy; TT2 +6 months after; TT3 +1 year after	7 cents	Tetanus is caused by the bacterium Clostridium tetani, the spores of which are widespread in the environment. The disease is caused by the action of a neurotoxin, produced by the bacteria when they grow in the absence of oxygen, e.g. in dirty wounds or in the umbilical cord if it is cut with a non-sterile instrument. Tetanus is characterized by muscle spasms, initially in the jaw muscles. As the disease progresses, mild stimuli may trigger generalized tetanic seizure-like activity, which contributes to serious complications and eventually death unless supportive treatment is given. Tetanus can be prevented by the administration of tetanus toxoid, which induces specific antitoxins. To prevent maternal and neonatal tetanus, tetanus toxoid needs to be given to the mother before or during pregnancy, and clean delivery and cord care needs to be ensured. (WHO)
Yellow Fever	9 months	12-25 cents	Yellow fever is a viral disease, found in tropical regions of Africa and the Americas. . There is no specific treatment for yellow fever. Vaccination is highly recommended as a preventive measure for travellers to, and people living in, endemic countries.

Vaccine preventable diseases account for approximately 22% of child deaths in Nigeria, amounting to over 200,000 deaths per year. International donor communities have recognized the need for control of childhood illnesses and polio eradication, creating an opportune time to control vaccine preventable illnesses in the region. Resistance to polio vaccine is reportedly persisting in some regions, however some recent reports suggest that in some communities there is a greater felt need for prevention of diseases that are far more common in the communities, such as measles, malaria and meningitis. This suggests that an integrated and permanent system for delivery of routine vaccination services may be more acceptable to some sectors of the populations that have resisted polio eradication efforts.