

Rapid Assessment of Knowledge and Perception on Immunisation Programme in Nepal

September 2014– March 2015



A qualitative study to understand ways of introducing new vaccines

Project Objectives:

- Explore knowledge and perception of Health Service Providers on new vaccines in EPI and determine their source of information
- Explore perception of Beneficiaries on importance of immunization and introduction of new vaccines in EPI
- Determine the barriers perceived by health service providers and beneficiaries in introducing new vaccines and the possible solutions to overcome those barriers

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Project Summary

The Child Health Division in collaboration with the WHO's Immunisation and Vaccines Development (IVD) and financial support by Global Alliances for Vaccination and Immunisation (GAVI) is planning to introduce new vaccines (IPV, MR II, and PCV) in phased manner in Nepal from September 2014. With an aim to understand appropriate ways of introducing new vaccines so the planning process is well informed and reflective to the local context, a rapid assessment of knowledge and perception of health service providers and beneficiaries on new vaccines was designed and conducted in three districts of Nepal: Rasuwa, Ilam and Bardiya.

Methods

We designed a cross-sectional study with the use of qualitative approach to assess the knowledge and perception of health service providers and beneficiaries. The study was conducted in three districts, one from each Ecological Zone: Rasuwa (Mountain); Ilam (Hill); and Bardiya (Terai).

Key-informant interviews

We conducted in-depth interviews with key informants who are involved in immunization programme in any way to explore their knowledge and perception on immunization programme and new vaccines. The informants included District Public Health Officer, EPI focal person, cold chain officer, Municipality Health Officer, Women Development Officer and health facilities service providers (including medical doctors, staff nurse, ANM, AHW and facilities in-charges).

Focus Group Discussions

We also conducted FGDs with community group such as father and mother of under 1 child, Mother's

group, female community health volunteers and local teachers to explore their knowledge and perception on immunisation and introduction of new vaccines.

Findings

- Almost all the beneficiaries were aware about the immunization program being conducted in their area.
- Most of the beneficiaries were satisfied with the current immunization system.
- Most of the health workers had heard of new vaccines (IPV, PCV, MRII) but only some had detailed knowledge of new vaccines.
- Most of the participants from all groups pointed out that vaccines can be made acceptable conducting awareness programs and providing information via effective medium prior to introduction.
- Acceptability of multiple injection was not mentioned to be a problem by most of them provided it keeps their children healthy, is introduced by government. However few beneficiaries preferred one vaccine at a time.
- Various demand side like economic condition, inadequate knowledge and supply side barriers like vaccine supply and availability of skilled service provider and challenges were mentioned by the participants in introduction of new vaccines. To remove these barriers and challenges the most common suggestions cited by all groups of participants were providing education and disseminating information to all the community people, leaders and HWs themselves in larger extent.