



coregroup

Dr. Pritha Biswas
Pathfinder International

Dr. Om Prasad Gautam
WaterAid

Dr. Clarence Mbanga
CHAI

Ammaline Vongsithi
Save the Children

WEBINAR: SUCCESS STORIES ON IMMUNIZATION AND INTEGRATION
Learn about success stories on how immunization services and integration with other health interventions have helped reach children that have not received a single dose of diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis or 'zero-dose children'.

CORE Group's Success Stories on Immunization and Integration to Reach Zero Dose Children Webinar was held on Wednesday, July 27th, 2022.

On Wednesday, July 27th, CORE Group hosted a webinar highlighting a few of CORE Group's membership organizations that have demonstrated successes in their immunization and integration efforts to reach Zero dose children. Zero-dose children are a population of 17 million children who have been identified as not having received a single dose of standard vaccinations. CORE Group's Communications and Knowledge Manager, Naomi Senda, led the webinar alongside Executive Director Lisa Hilmi with panelists joining from Pathfinder, WaterAid, CHAI, and Save The Children to speak about their specific health intervention projects and their impact on zero dose children.

Dr. Pritha Biswas, a Senior Technical Advisor from Pathfinder International, began the panelist portion of the webinar, giving insight into Pathfinder's work integrating immunization and reproductive, maternal, and infant health services in Tanzania and Burundi. In Tanzania, this project focused on providing equitable and accessible necessary healthcare services, such as family planning, contraceptive, maternal, and immunization services, across sixty townships. In Burundi, Pathfinder has integrated immunization services with their family planning, maternal, malaria, gender-based violence, and nutrition services reaching six provinces. This project focused on using immunization as a gateway to introduce family planning and reproductive counselling to new mothers as well as implemented mobile clinics in order to integrate accessible services at a community level. Dr. Biswas asserted "it is critical to actually engage the communities that are being given these services, or that are users of these services - by learning what their thoughts are and what their needs are...and then actively engaging them or involving them on designing immunization."



Following Dr. Biswas, Dr. Om Prasad Gautam, a Behavior Change and Public Health Expert presented the success of WaterAid's 'Integration of Hygiene Behavior Change into Immunization Program. This government-backed project integrated hygiene counselling sessions with routine immunization services in Nepal and as a result, immunization and basic hygiene behaviors and systems have improved by 51% after just one year of implementation.

Dr. Ammaline Vanhsithi, a Health Director at Save The Children spoke about the organization's RMNCH Integrated Outreach with Covid Vaccine program that was implemented in Laos in 2021. This project involved the creation of mobile clinics which aimed to increase COVID-19 vaccination, family planning, and reproductive care in remote areas and minority communities through interactive learning activities and health counselling. By working with community leaders and influencers in immunization communications and advocacy, Dr. Vanhsithi found that the project was better able to increase vaccine confidence and overall vaccination rates, especially in target populations, such as zero-dose children and differently-abled individuals.

The final speaker was, public health expert from the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) Dr. Clarence Mbanga who spoke about CHAI's immunization and MNCH service integration program in Cameroon. This project worked to increase HepB BD birth dose immunization among infants within twenty-four hours after birth- when the vaccination is most effective. Dr. Mbanga explained that "Cameroon is among the countries in Africa, with a really high prevalence of Hepatitis B Virus Infection", thus, efforts to increase immunity among newborns is especially impactful. By integrating immunization into maternal and infant health care services, CHAI was able to increase immunization rates for key vaccines among newborns in three regions of Cameroon.

These four success stories showcase the effectiveness of integrating immunization services with other healthcare practices, especially in increasing immunization rates among zero-dose children. Learn more about CORE Group's work to increase routine immunization and read zero dose children [here](#) and watch our informative animation [here](#).

Learn more about Pathfinder's work [here](#)

Learn more about Wateraid's work [here](#).

Learn more about Save The Children's work [here](#).

Learn more about CHAI's work [here](#).

Resources shared

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/mcn.12738>

Sotakai Radio Drama Episodes <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-9rxKcJuuY0mdCjVu9RotaxyCoi84dA>

<https://www.gavi.org/vaccineswork/zero-dose-child-explained>



<https://www.zero-dose.org/>

<https://www.fphighimpactpractices.org/briefs/family-planning-and-immunization-integration/>

[Reach Zero Dose Children with Vaccinations in order to Achieve SDGs](#)