



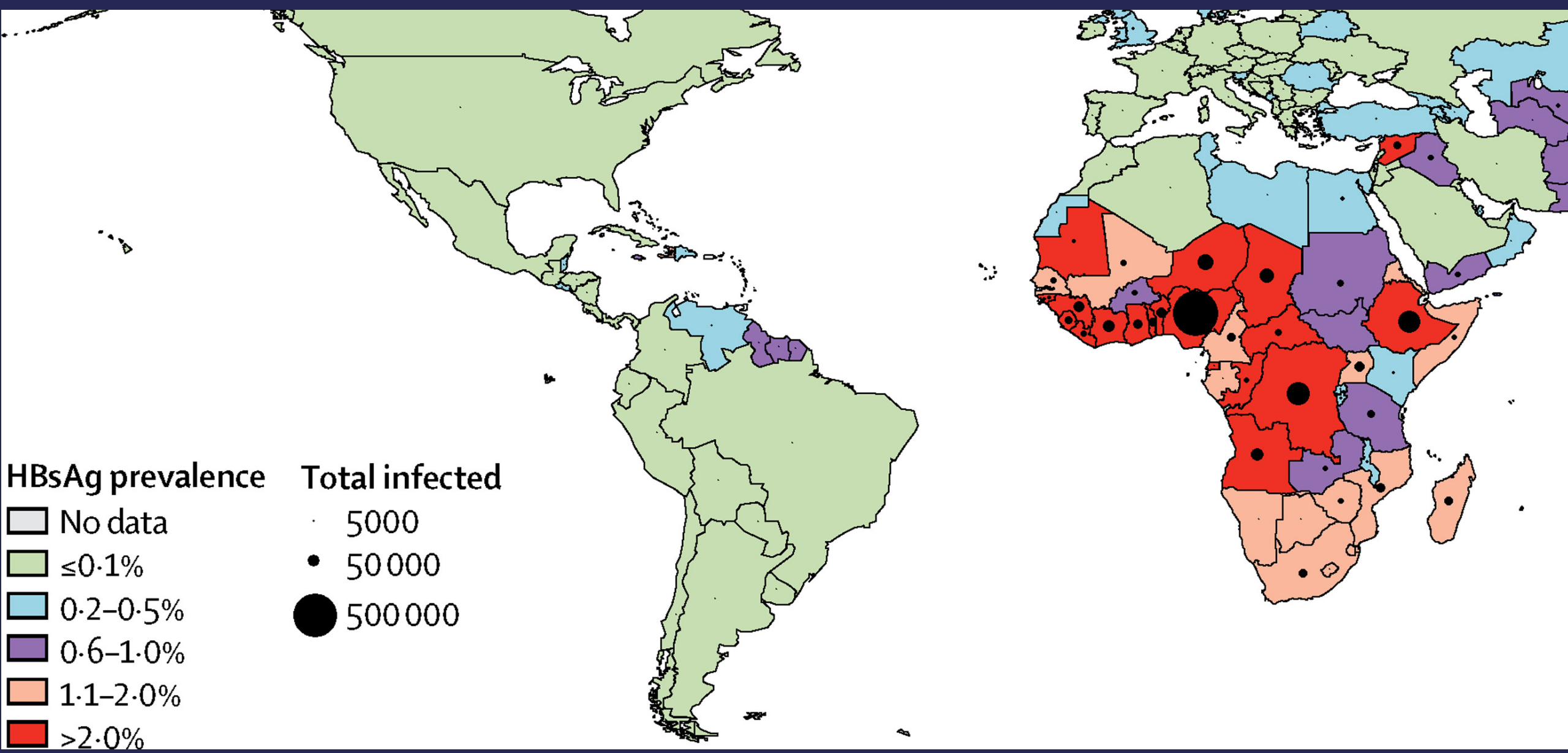
African Hepatitis Summit 2019

KAMPALA, UGANDA 18-20 JUNE

**Eliminating Viral Hepatitis in Africa;
Implementing the
Viral Hepatitis Strategy**

Overview

- Basic Epidemiology of HBV in Africa
 - Case examples: Ethiopia, Nigeria, DRC, Uganda
- World Organization Viral Hepatitis Scorecard
- Challenges to HBV
- Strengths
- Opportunities



Epidemiology

- Viral hepatitis in Africa is becoming a bigger threat than dying of AIDS, malaria or TB.
- Every day viral hepatitis complications claim the lives of at least 550 people a day - more than 200,000 per year. One person dies of HBV every 2.5 minutes.

The overview of Viral Hepatitis in Africa



High prevalence of HBV infection (more than 5%) in the general population is seen in 30 of the 47 countries

-12 of which bear more than 65% of the regional burden



Highest HBV prevalence in children under 5 is seen in 9 countries and is associated with lack of HBV birth dose vaccination and suboptimal coverage of the pentavalent vaccination

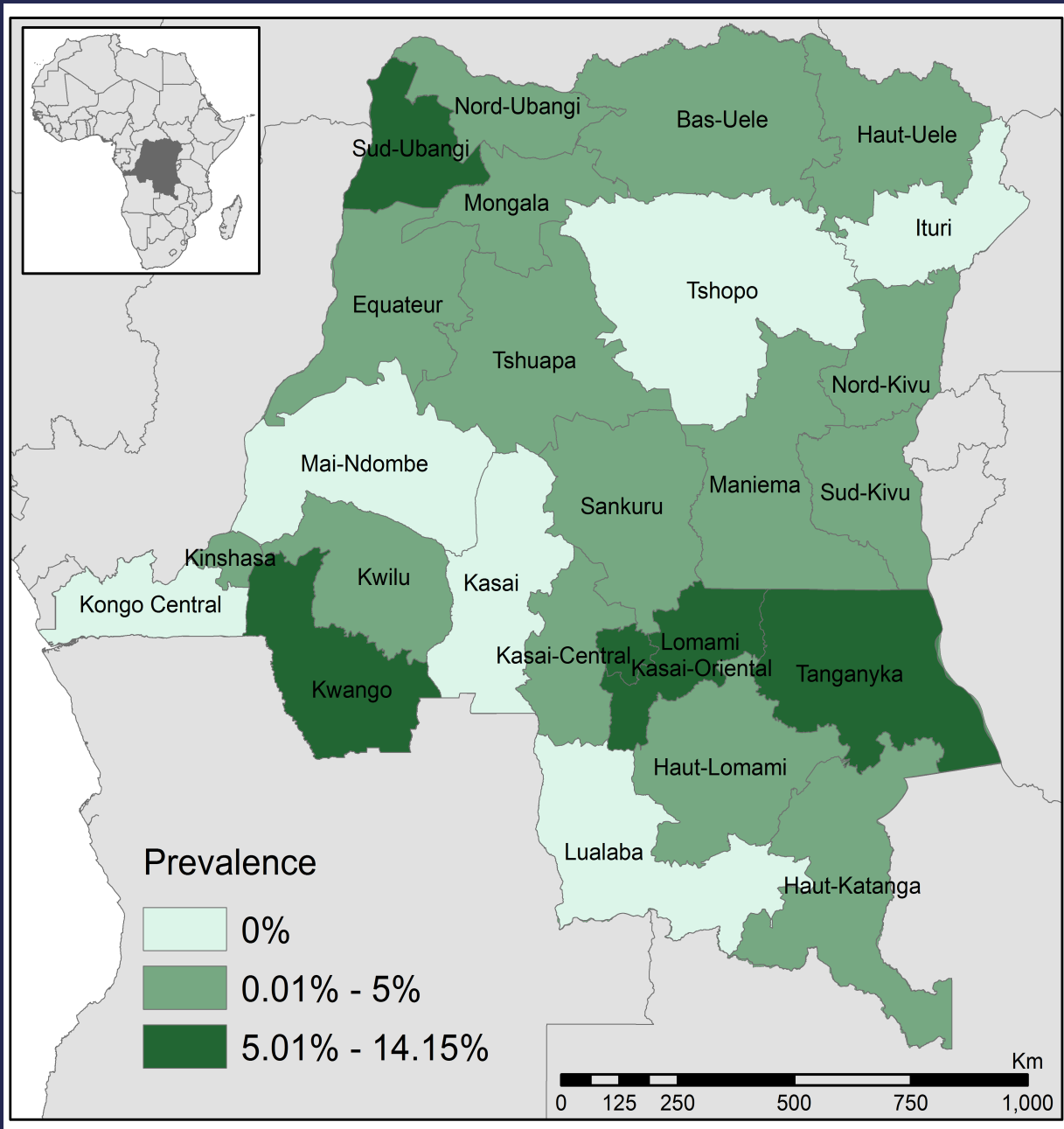


Only 28 of the 47 countries have developed a national hepatitis strategic plan (this is an increase from 3 in 2015)

- most plans remain in draft form and are not finalized/published



Uganda has free HBV screening and is on track to reach 2020 targets for screening and community awareness



DRC overall prevalence: **3.3%** (1.8-4.7%)

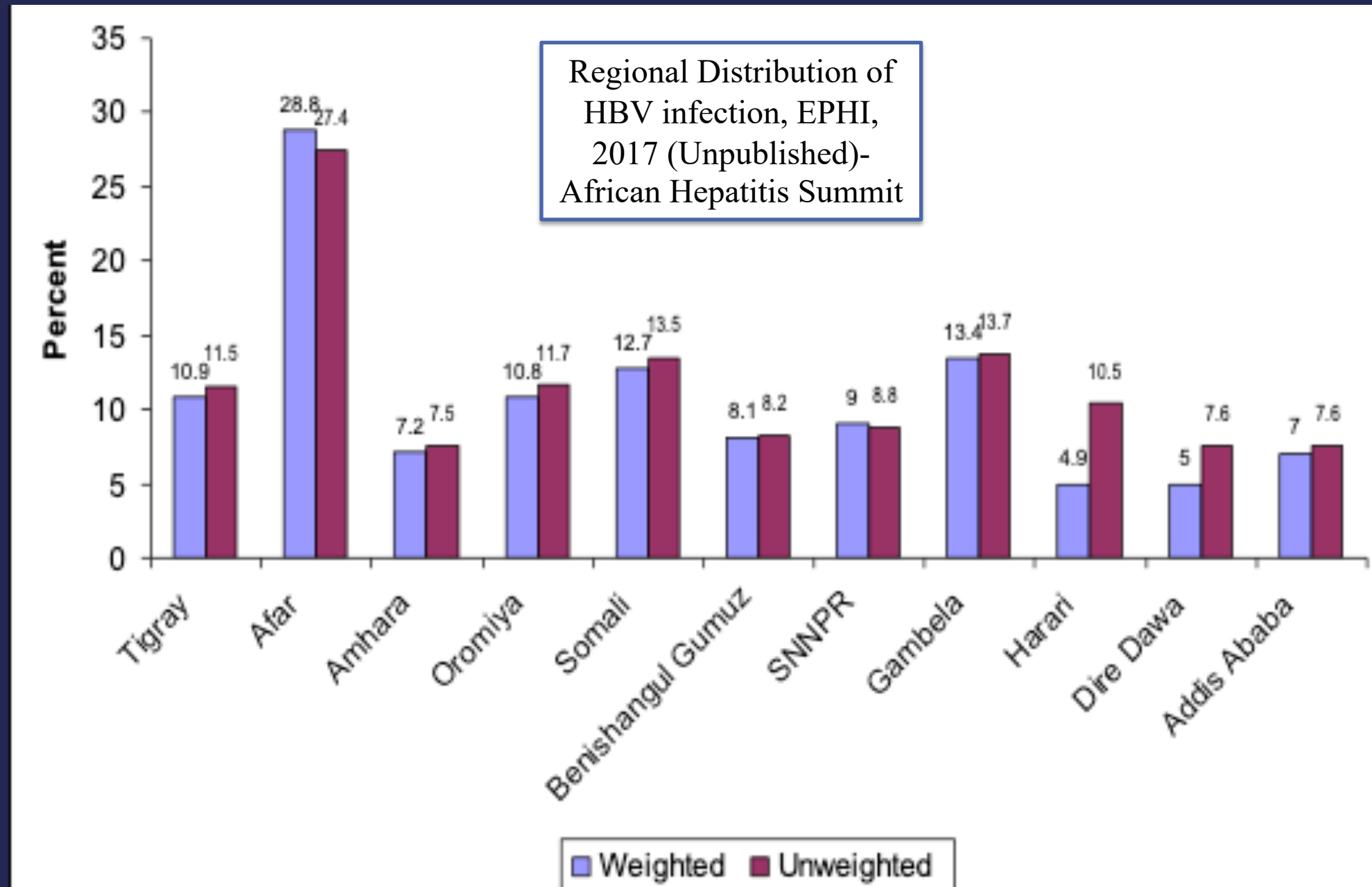
- Adults: 3.7% (1.9-5.5)
- Children: 2.2% (0.3-4.1)



Comparison to U.S.
Prevalence (2013): 0.3%

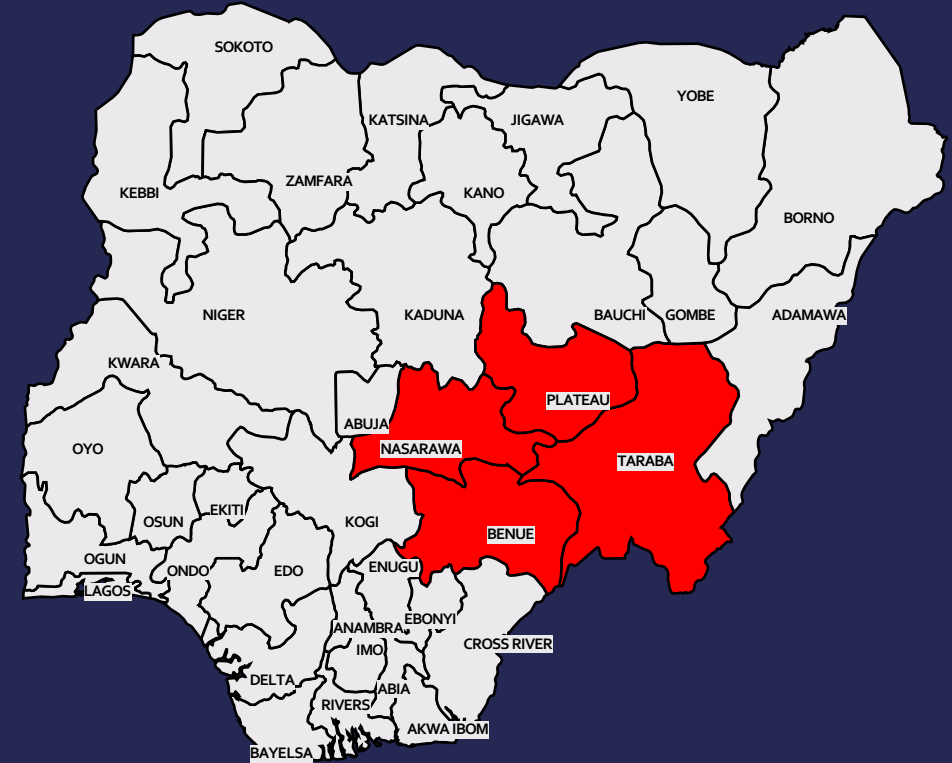
Burden of viral hepatitis in the WHO Africa Region - Ethiopia

- Population level prevalence of HBsAg - 9.4%
- Total population 105 million (2017)



Nigeria

- Nigeria has an estimated prevalence of 11% for Viral Hepatitis B
- Recent data suggests a strong geographical disparity; certain states in the North Central region such as Nasarawa have reported prevalence as high as 17%²
- Approximately 26 million Nigerians are infected with hepatitis B or C viruses, all of whom are at a risk of developing chronic complications including liver cirrhosis

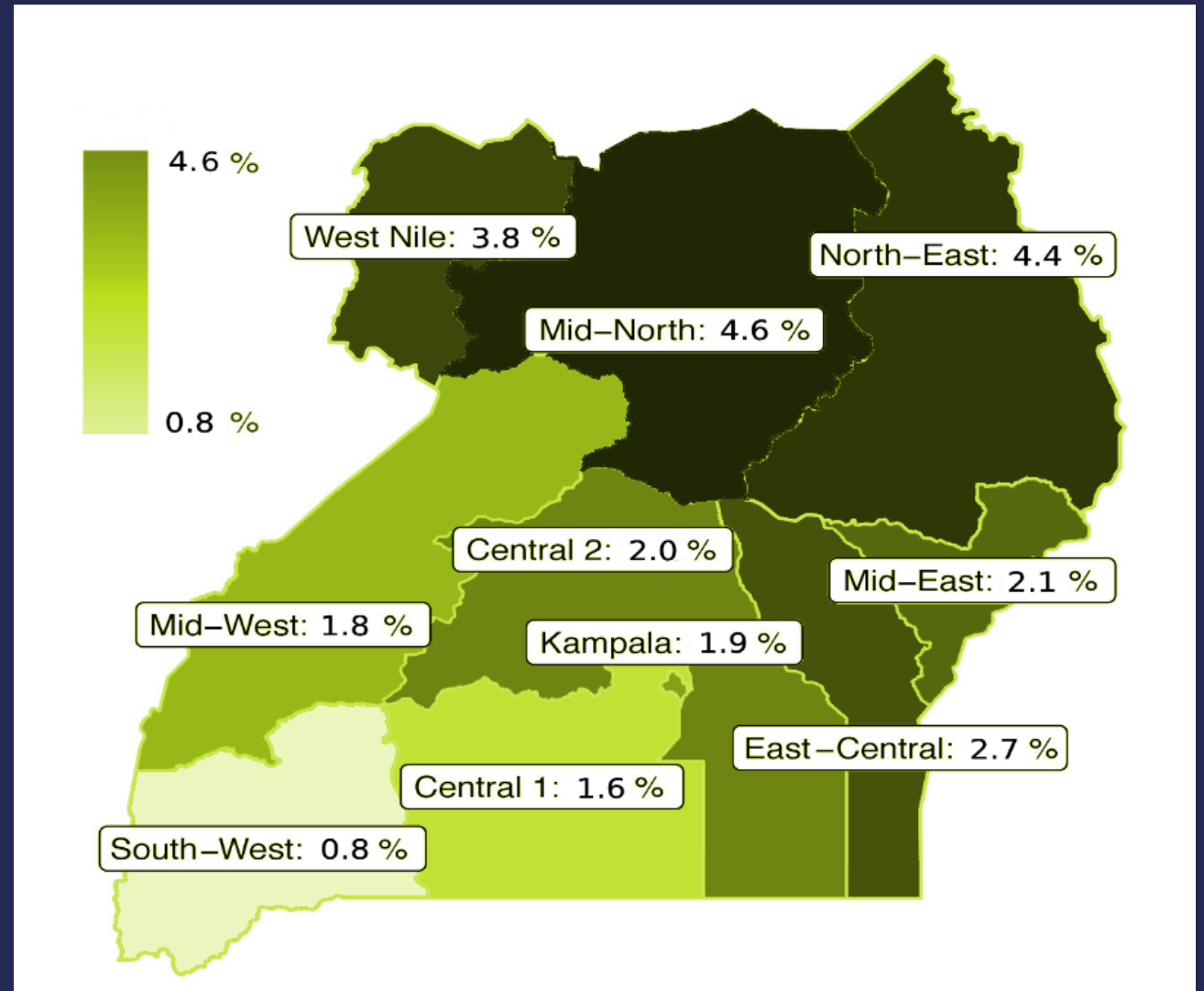


1. Department of Public Health, Nasarawa MoH, 2017

2. Prevalence study of Hepatitis B and C in Nigeria, Federal Ministry of Health, 2013

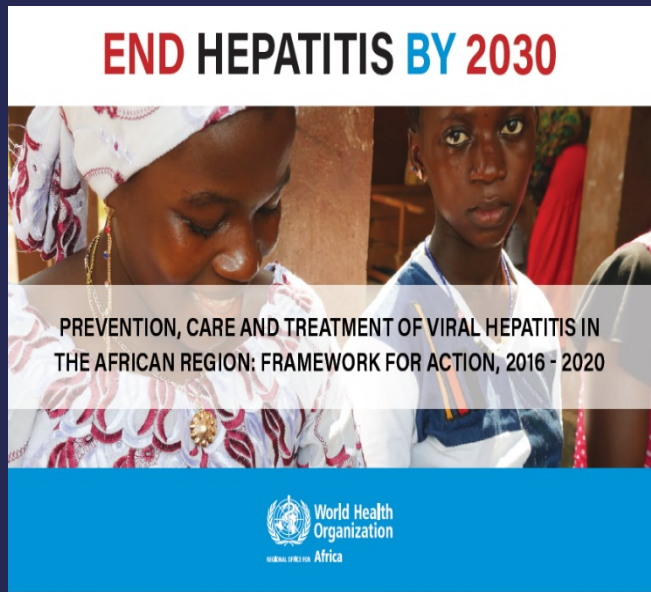
Uganda

- Massive testing since 2015
- ~4 million tested countrywide
- 255,000 infected
- Treatment procured by government
 - Tenofovir and entecavir produced locally



World Health Organization Hepatitis Scorecard

- In 2016, the 47 member states of the WHO Africa region endorsed the viral hepatitis framework to guide implementation of the global strategy in Africa (2016-2020)
- Endorsed 2020 and 2030 targets



2020 Targets

1. National Strategic Plans- All
2. HBV vaccine coverage > 90%
3. Hepatitis B birth dose- 25 countries
4. Diagnosis of chronic HBV/HCV > 20%
5. Treatment of HBV (1 million)
6. Treatment of HCV (300,000)
7. HBV vaccine coverage in HCW >90%
8. Routine HBV/HCV in Blood transfusion services
9. Injection safety (50% safe devices)
10. Harm reduction

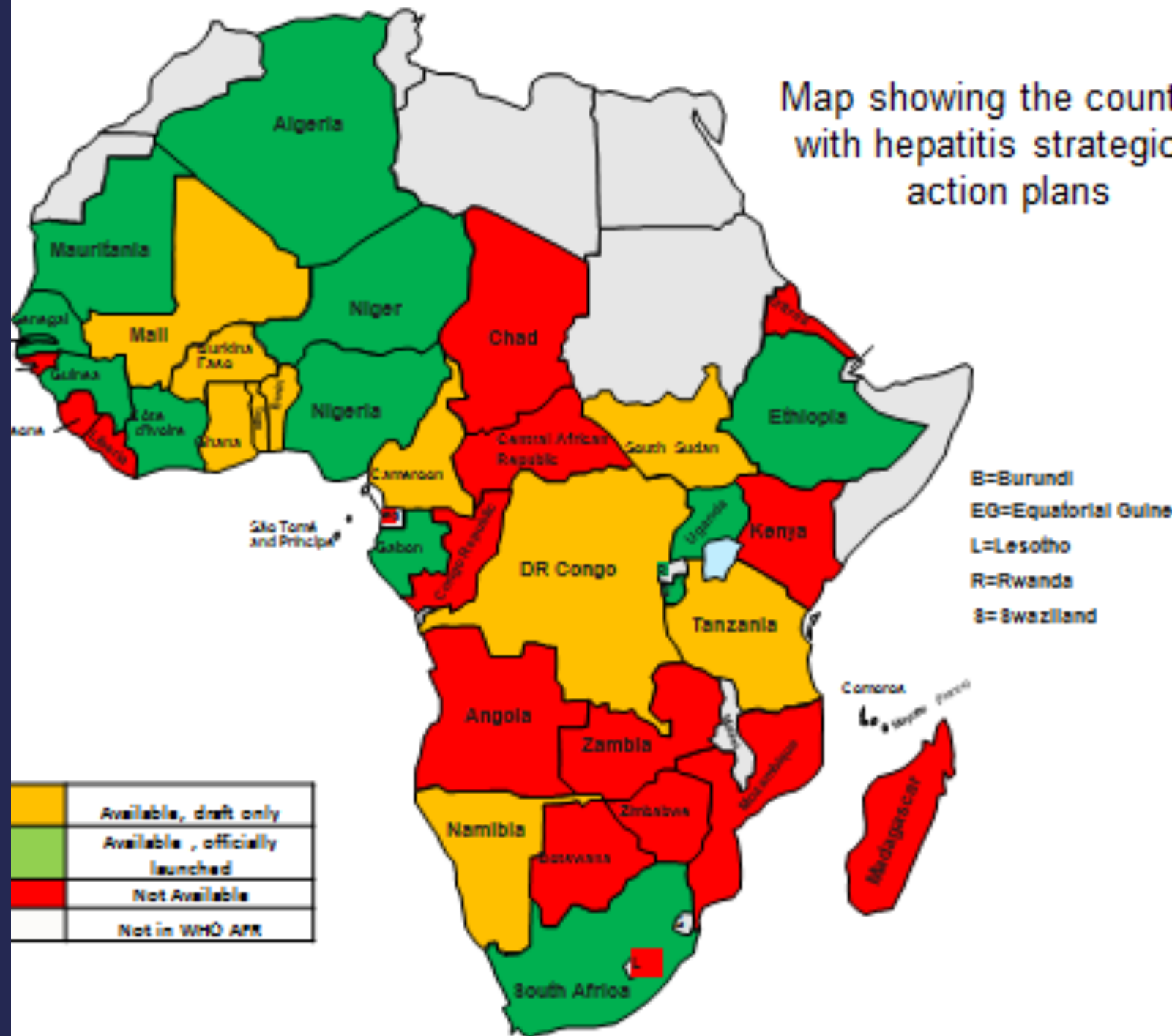
Scorecard

Scorecard											
Member state	Population		Children <5 yrs		Anti-HCV prevalence (** viraemic prevalence)	Policy			Treatment		
	% HBsAg Prevalence	Estimated number of chronic carriers('000s)	% HBsAg Prevalence* 2015 estimates	Estimated number of chronic carriers('000s)		National Strategic plan for Viral Hepatitis	HBV Birth dose implemented	HEP B3 national coverage >90%	2020 HBV/HCV testing target on tract	National Hepatitis treatment programmes	World Hepatitis Day 2018
Algeria	1.8	695	0.2	10	0.2						
Angola	9.4	2351	4.9	229	0.4						
Benin	11	1191	5.6	95	4.8						
Botswana	1.3	31	0.2	1	0.1						
Burkina Faso	10.1	1820	4.3	135	13**						
Burundi	6.4	711	2.6	53	10**						
Cabo Verde	5.2	27	0.7	0	0.1						
Cameroon	4.4	1034	1.9	71	0.7**						
Central African Republic	10.2	499	6.6	47	0.3**						
Chad	4.9	684	3.1	81	1.1**						
Comoros	4.3	34	2.0	2	1.4						
Congo	9.5	439	4.1	31	1.8						
Cote d'Ivoire	6.1	1377	3.0	11	1.7						
Democratic Republic of the Congo	3.2	338	2.2	1	2.2						
Equatorial Guinea	9.3	11	10	1	10						
Eritrea	1.9	94	0.7	6	0.8						
Eswatini	2.1	26	0.9	1	0.0						
Ethiopia	5.7	5647	2.6	381	0.6**						

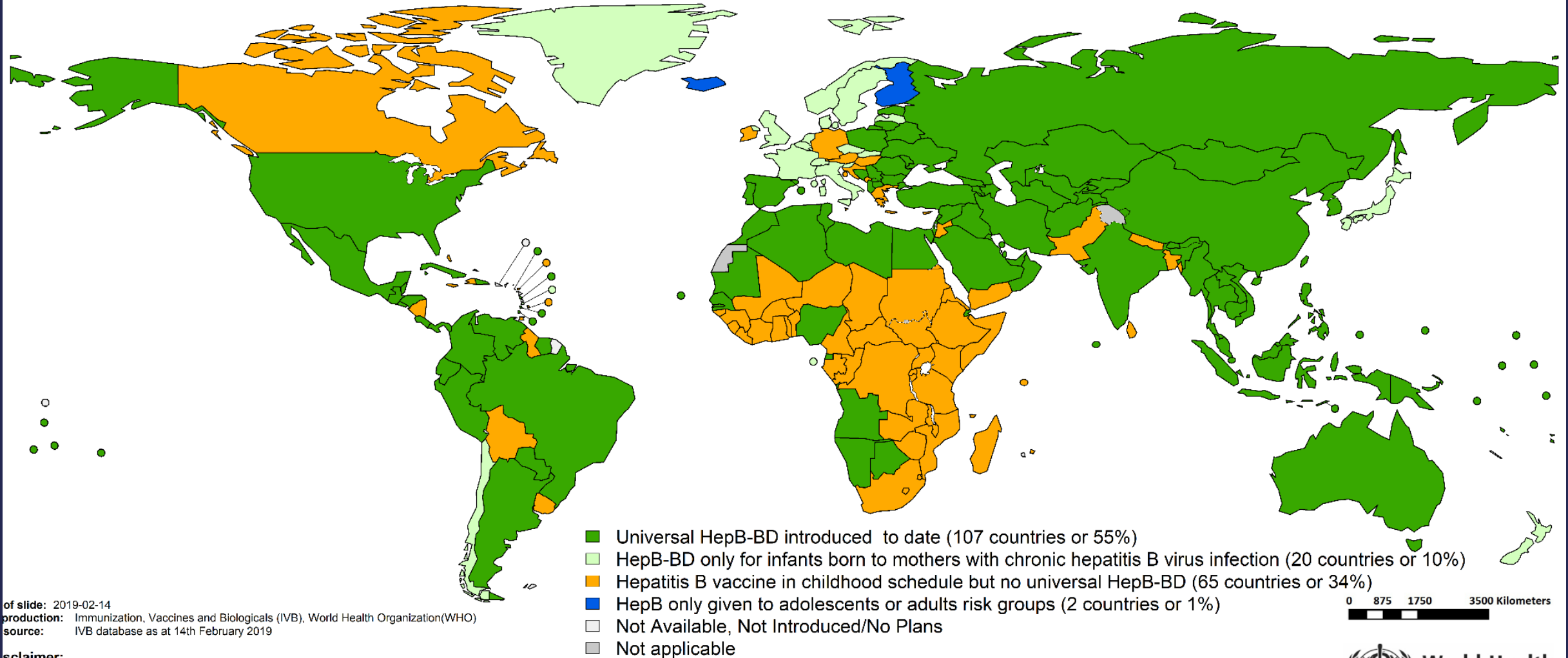
WHO Scorecard

#1 National Strategic Plan

- 28 countries have developed NSP
- However only 13 have been officially published
- Others in advanced draft stage awaiting completion



Hepatitis B Birth dose (HepB-BD) vaccination strategies by country, updated as of October 2019



of slide: 2019-02-14

production: Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals (IVB), World Health Organization(WHO)

source: IVB database as at 14th February 2019

Disclaimer:

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Common Barriers to Birth Dose Introduction



Lack of funding



Births taking place outside health facilities



Vaccine storage/cold chain limitations



Insufficient local disease burden data



Limitations in capacity to develop national policies and guidelines (i.e. functional NITAGs needed)

#4 & #5

Hepatitis Testing, Treatment and Care

2020 targets

The public health approach

- Diagnosis of chronic HBV/HCV > 20%
- Treatment of 1 million people with HBV
- Treatment of 300,000 with HCV

Coverage

- **Small-scale demonstration projects or treatment access programme**
- **Free nationwide hepatitis B and/or C testing and treatment in Rwanda & Uganda**

Major gaps in access to testing and care in most countries of Africa

Barriers/Challenges for HBV in Africa

- Limited data availability and challenges with record keeping
- Low population awareness, hepatitis B myths and misconceptions
- Birth dose has not been utilized
- Access to treatment at an affordable price
- Medical infrastructure is centralized – limited technology (fibrosan, lab testing for HBV-DNA, liver transplantation, limited number of specialists)
- High drop-out rates for vaccination
- Initiation of treatment/follow-up testing
- Simplified treatment algorithm is needed

Strengths

- Robust HIV systems in place
- Resources and funding tend to have a big impact
- Countries are prioritizing viral hepatitis
- Medications are being manufactured in countries (Egypt, Uganda)
- Several demonstration projects have shown there is interest regionally (Gambia, Uganda, Nigeria, Ethiopia)

References

1. *The Lancet Gastroenterology & Hepatology* 2018 3, 383-403 DOI: (10.1016/S2468-1253(18)30056-6)
2. Hepatitis Scorecard for the WHO Africa Region Implementing the hepatitis elimination strategy.
<https://www.afro.who.int/publications/hepatitis-scorecard-who-africa-region-implementing-hepatitis-elimination-strategy>
3. Thompson P, Parr JB, Holzmayer V et al. 2018 *AJTMH*; Schweitzer et al 2015.
4. *Department of Public Health, Nasarawa MoH, 2017*
5. *Prevalence study of Hepatitis B and C in Nigeria, Federal Ministry of Health, 2013*