

Increase Scalability and Sustainability of the CORE Group Polio Project (CGPP) in Ethiopia

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BACKGROUND:

CORE Group Ethiopia collaborates with eight international and four local NGOs/PVOs to directly implement polio eradication projects in hard to reach areas of the country. Currently, CGPP Ethiopia works in 54 Woredas (districts) in 7 regions of the country. CGPP reaches a total population of 4,399,394, of which 105,586 are under one and 642,312 are under five years old. There are a total of 1,162 Community Volunteers (CVs) who are trained and deployed at the village level to conduct house-to-house case detection and reporting of AFP, Measles and NNT, mobilize the community for polio SIAs and routine immunization activities. They conduct 15,918 house-to-house visits annually.

2010 Country-wide immunization coverage (UNICEF)	
Vaccine	%
DTP1 (First dose of diphtheria toxoid, tetanus toxoid and pertussis vaccine)	86%
DTP3 (Third dose of diphtheria toxoid, tetanus toxoid and pertussis vaccine)	79%
MCV (Measles-containing vaccine)	75%
Pol3 (Third dose of polio vaccine)	76%
2010 CGPP project area immunization coverage	
Pol3 (Full immunization)	75.8%
None, Pol1, Pol2 (Partial immunization)	24.2%

INNOVATIVE STRUCTURE:

CGPP has created a structure where the CVs now report directly to their local HEWs, meeting monthly to plan and coordinate their immunization and surveillance activities for the benefit of their communities and the polio eradication effort. The HEWs motivate the CVs through

training, encouragement, and supervision in the form of feedback and review meetings.

Comparing CVs and HEWs

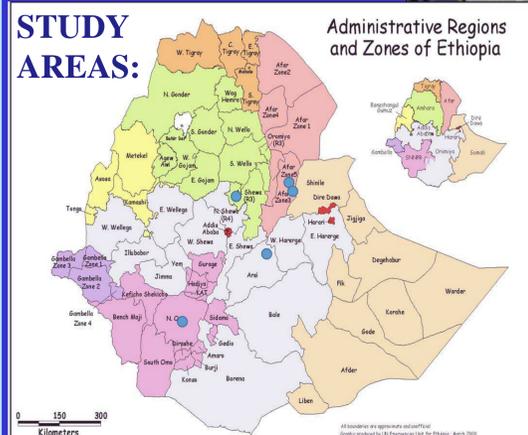
CGPP Community Volunteers (Volunteer health workers)	Health Extension Workers (Government Employed Professional Health Staff)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Illiterate or primary education Training varies greatly From inside the community Employed part time, but expected to work full time No salary Mostly male 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10th grade+ education 1+ years of training From outside the community Employed full time Supported by the government Female
Responsibilities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Polio surveillance and immunization activities Surveillance for other vaccine-preventable diseases Community education on disease prevention and control 	Responsibilities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16 health packages (curative and preventative) Polio surveillance and immunization activities Community education on disease control and prevention

STUDY OBJECTIVE:

To understand the barriers and facilitators of collaboration between the CVs and HEWs regarding immunization activities, and explore the sustainability of this initiative.

METHODS:

- Sample selection:** Woredas were purposively selected for maximum variation with regard to farming/nomadic lifestyles, strong/weak performance, and representation by different partners. CVs and HEWs were randomly selected from a purposive list of accessible kebeles.
- Data collection:** Eight focus group discussions (FGDs), 17 Individual Interviews (IDIs).
- Analysis:** A thematic qualitative data analysis approach was employed using the MAXQDA software package.

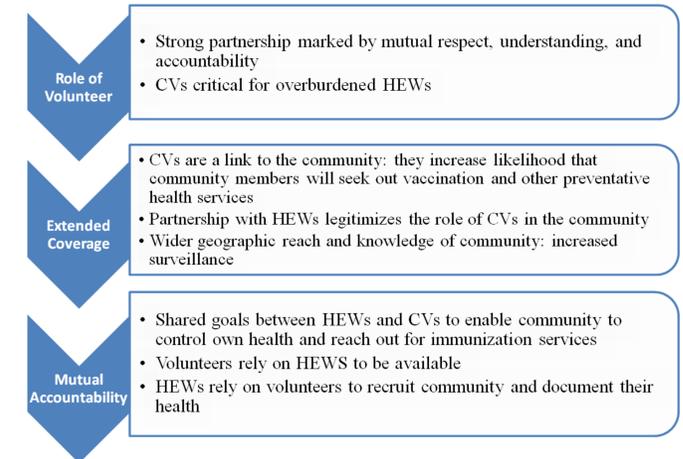


PARTNERS:

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• PLAN • SC/USA • WVE



RESULTS:



“Previously, some irresponsible members of the society used to scare off HEWs with their furious dogs. Now, when we started collaboration, let alone scaring them away the society welcomes them warmly.” [9th grade male CVSFP from Humbo woreda]

FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS:

- Integration of CV and HEW activities
 - Formal Association
 - Clear Structure
- Implementation of CV incentive/recognition program
 - Performance based
- Provision of adequate stationary and weather-related supplies
 - Supervisor checklists
 - Review of supervision

ACTION STEPS:

FY12 planning includes weather-related supplies and more structured supervision utilizing supervisor checklists with regular review at the district level.

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