



TechNet-21

The Technical Network for
Strengthening Immunization Services



September 29th, 2022

Reaching Zero-Dose Children: Human Resources for Missed Communities

Speakers:

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Key Challenges in Reaching Zero Dose Communities: Human Resources for Health

Rie Takesue, Health Specialist

PHC-HSS unit, UNICEF HQ

29 Sep 2022



Lessons Learned from the COVID Pandemic

1. Health systems in most countries are weak

➔ Substantial efforts and investment for (re)building resilient Health Systems

2. Inequities in accessing essential health services and loss of many progress prior to the pandemic were recorded.

➔ Investment on HRH, particularly for PHC



Key challenge

1. Availability of HRH

- Number of health workers
- Distribution
- Capacity/ skills

Key challenge

2. Acceptability to/of HRH

- Building trust by understanding user's perspective and local culture (sharing background - i.e., ethnic group, caste, language, religion, gender, etc)
- Adjusting time and location of sites

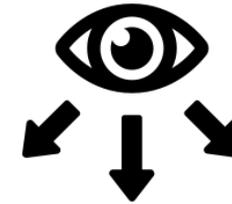




Key challenge

3. Motivation / Retention

What is the effective approach?





Maternal and
Newborn Health



Thank you.

unicef  | for every child

Reaching Every Child

DR. ABDUL JABBAR ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR, EPI PUNJAB ON BEHALF OF
DR. MUKHTAR AHMED AWAN DIRECTOR HEALTH SERVICES EPI PUNJAB

Zero Dose Children

Zero-dose children are those who have not received any routine vaccines. For operational purposes, Gavi defines zero-dose children as those missing a first dose of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis containing vaccine*. (Penta-1)

Punjab has lowest ZD children(0.9%) amongst all provinces TPVICS 2022 by AKU

Under-immunised children are those who have not received a full course of routine vaccines. For operational purposes, Gavi defines under-immunised children as those missing a third dose of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis containing vaccine(Penta-III)

Punjab has lowest % of Partially Immunized Children 10.7%

EPI Adopted Multi pronged Strategies to Cover ZD Children

Increased Vaccinator : Population parity

- Punjab has population of 122 Million people with an annual birth cohort of of 3.39 M children
- 2000 new vaccinators deployed

Establishing new EPI Centers/Clinics

- Established 260 new EPI centres with Public Private Partnership

Enhanced Out reach Activities(EOA)

- Conducted Multiple rounds of EOA in low performing Districts since 2020, specially to sustain coverage in Covid Pandemic

Initiation of Birth doses at Labour rooms(24/7)

- All Public Sector HFs administering Birth doses of OPV, Hep B Birth doses & BCG in LRs since June last year.

EPI Adopted Multi pronged Strategies to Cover ZD Children

Initiation of Evening shifts for Routine EPI at all Public Hospitals

- All Public sector DHQs/THQs/RHCs & BHUs are offering Routine EPI Services in evening shift since June 2022

EMR Application for real time child level data

- An EPI module has been created in EMR App by HISDU(Health Information & Service Delivery Unit)

Strengthening of Supervision & Accountability

- EPI Indicators included in CEOs deck to track their performance

PEI-EPI Synergy has helped in improving identification, Coverage & tracking of ZD Children

Zero dose children identification, tracking, vaccination & follow-up by field validation is the strength of Punjab.

Punjab took key initiatives for Zero dose children

PEI-EPI Synergy Application & Dashboard (HISDU)

- Zero dose recording during SIAs (PEI & EPI campaigns)
 - By name list with relevant details
 - Due & defaulter segregation
 - Age wise & HRMP segregation
- HR&MP registration
 - Zero dose identification prior to SIAs
 - Vaccination by EPI technicians
- Zero dose Coverage & validation
 - Almost 10% of the randomly selected covered children are validated by PEI staff



Dashboard

Resource Material

Map

Reports

UMS

Contact Us

Dr. Muhammad Mehroz Saleem

Log Out



Punjab

Districts : 36

Tehsils : 153

Union Councils : 3527

DHQ : 26

BHU : 1451

BHU 24/7 : 1053

THQ : 128

RHC : 317

Home

Compliance

EPI Store Monitoring

EPI Fixed Site Monitoring

EPI Outreach Vaccination Session

EI HH Cluster

Weak UCs Evaluation

SIAs Zero Dose

30 AFP HH Cluster



Zero Dose Recording & Coverage through PEI-EPI Synergy

Priority UCs supportive supervision

- PEI & EPI partner staff identifying the Unvaccinated & defaulter children during Priority UCs supportive supervision & HH cluster
- All recorded children details shared with concerned Districts for vaccination

AFP zero dose children

- List of all zero dose AFP children (0-59 m) shared with concerned UC staff for vaccination after stool samples collection
- Based on all Zero dose AFP children, a 30 HH cluster taken from the area to assess the EPI status of other children
 - List of all children is shared with EPI vaccinators for coverage

All the recorded children are shifted on SES application for timely sharing & feedback till UC level

Zero Dose Recording & Coverage PEI-EPI Synergy

EPI SIAs

- During TCV, MR & fIPV campaigns
 - All social mobilisers also recorded the Zero dose children followed by vaccination

Health Camps

- Under the lead of ISD integrated referral slips are being used for zero dose & defaulter children referred to near by health camp

Referral slips during Polio SIAs, EOAs

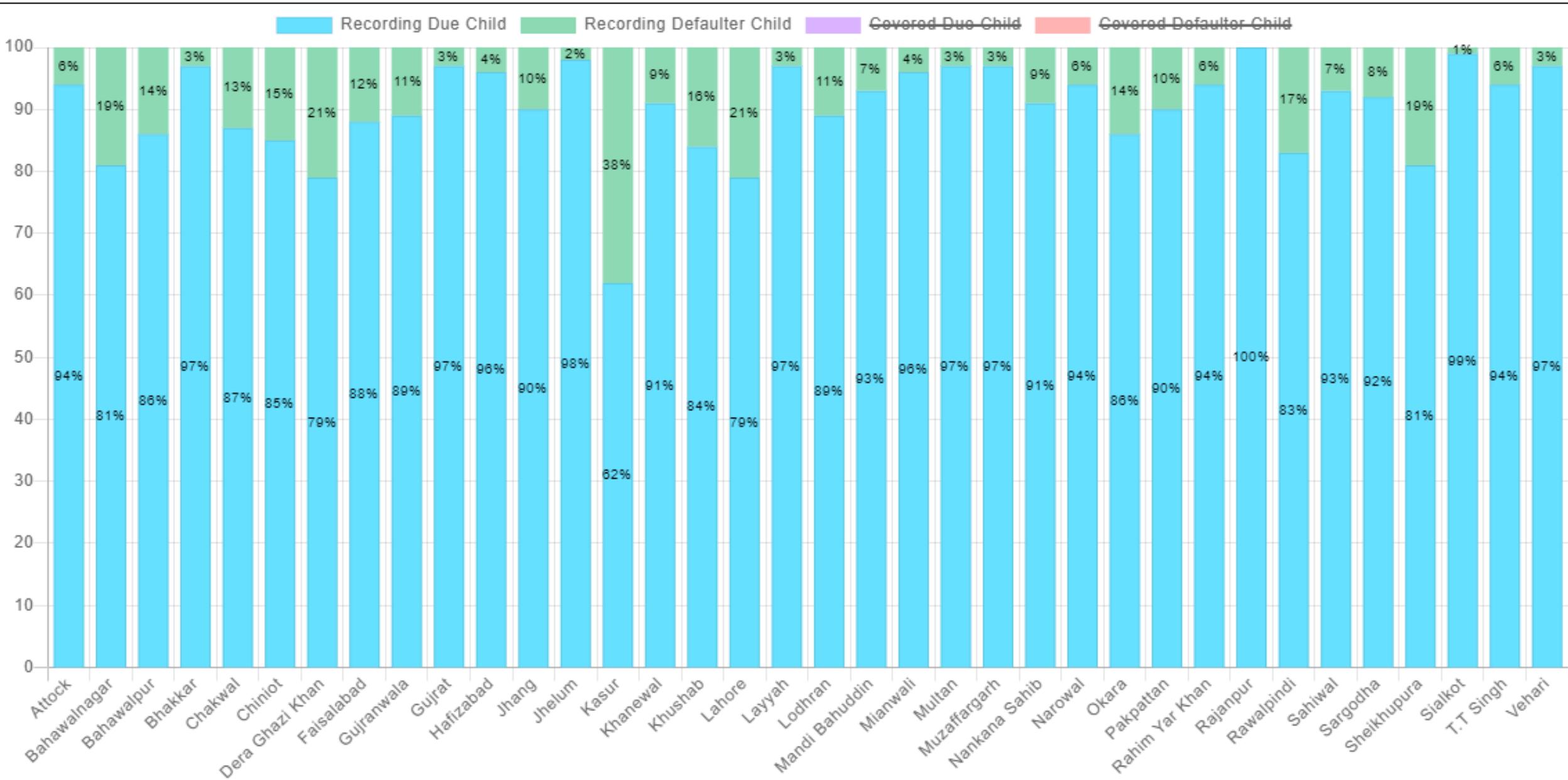
- Each mobile team & SMs also giving referral slips in all Polio SIAs & EOAs to parents of zero dose children for vaccination

ZD Coverage through EPI-PEI Synergy improved

Year	Activity	Children Recorded	Children Covered	%age
2021	SIAs	617,779	589,833	95%
2022		399,453	367,496*	92%
2021	HH clusters	447 ZD & 1510 Defaulters	All	100%
2022		266 ZD & 2052 Defaulters	All	100%
2021	AFP zero dose children	83	All	100
2022		73	All	100

Total 361, 30- HH AFP clusters conducted since launch of SES from May-2021
 246 children identified as defaulters & covered for EI
 1,468 children identified as defaulter for IPV followed by coverage

2022)



Reaching the unreachable: The role of community health workers in reaching missed communities

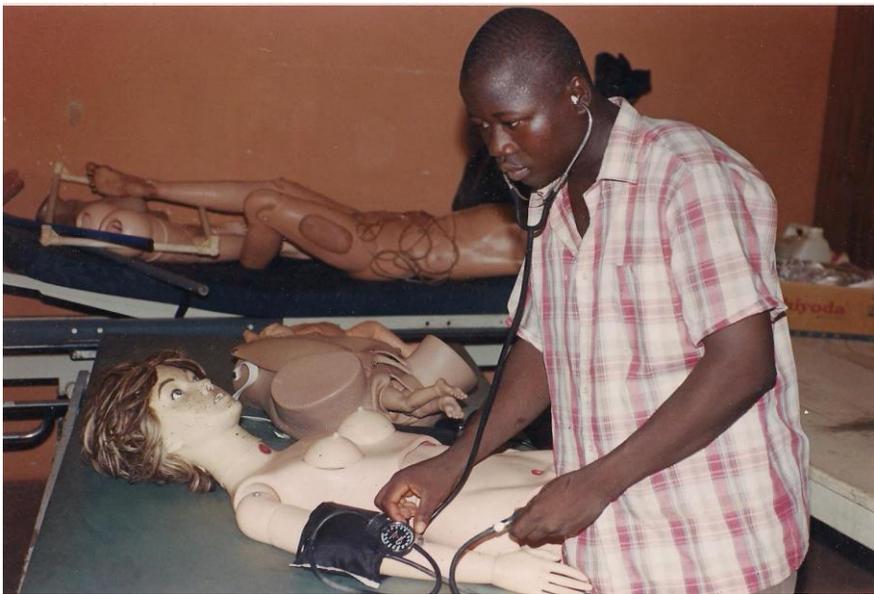
GEORGE MWINNYAA, MHS

PH.D. CANDIDATE, GLOBAL DISEASE EPIDEMIOLOGY AND CONTROL
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL HEALTH

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, BLOOMBERG SCHOOL OF PUBLIC
HEALTH



SEPTEMBER 2022



My Journey

- Community health volunteer
- Community health worker (Ghana CHPS program)
- BA public health (JHU)
- MHS infectious disease epidemiology (JHU)
- Ph.D. Candidate (JHU, expected 2023)
- Countdown 2030, World Bank, WHO



Training as a CHW in Ghana, 2008

Reaching the unreachable: the missed communities

- Empowering CHWs may be the only way to reach certain missed communities and zero-dose children
- Logistics and good salary/allowance are necessary but not sufficient to reach missed communities
- These communities are not necessarily geographically-grouped settlements in the middle of a jungle, but instead can be scattered homes

Serving missed communities requires more than logistics and incentives

What We Do: Organize child welfare clinics



Child Welfare Clinic, Ghana 2011

What We Do: Conduct home visits



Visiting Mothers with Newborns, Ghana 2012



National Immunization Campaign, Ghana 2010

The fun part of the job!

Reaching the unreachable



Outreach Services, Ghana, 2012-2015

With CHWs, no community will be missed



Outreach Services, Ghana, 2012-2015



Supervisors on their way to visit CHWs, Ghana 2008



Challenges of reaching missed communities, Ghana 2008

Reaching missed communities: the untapped potential of community health workers

- **Respect, appreciation, and recognition** can be game-changing for a CHW
- Over-reliance on centrally-established targets can disempower CHWs, **trust in their contextual knowledge** is essential
- Field experience of CHWs and the resulting lessons can **generate novel approaches** and enhance established methods to reaching missed communities and zero-dose children
- **Meaningful** engagement of CHWs when planning global, national, and subnational immunization programs is critical

Empowered CHWs: the bridge to reach missed communities



With empowered CHWs, no child, family or community will be left behind

Thank you!

George Mwinnya

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Questions & Answers

Zero-Dose Community of Practice

Engage, join the Zero-dose Community of Practice:
<https://community.zero-dose.com/home>

