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**THE CORE GROUP POLIO PROJECT (CGPP)
ETHIOPIA SECRETARIAT
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**

**Ethiopia completes 2nd round nOPV2 Campaign:
*More than 16 million children received vaccines***



The nOPV2 campaign, Bench Sheko Zone, April 16, 2022

Ethiopia launched the second-round polio campaign with type2 novel oral polio vaccine (nOPV2) targeting over 16 million under-five children.

The vaccination campaign was aimed to protect children from the polio outbreak in the country. The campaign was conducted from April 15 – 18, 2022 throughout the country except for Tigray, Addis Ababa, and Afar.

The campaign was launched with the presence of government officials, religious and community leaders, parents, caregivers, and partners.

The CGPP secretariat and partners headquarters and field staff members have provided technical and logistic support during the pre, intra, and post-campaign activities and participated in the training coordination, deployment of campaign teams, availing vehicles to transport the vaccines and campaign teams, and deployed its community volunteers to mobilize the community for the campaign. Seven secretariat staff technically supported the campaign in Gambella region Abobo Woreda: South Bench and Sheko Woredas of Bench Maji zone in SNNP region; Shinile, Dembel and Erer Woredas of Siti Zone, Warder Woreda of Dollo Zone, and Gode Woreda of Shebele zone in Somali region. Moreover; six vehicles were provided by the Secretariat to support the campaign.

**“Long Life for all”: Advocating for unvaccinated children
*Ethiopia celebrates the 2022 African Vaccination Week***



The 12th Annual African Vaccination Week 2022 was officially launched on April 29, 2022, in Bahir Dar City, Ethiopia under the slogan "Long life for all."

The celebration was organized by the Ministry of Health (MOH), the Amhara Regional

Health Bureau, and immunization partners. In his welcome speech, Dr. Melkamu Abte, Director of the Amhara Region Health Bureau, noted that there are still

many people who have not received vaccinations, particularly in the war-affected areas, and he emphasized the importance of finding and helping children who have nutritional issues in addition to vaccination.

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NEWSLETTER**

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EDITORIAL —

WHY FOCUS ON “ZERO DOSE” CHILDREN: A KEY ISSUES OF IMMUNIZATION

By Filimona Bisrat (MD, MPH), CGPP Ethiopia Secretariat Director and Senior Regional Technical Advisor

The importance of reaching all children with immunization is paramount and ensures all children have equal chance of being healthy and productive members of society. Vaccines have proven to be one of the most important interventions in medicine and public health.

Since the introduction of vaccines worldwide, it has proved to save millions of lives and reduce disabilities. Immunization now reaches more communities than other health interventions, though we are still far from the goal of leaving no one behind with immunization. There are still millions of zero dose children.

Research has also been conducted to identify the reasons why children are not vaccinated, most of the factors are grouped into three categories: awareness and demand, access, and facility readiness. Gavi indicated that two-thirds of zero-dose children in 2019 lived in just five countries: Nigeria, India, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Pakistan, and Ethiopia. Furthermore, 18% of the zero dose children lived in 16 fragile countries. There are substantial variations between and within countries. For example, the DRC and Ethiopia have the largest number of zero-dose children especially in remote and rural areas, while Nigeria has the largest number of zero-dose children in the conflict impacted areas.

In 2020, more than 17 million children globally were estimated to be zero-dose, which is defined as not having received the first dose of diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis vaccination (DTP1). Also, 6 million kids were not adequately immunized (did not receive the third dose, DTP3). Therefore, the Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030), a new global strategy co-developed by WHO, countries, and partners and endorsed by the World Health Assembly in May 2021, aims to reach zero-dose children

and bring them sustainably into the routine immunization system. The target is to see a reduction of 50% in the number of zero-dose children by 2030.

Furthermore, Gavi also developed a 5.0 strategy (2021–2025) to reach millions of missing children by focusing on reaching the most marginalized by strengthening primary healthcare systems, building and sustaining community demand, addressing gender barriers, and using innovation to ensure that immunization service goal is to reduce the number of zero-dose children by 25% by 2025, and by 50% by 2030.

Zero-dose children have now become one of the centers of attention in immunization programs and international organizations have put strategies in place to reduce the number of zero-dose children and set indicators. In general, it would be impartial to see zero-dose and under-immunized children as indicators of gaps in the immunization system and health care inequity.

One of the intervention goals of the CGPP is to strengthen routine immunization activities, so CGPP must focus on reducing the number of children with zero doses and under-immunized for polio and other vaccines. There is a virtuous community-based structure, so CGPP is using this opportunity by mobilizing the community at the local and community level to work on the knowledge and awareness of parents and caregivers about the value of immunization. In terms of accessibility, CGPP has vast experience focusing on organizing special immunization services such as outreach programs. CGPP is also implementing its project which contributing to the facility's readiness to reduce the number of zero-dose child through supportive supervision, data quality, and logistic support.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Zero-dose children are those that have not received any routine vaccine. For operational purposes, Gavi defines zero-dose children as those who lack the first dose of the diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis-containing vaccine (DTP1).

An under-immunized child is defined as those missing the third dose of diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTP)-containing vaccine (DTP3).

Missed communities are home to clusters of zero-dose and under-immunized children.



CGPP holds its Mid-year review and planning meeting

The CGP-GHS Midyear Review and Planning Meeting (MYRPM) is part of the program's monitoring and evaluation framework. The meeting was organized by CORE Group Polio Project in Debre Birhan Town from 10-13 April 2022.



Participants from CGPP program implementing partners offices from all implementation regions and CGP-GHS Secretariat staff members were present at the meeting. The opening remark was made by Dr. Filimona Bisrat, Secretariat Director and Senior Technical Advisor, and a welcoming address was made by Ato Legesse Kidane, Deputy Secretariat Director. The meeting session was moderated by CGPP Secretariat technical staff members and representatives from implementing partner offices. The meeting was attended by

76 participants from the CGPP Secretariat staff, CGP_GHS project partners, Central, zonal coordinators, and field-level staff. In the meeting, the partners' six months activity performance was reported, implementation problems identified, and possible solutions were identified, experiences among CGP-GHS implementing partners were shared; and the activities and budget plan for the remaining implementation months were exercised.

CGPP hosts eradication, integration, and transition workshop in Gambella



On June 7, 2022, CGPP Ethiopia, in collaboration with the Gambella Regional Health Bureau, hosted a polio eradication, integration, and transition workshop in the Gambella region. CGPP Ethiopia has been implementing the facilitation of national and regional level advocacy activities on polio eradication, integration, and transition using funds obtained from the United Nations Foundation.

The workshop aimed to discuss the progress, challenges, and plan of the polio eradication program; sensitize polio integration activities with other public health emergency activities; raise awareness about the status and plan of polio transition activities, and provide orientation on regional polio advocacy activities. The workshop was attended by 63 participants from the Gambella Region's government sectors, including the Regional, Zonal, and District Health Bureaus, as well as the Bureau of Finance and Economic Development; and polio partners working in the region. During the workshop future directions were discussed on the readiness of the Gambella Region to integrate, and sustain the polio eradication program activities.

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POLIO CORNER

Summary of AFP Surveillance indicators by Region , Ethiopia Jan 01 – July 01, 2022

Region	Expected Cases (2022)	Reported (this period 2022)	Reported (same period 2021)	Reported this Week	NP-AFP Rate (annualized) 2022	NP-AFP Rate (annualized) 2021	Stool Adequacy (%)	Stool Cond. (%)	NPENT (%)	Compatibles	VDPV Cases	WPV Cases
A ABABA	20	17	15	0	3.4	3.5	100	100	13.3	0	0	0
AFAR	21	6	19	0	1.1	3.6	83	100	0	0	0	0
AMHARA	205	178	159	3	3.5	3.2	98	99	4.1	0	0	0
B/GUMUZ	11	18	13	0	6.5	3.7	100	100	5.7	0	0	0
D/DAWA	4	3	9	0	3	9	100	100	0	0	0	0
GAMBELLA	7	5	10	0	2.9	5.7	100	100	11.1	0	0	0
HARERI	2	3	5	0	6	10	100	100	0	0	0	0
OROMIA	418	320	322	12	3.1	3.2	88	99	6.8	0	0	0
Sidama	56	44	47	2	3.1	3.7	91	100	5.3	0	0	0
SNNPR	141	153	117	6	4.3	2.7	95	97	6.0	0	0	0
SOMALI	68	53	75	3	3.1	4.6	100	98	9.4	0	0	0
South West	36	54	0	2	6	0	94	100	0	0	0	0
TIGRAY	53	0	10	0	0	0.7	0	0	0	0	0	0
NATIONAL	1042	854	801	28	3.3	3.1	93	99	6.2	0	0	0

Week 26, 2022



Ethiopia celebrates the 2022 African Vaccination Week

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As the demand is high, he commended the Ministry of Health and partner organizations for their assistance and urged them to continue their support.

Ato Yohannes Lakew, Deputy Director of the Ministry of Health's Maternal, Child, and Nutrition Directorate, also stated in his speech that, "when Africa Vaccination Week is celebrated every year in April, creating awareness about those children who have not received vaccinations and who have defaulted from getting vaccinated is always a priority activity. Efforts are being made this year to identify children who have not been vaccinated or have stopped being vaccinated in areas affected by drought and frequent epidemics so that they can receive services."

Ato Legesse Kidane, Deputy Director of the CGPP Ethiopia Secretariat also delivered a speech at the launching and said stated that, the CCRDA/CORE Group

polio project will continue its support to strengthen vaccination in hard-to-reach areas of Ethiopia since it is one of the major health services that can ensure community well-being and protect children from diseases, disabilities, and death.

The National and Amhara region vaccination performance reports were presented and discussed during the celebration. It was mentioned that partner organizations should continue to extend their support to strengthen vaccination services in Ethiopia.

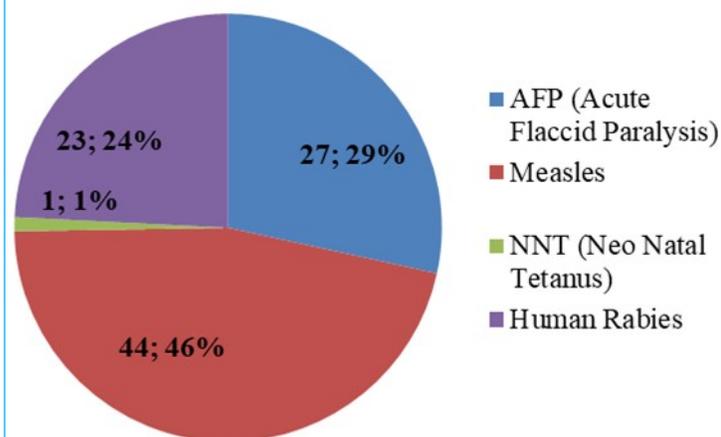
CORE Group Polio Project Ethiopia Secretariat office has provided technical and financial assistance for the African Vaccination Week celebration held in Bahir Dar.



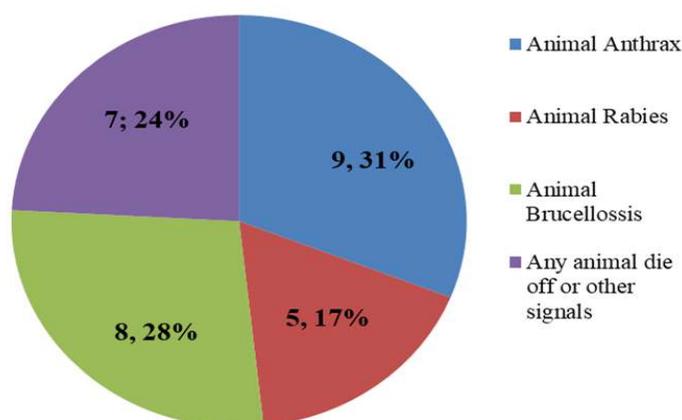
SURVEILLANCE AND SUPERVISION UPDATES

Human and Animal Disease Cases Reported through ODK from CGPP implementation Areas (April 1 to June 30, 2022)

Human Disease Cases Reported. Total number of cases= 95



Animal Disease Cases Reported Total number of cases = 29



Facility level supportive supervision field visits conducted by CGPP Secretariat and implementing partners (April 1/2022 to June 30/2022)

Facility Visited	Number of Visit	Percent
Health Center	85	25.6
Health Post	211	63.6
Animal Health Clinics	31	9.3
Hospitals	5	1.5
Total	332	100

Ethiopia COVID – 19 Updates

Total Number of Reported Cases in Ethiopia- Updated on June 30, 2022

Laboratory test → 5,057,953
 Active cases → 19,481
 Total cases → 488,724
 Total deaths → 7,536
 Total recovery → 461,705
 Total Vaccinated → 42,620,589

Source: FMOH Ethiopia



RESEARCH CORNER

Experiences from the field

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

Author: **Bethelehem Asegedew, CORE Group Polio Project**

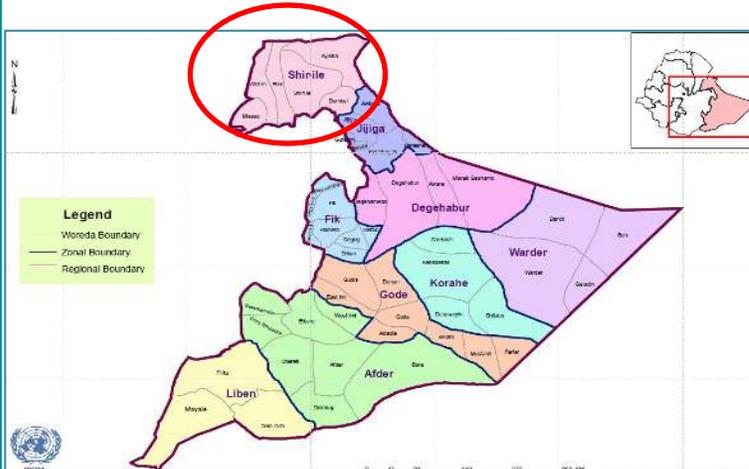


Figure 1: Map of Erer Woreda of Siti Zone in Somali Region

INTRODUCTION:

Child mortality is one of the major health problems and vaccine-preventable diseases are the main contributors. Immunization has an impact on decreasing child mortality. However, immunization coverage remained low. This study has conducted the knowledge, attitude, and practice of mothers/caretakers towards immunization.

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.

METHODS:

A community-based cross-sectional study was conducted. 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. Data was collected using ODK and analysis was done using SPSS 26 version. The study was conducted from September 19 – 26, 2021.

RESULTS:

Of the 416 respondents, the majority 407 (97.8%) mentioned polio, and 373 (89.7%) mentioned measles as some of the diseases prevented by vaccination. Tuberculosis (71.4%) and Tetanus (70.4%) are the next disease inline mentioned by respondents as vaccine-

Table 1: Knowledge of mothers/caretakers having a child between 12-23 months related to routine vaccine and diseases prevented vaccines, in Erer district, Somali Region, 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)



RESEARCH CORNER

Experiences from the field

preventable. About 306 (73.6%) and 239 (57.5%) mentioned health centers and health posts respectively as places for immunization services. Only 141 (33.9) knew

the timing of the first dose in the vaccination schedule; 86% of caretakers know the children are eligible for immunization or there is no restriction. Most (92.8%)

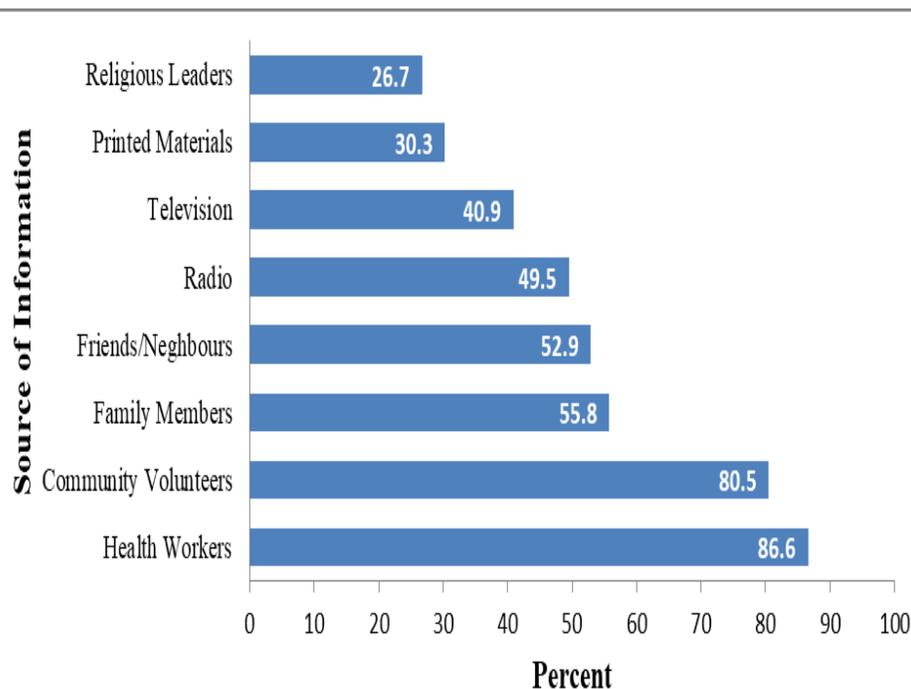


Figure 2: Distribution of source of information about childhood immunization of mothers having a child between 12-23 months, in Erer district, Somali Region

declared their reason for immunizing children was that immunization prevents diseases and keeps their children healthy. Mothers mentioned that their major sources of immunization information are Health workers and community volunteers (86.8% and 80.5% respectively). Only 57.2% of the caregivers had good knowledge, 63.2% favorable attitude, and 66.1% had good practice toward childhood immunization.

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.

Table 2. Immunization practice of mothers/caretakers having a child between 12-23 months immunization practice (Card + History), Erer district, Somali Region, 2021

Vaccination status	N	%	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)

CONCLUSION :

Although knowledge of the caretakers was an important contributing factor to a good vaccination practice overall the proportion of knowledgeable caregivers was low. Health education to promote knowledge and attitude, as well as immunization practice, is recommended.

Thank you for your contribution

Your contribution to this newsletter is highly appreciated. Without your valuable contribution, it is hard to reach our audiences with messages that are worth reading. We need to collaborate and exert more efforts together.



Updates from the Field



15 April 2022 – CGPP Secretariat and EECMY-EGBS Supported the 2nd round nOPV2 campaign launching at Kidane Mihrt Pre-school in Gambella Town. *(Photo Credit Seid Ahmed)*



CGPP/EGBS with Regional Animal and Fishery Bureau, organized social mobilization for Anti-Rabies Vaccination (for Dogs) campaign, April 8-12/2022 in Gambella Region, Ethiopia *(Photo credit – Seid Ahmed, EECMY/EGBS)*



April 2022 – Support provided by CGPP/EOC during the 2nd round nOPV2 campaign preparation at Kellem Wellega zone Yemalogi Welel Woreda *(Photo Credit- Yeheyis G/Hiowt, EOC-DICAC)*



13 April 2022 - AMREF Health Africa in collaboration with JHU-CCP facilitated, a regional One Health Steering Committee meeting for NNPRat Wolaita Sodo town *(Photo credit – Dr. Muluken Asress, CGPP Secretariat)*



April 15/2022 - 2nd round nOPV2 campaign at Sitti Zone Erer Woreda *(Picture credit -Bethy Fasil, HCS)*