Assess health worker and caregiver interaction during child vaccination sessions at health facilities in Ethiopia: A qualitative study

Presented by: Filimona Bisrat (MD, MPH)
Main Finding

- All vaccinators at the health facilities were happy on the work they do to get children vaccinated.
- Most caregivers (87% 120/138) brought immunization cards with them; however, there was inadequate documentation of the return date and vaccine given on immunization cards.
- The average time waiting at the health facility to be vaccinated the child at health posts (average 20.8 minutes) and health centers (average 11.6 minutes).
- Caregivers consider vaccines to be important to prevent illness.
- Most caregivers correctly mentioned the return date as told by the vaccinator; some did not.
- Most caretakers responded that fever and pain at the injection site are possible expected side effects and mentioned this is from their previous experience and not because it was told by the vaccinator.
Introduction:

- Globally, two to three million children die of VPDs annually.
- The EDHS had shown consistent improvement in national EPI coverage over the past years, from 18% in 2000 to 39% in 2016. The current highest coverage is in Addis Ababa (89%) and the lowest in the Somali region (19%).
- The Somali region is one of the regions that has persistently performed low with routine immunization coverage and high dropout rate.
- Communication is one of many interacting factors influencing parents’ and other caregivers’ decisions to take their children for vaccination.

Methods:

- The study was conducted in the Somali Region of Ethiopia. A cross-sectional qualitative study. In-depth interview of health workers at health facilities, observation of vaccinator and caregiver interaction during immunization sessions and exit interview of caregivers after vaccination session was conducted using a semi-structured questionnaire.
- Districts Health facilities were listed and a health center and a health post were selected randomly.
- Coded the transcripts and codes were then entered into qualitative analysis software ATLAS.ti 8 by topic to explore both anticipated and emergent themes using a thematic analysis technique.
Results:

Findings from Observation of vaccination sessions

Findings from Exit Interview

Time a vaccinator spends with caregiver during immunization session in health facilities in Somali Region
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