

Review Form 3

Journal Name:	International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health
Manuscript Number:	Ms_IJTDH_127782
Title of the Manuscript:	DIPHTHERIA OUTBREAK RESPONSE AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES IN NIGERIA: A CASE STUDY OF THE NIGERIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY (NRCS) AND INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES (IFRC) INTERVENTION
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

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PART 1: Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's Feedback <i>(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.	In recent years, vaccine-preventable diseases have been resurgent worldwide. The WHO stated vaccine hesitancy is one of the top ten threats to public health. The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically contributed to reducing the advances in vaccination coverage, leading to more recent outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases. How countries manage these outbreaks and what strategies are being made to increase vaccination are of public significance. Other countries can apply this experience and modify it to their settings.	
Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)	Yes, article title is suitable	
Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.	In the abstract, be more specific about when precisely the outbreak started. Late 2022 is a long period; if not an exact date, at least give an estimated date and month when Nigeria officially declared the outbreak. Also, specify when the outbreak started to diminish and when it ended to understand the time frame better. How long did it last?	
Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.	Yes, the article is scientifically correct.	
Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions for additional references, please mention them in the review form.	Although it is a case report, the article has only 8 references. If documents were made like protocols, guidelines, procedures, etc, were published or made official documents, they should be mentioned by name and added as references.	

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<p>Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</p>	<p>Most of the English language is correct, but there are some minor spelling mistakes. The purpose of using acronyms is to reduce the repetition of long names frequently in the text. For example, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), once it is mentioned, can be referred to as NCDC in the rest of the text. However, it keeps being named by its full name with the acronym in parenthesis in several parts of the article. Double-check that ALL acronyms are used in place of the institution's full name in the rest of the text.</p> <p>Diphtheria should not be capitalized.</p>	
<p><u>Optional/General</u> comments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The article describes the current diphtheria situation in Nigeria since the outbreak. Still, it does not properly describe the situation of the disease before the outbreak to better understand the significance of this outbreak. What was the vaccination coverage before the outbreak? Was the disease eradicated before, or how many cases were detected annually? Better describe the epidemiology of the disease before the current outbreak, at least in the last 5 to 10 years, to better understand the disease behaviour. • “Kano, Yobe, and Katsina were among the states worst hit, accounting for over 96% of the confirmed cases. Many factors, including densely populated living conditions, low vaccination rates, and poor sanitation, contributed to the outbreak's rapid spread.” <i>Can authors expand why these areas are more vulnerable to the disease? Are these rural or urban areas? How much of the Nigerian population lives there? Are they geographically accessible? Impoverished areas? Do particular ethnic groups live there that have believes that affect vaccination?</i> • Better describe the SORMAS database. • Data analysis is the next crucial step in surveillance. Epidemiologists and statisticians use specialized software and statistical techniques to examine the collected data, identifying trends, patterns, and risk factors associated with the diphtheria outbreak. <i>What software and what type of analysis?</i> • “The study was conducted across 13 Nigerian states where diphtheria outbreaks were reported: Kano, Osun, Borno, Yobe, Kaduna, Jigawa, Lagos, FCT, Kastina, Taraba, Jos, Gombe, and Zamfara. These states were selected based on the severity of the outbreak.” <i>What criteria was used to determine severity of the outbreak? Number of suspected cases? Number of confirmed cases? Number of hospitalized cases? Number of deaths or lethality rate?</i> • “The diphtheria outbreak in Nigeria, which began in late 2022, has exposed significant gaps in vaccination coverage, public health infrastructure, and community trust in immunization.” <i>Briefly describe the gaps in the different areas mentioned</i> • “The outbreak revealed gaps in the surveillance systems for detecting and responding to infectious diseases.” <i>Describe the gaps in the surveillance system.</i> • “For instance, the early identification of cases in Lagos State facilitated swift action and containment efforts.” <i>What activities were done to contain the outbreak swiftly? How were cases identified early?</i> • “Investment in health infrastructure is essential for effective disease management and response.” <i>In what type of health infrastructure does one need to invest?</i> • “Over 1300 volunteers were trained in active case search and contact tracing.” <i>How were they trained? How long? How were volunteers selected?</i> • Increased Vaccine Uptake: The NRCS successfully improved vaccination coverage by addressing cultural and religious barriers through targeted education campaigns. <i>How were these cultural and religious barriers addressed?</i> • The conclusion has no statistics supporting the idea that the actions improved the outbreak. What is the number of cases by the end of the epidemic? When was the outbreak declared over, and why? Vaccination coverage after the outbreak? Provide any other data that supports that the outbreak diminished or how all these actions lead to end of the outbreak. • The article is very interesting. It is a case study of actions done in Nigeria to address the diphtheria outbreak. However, the authors give very broad examples of the activities. Since it is a case study of what was done in Nigeria the authors need to give examples of the specific activities done by Nigeria to solve each problem. That way, other countries can try to replicate it to obtain the same results. Some of these examples are addressed in the previous section. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The article could benefit from a small discussion section comparing their actions to what has been done in other countries.• Most of the article would be better explained if some explanations are expanded or improved for the reader to better understand the context.	
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PART 2:

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment <i>(if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?	<i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i>	

Reviewer Details:

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