

KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE, AND PRACTICE OF MOTHERS/CARETAKERS TOWARDS CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION IN ETHIOPIA

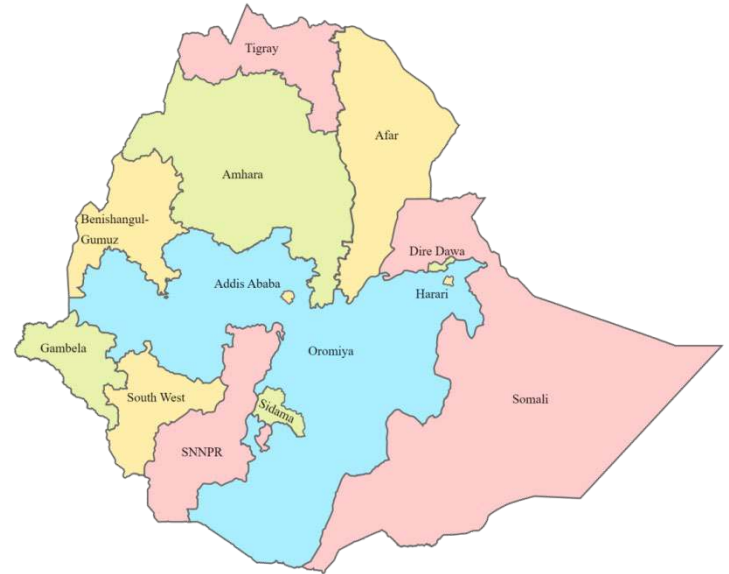
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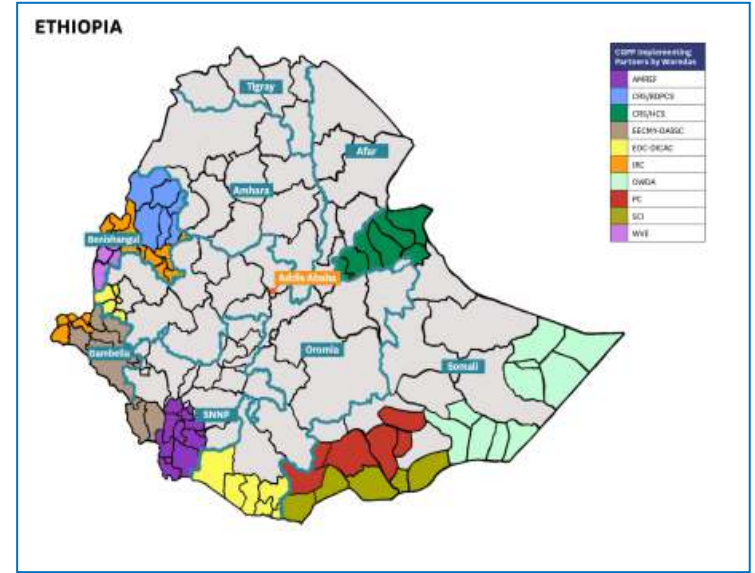
Introduction - Ethiopia

- Located in the Horn of Africa
- Population about 120.8 million; the 2nd most populous country in Africa
- Population growth rate= 2.6%
- Under 5 years = 16%
- Under 15 years = 39.6%
- WRA (15 - 49 years) = 23.4%
- Rural Residence ~ 85%



Introduction

- The research was conducted on September 2021 at the CORE Group Polio Project (CGPP) intervention area in Somali Region, Erer District, in Ethiopia.
- The project is supported by USAID.



Background

- Disease prevention is a well-known public health priority.
- Relatedly, childhood immunization is a proven disease prevention strategy.
- According to WHO, immunization prevents two to three million deaths per year globally.



Background

- Immunization coverage in Ethiopia has improved over the years. However, there are still children who are not getting basic vaccinations.
- And, 1 in 15 children dies before reaching age 5 (EDHS 2016).
- Out of 10 child deaths, seven of them occurred during infancy or between birth and the first birthday of a child.
- As mentioned in the Ethiopian Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) multiyear plan, Vaccine-preventable diseases contribute markedly to under-five mortality and morbidity.

Background

- Geographic factors have made a significant impact on immunization coverage. For example, the coverage disparities among regions range in Afar (20.6%) to the largest in immunization coverage in Amhara Region (91.7%) (EDHS 2016)
- Parental knowledge, attitude, and practice towards childhood immunization are issues of vital importance and directly improve coverage and influence uptake.

Objective

- To assess the knowledge, attitude, and practice of mothers/caretakers with children aged 12 – 23 months towards childhood immunization in Erer Woreda, Siti Zone, Somali Region in Ethiopia.

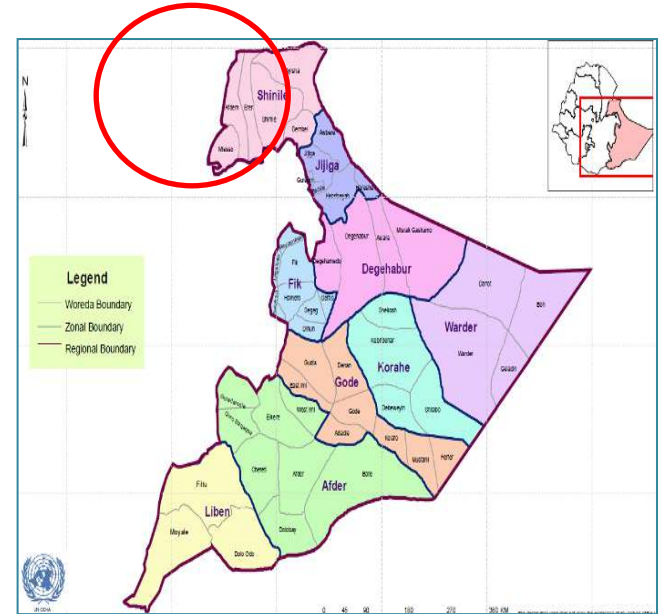
Methods

- ***Study design*** - A community-based quantitative cross-sectional study.
- ***Study Population*** - Parents/caretakers with children aged between 12 and 23 months who live in the selected areas.
- The study participants have been interviewed in their own houses.



Methods

- *Study setting*- The study was conducted in Erer District of Somali Region in eastern part of Ethiopia from September, 2021. Somali Region is one of the 11 administrative regions of Ethiopia.
- There are 4 health centers and 18 health posts in the district, providing immunization services within the facilities and outreach sites near the community.



Methods

- A total of 416 mothers/caretakers were included in the study.
- A random sampling method was employed to select sample households with mothers and eligible children.
- The study has used a multistage of sampling; the first sampling was to select Sub-districts.
- Out of the 22 sub-districts, 4 of them were excluded from the selection list b/c inaccessible due to conflict and flood. From the remaining 18 kebeles, nine of them were selected using the lottery method.

Methods

- Data was collected using Open Data Kit (ODK) and analysis was done using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS 26) version.
- Descriptive statistics were used to assess the distribution of study subjects for socio-demographic characteristics.
- Cross tabulation was made between socio-demographic and other factors against vaccination status, taking children fully vaccinated as an outcome variable.
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Results

Socio-demographic characteristics

- The majority 397 (95.4%) of respondents were females with and 403 (96.9%) of the responders were married.
- 58.9% are illiterate, and about 22% have completed at least 12th grade and above.
- About 83.4 of respondent mothers are housewives.

Findings

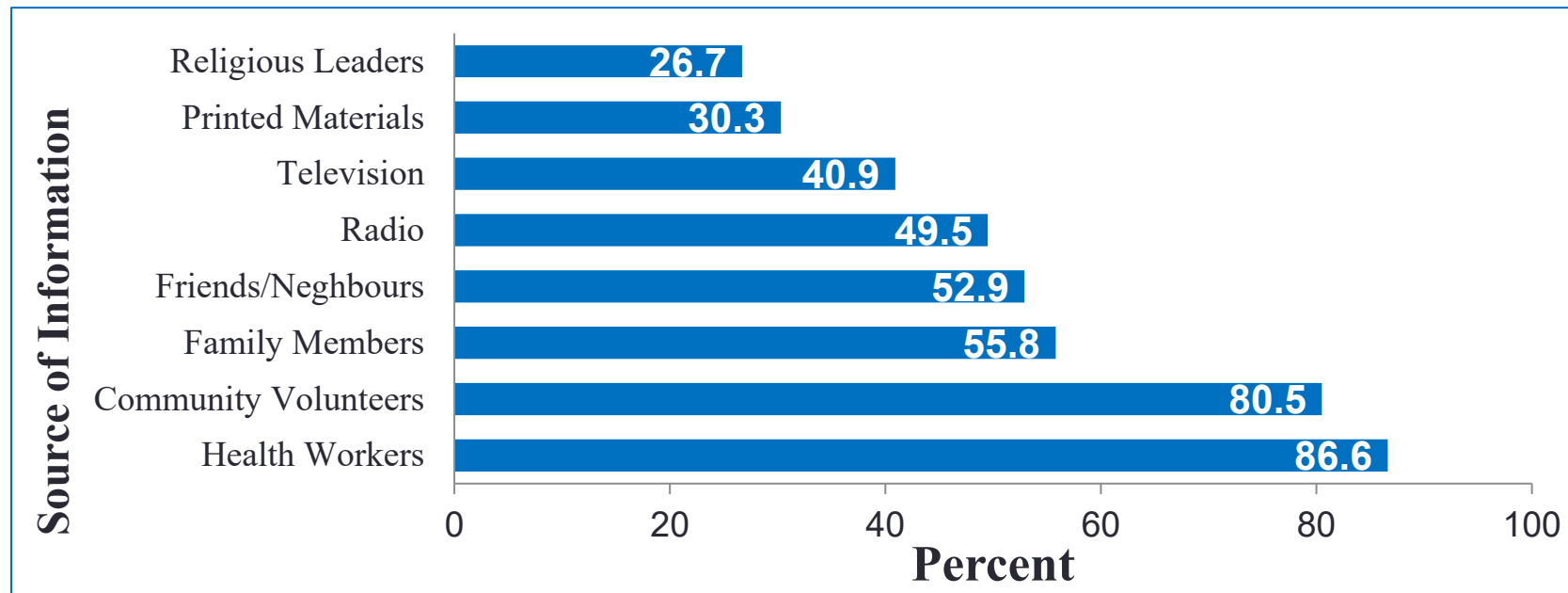


Figure 1: Distribution of source of information about childhood immunization of mothers having a child between 12-23 months, in Erer district, Somali Region

Findings

Table 1: Knowledge of mothers/caretakers having a child between 12-23 months related to routine vaccine and diseases prevented vaccines, Ethiopia, 2021,

Knowledge items	Frequency	Percent	95% CI
Correct knowledge of diseases included in the VPDs	213	51.2	(46.4, 56.0)
Correct knowledge of timing of immunization	157	37.7	(33.1, 42.4)
Correct knowledge of eligible child for vaccination	361	86.8	(83.5, 90.0)
Correct knowledge of place of Vaccination	414	99.5	(98.8, 100.0)
Correct knowledge of reasons for vaccine	359	86.3	(82.9, 89.6)
Overall correct Knowledge	238	57.2	(52.5, 62.0)

Findings

Table 2: Attitude of mothers/caretakers having a child between 12-23 months related to routine vaccine and diseases prevented vaccines, Ethiopia, 2021,

Items	Agree Numb (%)	Neutral Numb (%)	Disagree Numb (%)
Doubts /suspicions about vaccinating a child	19 (4.6)	4 (1.0)	393 (94.5)
Benefitting of immunizing a child during immunization campaigns.	396 (95.2)	7 (1.7)	13 (3.1)
Vaccination is discriminated by gender	27 (6.5)	11 (2.6)	378 (90.4)
Vaccines as a safer for children	411 (98.8)	3 (0.7)	2 (0.5)
Providing more than one vaccine at the same time harms	132 (31.7)	23 (5.5)	261 (62.7)
Importance of following the immunization schedule	395 (95.0)	16 (3.8)	5 (1.2)
Believing vaccines protect children from diseases	412 (99.0)	2 (0.5)	2 (0.5)
Recommending others to vaccinate their children	398 (95.7)	7 (1.7)	11 (2.6)
Overall attitude to Immunization	263 (63.2)	56 (13.5)	97 (23.3)

Table 3: Immunization Coverage of Children (by card), Somali Region, Erer District, September 2021

Vaccination status	Frequency	%	95% CI
Fully vaccinated based on card	96	23.1	(19.0, 27.1)
Fully Vaccinated based on history	179	43.0	(38.3, 47.8)
Overall Vaccination coverage	275	66.1	(61.6, 70.7)

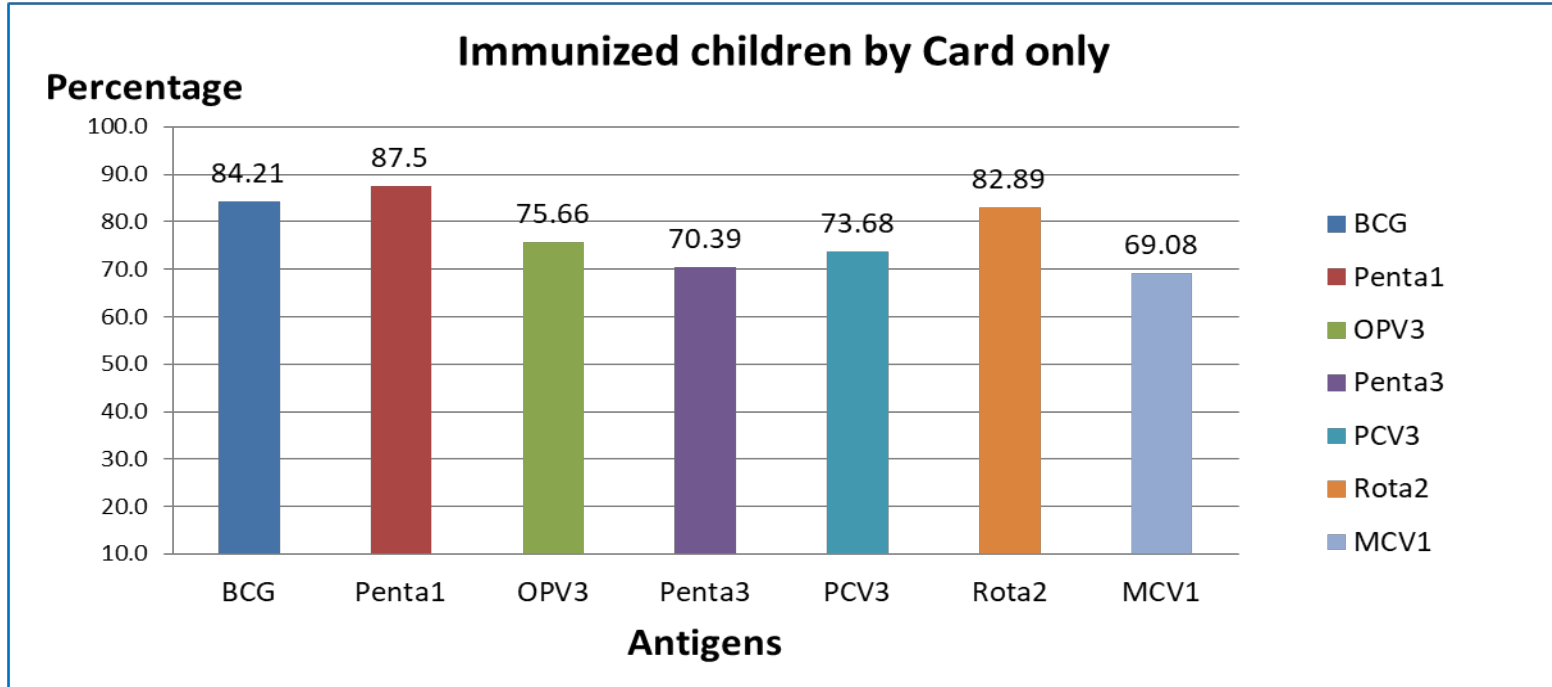


Figure 2: Immunization Coverage of Children (by card), Somali Region, Erer District, September 2021

Findings

Table 4: Parental and childhood factors affecting utilization of immunization practice of mothers/caretakers having a child between 12-23 months, in Erer district, Somali Region, Ethiopia, 2021

Variable	Vaccine utilization		Adjusted
	Yes (%)	No (%)	OR (95 CI)
Caretakers occupation			
<i>Housewife</i>	226 (65.1)	121 (34.9)	1.00
<i>Business/Employee</i>	33 (80.5)	8 (19.5)	2.21 (1.00, 4.93)**
<i>Pastoralist/Farming</i>	12 (52.2)	11 (47.8)	0.58 (0.25, 1.36)
Immediate elder child			
<i>Fully vaccinated</i>	250 (76.0)	79 (24.0)	9.67 (5.36, 17.4)**
<i>Not fully vaccinated</i>	18 (24.7)	55(75.3)	1.00
Knowledge of immunization			
<i>Less knowledgeable</i>	108 (60.7)	70 (39.3)	1.00
<i>Knowledgeable</i>	167 (70.2)	71 (29.8)	1.53 (1.01, 2.30)**

Summary of Results

- The likelihood of fully vaccinating a child was higher among mothers who have their immediate elder child fully vaccinated
- The likelihood of fully vaccinating a child was higher among mothers working in businesses or employees.
- Mothers who are knowledgeable about childhood immunization were almost 1.3 times more likely to vaccinate their children than those who were less knowledgeable.

Conclusion & Recommendations

- Knowledge of the mothers/caretakers was an important contributing factor for a good vaccination practice. Yet, overall, the proportion of knowledgeable caregivers was low. 57.2%
- Health workers and community volunteers are primary sources of information for mothers. Therefore, it is important to train the health workers and volunteers on immunization to communicate the right information about immunization to mothers.
- Health education to promote knowledge and attitude, as well as immunization practice, is strongly recommended.

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Thank You!!



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