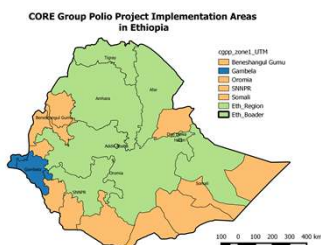


Immunization service availability and readiness in the hard to reach zones of Ethiopia: Quantitative Study Muluken Asres (MPH), Filimona Bisrat (MD/MPH)

BACKGROUND:

The CORE Group Polio Project (CGPP) is one of the USAID funded projects being implemented in Ethiopia to improve immunization service and AFP surveillance in 80 high risk, hard-to-reach, pastoralists and semi-pastoralist districts.

The project conducted operational survey to assess immunization service availability and readiness for its polio eradication project



STUDY OBJECTIVE:

To assess immunization service availability and readiness in hard to reach areas of Ethiopia.

METHODS:

- Health facilities based cross sectional study using structured self-administered questionnaires and observation checklist.
- The assessment involved health center head, delivery ward nurse and EPI focal person from all health centers in the project area
- Pretested and structured questionnaire with face-to-face interview was used to collect data.
- Data collectors were health professionals who got orientation about the tool and methods of collection.

RESULTS:

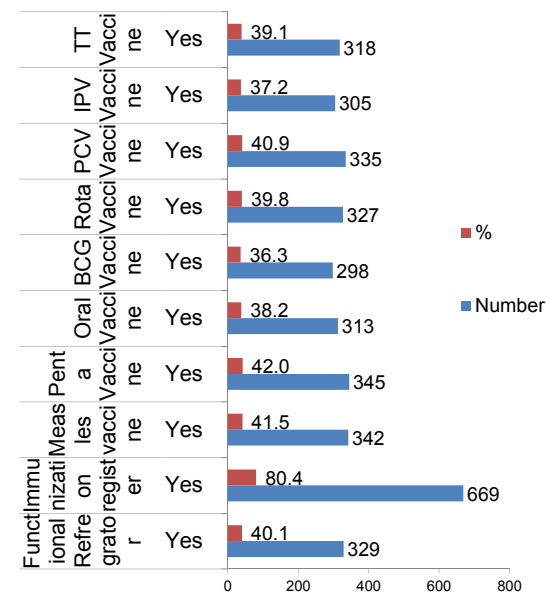
- Among respondents 88.5% reported that they involved in providing immunization service.
- And 76.2% of them involved both in static and outreach programs and 97% reported walking as means of transportation to outreach site.
- Frequencies of immunization service provision were reported to be daily (48.3%), weekly (21%), or monthly (28.3%).

- Only 29.8% reported sufficient number and qualified health workers involved in immunization service provision.
- About 80% reported availability of national EPI guideline in the facilities and there was stock out of at least one antigen.

Table 1: Health facility immunization service availability and readiness based on self administered data

Issues	Response	Number	%
Respondents involved in immunization	Yes	564	88.5
	No	73	11.5
HF provide immunization	Yes	636	99.2
	No	5	0.8
Under 1 year child vaccination strategy	Both static & out reach	473	76.2
	Static only	100	16.1
	Outreach only	33	5.3
	Mobile	7	1.1
	No EPI service	8	1.3
Frequency of Static EPI service at the HC	No static service	7	1.1
	Daily	304	48.3
	Weekly	132	21
	Monthly	178	28.3
	Quarterly	6	1
	Other	2	0.3
HWs means of transportation for outreach vaccination	On foot/Walk	226	97
	Pack animal	2	0.9
	Woreda car	2	0.9
	Motorcycle	3	1.3
Number and qualification of staffs for immunization	Number sufficient but less qualified	167	27
	Number insufficient but qualified	244	39.5
	Sufficient number and qualified	184	29.8
	Number sufficient but less qualified	167	27
Immunization guideline	Yes	503	79.6
	No	99	15.7
	Don't know	30	4.7

Graph 1: Health facility availability and readiness for immunization checked by observation



CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION:

The majorities of health centers provided immunization service and had national EPI guidelines but less than 50% provided immunization service daily.

In relation to number and quality of health workers, 70.2% reported insufficient number or poor quality or both.

Therefore, avail sufficient number of trained health worker, increase number of vaccination dates and means of transportation are important for future better achievements of immunization services.

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