

## **Boda boda (Motor bike) taxi!**

Delivering cost-effective outreach vaccination and medical services to nomadic populations in remote areas of Kenya and Somalia



*Presented by Yusuf Ajack Ibrahim  
CGPP- HoA, M&E Coordinator*

# Main Findings

- Creative solutions are necessary to address the specific needs and constraints of nomadic populations and other mobile populations who often lack access to routine immunization and other critical healthcare services
- Boda boda (motorbikes) provide a cost effective, efficient, easily maneuverable means to reach mobile populations with critical health services including immunization, nutrition, deworming and treatment of minor ailments to mobile populations who would otherwise be inaccessible.
- Understanding the local context and utilizing simple, tailored, community grounded solutions increase ownership and success of community-based interventions

# Background and Introduction



- **CORE Group Polio Project (CGPP)** a USAID-funded project operates in eight countries to strengthen community engagement , community mobilization and community-led activities for polio, vaccine-preventable diseases and infectious disease in high-risk ,border , nomadic and hard-to-reach locations
- **The Problem:** Pastoralists, nomads, refugees, and other mobile populations lack access to facility-based healthcare, causing a lack of access to critical health services including Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) and other immunizations.
- **The Traditional Solution:** Teams of medical professionals are transported in off-road vehicles covering vast area. This is expensive, time consuming, and subject to physical limitations of large vehicles and insecurity
- **The Innovative Solution:** CGPP developed targeted integrated outreach to nomadic settlements using rented motorbikes from local communities to transport community mobilizer or a nurse equipped with medical supplies.

# Results: Reaching the Unreachable Communities

*During 2019, CGPP supported 372 & 2020, 564 outreach clinics in nomadic communities, where 12,253 children < 1 year were vaccinated with various oral polio virus (OPV) antigens as part of strengthening routine immunizations and enhancing herd immunity. A total of 2,037*

Year	Zero Dose	Birthdose	OPV 3	IPV
2019	749	797	2206	1938
* 2020	1,288	1604	2876	2832

CGPP program data as of 04/10/2020

- **Greater Reach:** Motorbikes can reach distant communities that were previously unreachable with traditional vehicles
- **Easier Access:** Motorbikes are more easily able to navigate terrain and maneuver around across footpaths or flooded roads
- **More Cost Effective:** Boda boda outreach is  $\frac{1}{4}$  the cost of traditional outreach
- **More Frequent Contact:** Twice a week
- **Supports Local Economy:** Boda bodas are rented from the local community



## Future Direction and Use



Immunization outreach services in Wajir County, Kenya. Photo credit: Hujale -WVK

- After realizing the effectiveness of utilizing Boda Bodas for health service delivery, many served communities have adapted the use of Boda Bodas as self-reliant ambulance services to transport sick children or laboring mothers to health centers.
- The program will also enhance Integrated (Human and Animal ) health services during outreaches.



# Author Contact email

## List of Authors

- Yusuf Ibrahim : [yusuf.cgpp@gmail.com](mailto:yusuf.cgpp@gmail.com)
- Ahmed Arale: [ahmed.cgpp@gmail.com](mailto:ahmed.cgpp@gmail.com)
- Somane Mohamed : [somane.cgpp@gmail.com](mailto:somane.cgpp@gmail.com)
- Katherine Stamidis: [kathy.cgpp@gmail.com](mailto:kathy.cgpp@gmail.com)
- Lydia Bologna: [lydia.cgpp@gmail.com](mailto:lydia.cgpp@gmail.com)



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***Yusuf Ajack Ibrahim***  
***CGPP- HoA, M&E Coordinator***