

FRACTIONAL INACTIVATED POLIO VACCINE (FIPV) + NOPV2 AND MNCH WEEK INTEGRATED CAMPAIGN KEBBI STATE

HUMAN INTEREST STORIES AND LEASON LEARNED

Kebbi State was among the first four prioritized States to conduct integrated fIPV+nOPV and MNCH week in Nigeria due to current outbreak to boost children's immunity against all types of polioviruses and other vaccine-preventable child-killer diseases. The campaign targeted children of 0 to 59 months of age groups reached with fIPV, Routine IMMunization antigens and Nutritional suplements against different kinds of diseases. The vaccination took place in urban, rural, hard to reach and underserved communities. Teams were assigned at strategic places in the communities including Schools, Markets, Churches, Orphanage homes, Clinics, Motorparks, Borders and other public gathering places.

The power of Social Behavior Change communication - Pre-implemetation SBCC activities conducted.

To make this campaign a success, VCMs were engaged in their settlements, house to house mobilisers comprising mainly women, entertainers, town announcers, Traditional leaders, community influencers and Religious leaders were all strategically engaged to raise awareness and trust in the communities.

Parents of infants from 0 to 59 months were informed well in advance of the campaign, the campaign provided an opportunity to administer routine immunization to all eligible children: The key issues facing demand creation have been identified and strategies are selected to tackle them based on lessons and evidence on what works considering the local context:

State and LGAs Social Mobilization working committee met, planned, discussed and developed action plan for effective demand generarion, Developed SMART Social Mobilization activity work plan (advocacy, sensitization, orientation etc), thus:

1. Advocacy to the Governor, LGA level targeting LGA Chairman and his Councillors, updated them about the campaign and tasked them to take ownership and active lead in ensuring the uptake of fIPV+nOPV2 immunisation campaign within their domain and to support some of the identified gaps for the successful implementation.
2. Advocacies to the Emirs, District heads and Village heads across Kebbi State; This strategy aims to increase ownership, support. These helped build trust, removed fear, boosted confidence and raised the level of awareness. The Traditional leaders in addition tasked to take on the responsibilities of helping to track newborns, referrals, and engaging with heads of households to change their behaviors towards immunization.

SUCCESS STORY FROM THE FIELD

Power of Perseverance

Fauziya is a mother of one (Hafsat) living in Bayan Kara settlement of Nassarawa I ward of Birnin Kebbi LGA Kebbi. Regarding immunization Hafsat was a 'dropout' which meant vaccination had never been completed. She was immunized at birth but never received the subsequent doses.

Rukayya the VCM working in Bayan kara settlement has educated the parents about the safety of the vaccines and the benefits of completing vaccination schedules, slowly but surely the VCM won the family trust, followed-up on the Hafsat immunization schedule, Hafsat is now fully vaccinated, and a healthy child see her immunization card, Fauziya lamented.

The VCM mobilized me for this immunization (fIPV+nOPV campaign), now I came and received, its safe, no side effects had occur to my child. Soon, I will educate my friends and relatives with vaccine-hesitancy to come and vaccinate their children Fauziya added!

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A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY, A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

Story of Yaurawa settlement, Gwadangaji ward-Birnin kebbi LGA

One of the remote villages (Yaurawa) in Birnin Kebbi LGA - Gwadangaji known with history of immunization non-compliant every round of SIAs. Strategically, the VCM, Influential community leader, town announcer, entertainer and vaccinator jointly coordinated awareness activities and created demand for fIPV+nOPV and MNCH week intervention in remote Gwadangaji area (Yaurawa), ensured public are fully awarded of the benefits of the campaign, thus created a lot of crowd at the vaccination post.

Saratu Muhammad a dedicated and trusted VCM of Yaurawa settlement moved door-to-door sensitizing and informing caregivers about campaign dates and location, have said to mobilized more than 200 caregivers to the vaccination post. Hence the VCM increased awareness, understanding and acceptance of the campaign therefore an instrumental to the success of this campaign.



Evening review meeting at the palace of the senior District Head, Ubandoman Gwandu

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The town announcer Umaru Danladi is 52-year-old was making his rounds for child survival, rousing the residents of Yaurawa as part of the fIPV campaign. The man with megaphone calls for mothers and fathers to bring their children for vaccination. Sweating under the heat of late morning sun, this town announcer is something of a vaccination veteran. He's played the role a couple of times, for immunization campaign.

He is more than happy to oblige. 'I have done this a couple of times before and people know me and listen to me,' he says. "They entrust their children to me."



Visit of Anpuj Panchanan Achari (SBC Manager, Polio Outbreak Response Team) to support the nOPV Campaign at Makera, Birnin Kebbi LGA

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Abu Na Sani entertainer attracts children for vaccination with the rhythm of his drums, a 43 year local entertainer supported the vaccination team in raising awareness about the campaign and encouraging parents to vaccinate their children, he has toured communities, accompanying vaccination team as they vaccinate children during the campaign, because of his drum rhythm whenever he beat his drums, children and adult flock around him and dance to his drum which gives him opportunity to speak about the safety of vaccination.

Amina Rabi'ua vaccinator in the team attributed the success of the campaign due to the role her team member played in creating demand and raising community awareness. "I made up my mind that my children and others must this time received the required antigens and I have no doubt that the vaccine will protect them, its now our job to ensure that our children are vaccinated" Amina added.

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Other SBCC activities include the following:

Trained of 1337 health workers as vaccinators on communication and mobilization skills to effectively mobilize parents, caregivers and communities (IPC and Counseling skills training of all health workers to communicate and handle the clients) for improved and sustained participation in immunization services, 1337 women mobilizers and 1337 Town announcers were also trained to disseminate information about the campaign, this help to increase caregivers immunization knowledge, encouraged caregivers to actively receive immunization and improved immunization coverage levels.

- Inter-personal engagements through VCMs house-to-house visits, about **300 VCMs** are going into door-to-door, informing and educating caregivers on the benefits of the campaign, dates and locations.
- **780 Compound meetings** were conducted by VCMs targeting both heads of households (addressed issues of restriction on mothers by their husbands to access care for their children) and mothers, especially mothers who are restricted to homes on religious/cultural ground.
- **520 Community dialogues** were conducted led by traditional leaders/district heads and promoted ownership and demand for the campaign at Birnin Kebbi Town, Makera, Kola, Kardi, Gulumbe, Ambursa, Zauru and Gwadangaji.
- Edutainment events by Polio Survivor Group (PSGs) including road shows and rallies, that communicate fIPV+nOPV2 immunization messages in entertaining ways at garage and public busy palaces.
- Distributed notification letters to all District heads and Village heads and also schools informing them about the campaign, target age and dates.
- Mosques and Churches announcements and facilitated by RFPs.
- Islamiyya schools' sensitization and announcements by Female RFP targeting caregivers and mothers.
- Advocacy to Executive Secretary Primary Schools board and to all schools, reminded them of the benefits of the campaign, dates and seek for cooperation during the exercise.
- Developed of key messages for Town announcers to be used during the daily announcements made in the community.

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'ONE-WOMAN-FOOT ARMY' ADDRESSES MYTHS AND ENCOURAGE VACCINATION

Volunteer Community Mobilizers in action

Zuwaira Sani a 54-year-old and a pioneer Volunteer Community Mobilizer (VCM) in Kebbi state, Birnin Kebbi LGA since 2011, she is well respected and influential in her community, she delivered her immunization messages verbally in coordination with a variety of SBCC tools, addressing the importance of vaccination and provide general knowledge on the immunization programme, the safety of OPV, personal hygiene and nutrition among others. However, her role and mission go far beyond vaccinating newborns and children under five years of age.

"I follow-up with mothers right from the first trimester of their pregnancies and try to address their fears or misconceptions about vaccination, antenatal care and immunization programmes, and also my mission is to try and ensure no child falls victim to polio or any other preventable childhood disease." Zuwaira explains.

During fIPV+nOPV and MNCH week integrated campaign, Zuwaira mobilized and brought over 200 children to vaccination post in her settlement Siyar Zabarmawa. Zuwaira received good work recommendation from UNICEF Social Behavior Change Manager Polio Outbreak Countries the pioneer VCM Network initiative in Kebbi about 12 years ago, Mr Anpuj Panchanan Achari during supervision.



Zuwaira Sani (VCM) and Anpuj Panchanan Achari (SBC Manager, Polio Outbreak Response Team) in the Kebbi State.

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LESSONS LEARNED

- Use of community influencers and community-based announcement by town announcers yield impressive results.
- To sustain the current momentum and to improve and achieve the program goals; needs strengthening accountability and sustained improvement in quality of SIAs.
- Integration of fIPV + nOPV with MNCH Week had gone a long way in ensuring the success of the campaign.
- Ownership by Traditional leaders also yield success as evening review meetings are chaired by Traditional leaders in their palaces. It also provided supportive supervision in the field.



Community survey of vaccinated children in (Nomadic settlement) Gwandu LGA (7 children out of 10 children were immunized, the reason of not vaccinated they went for cattle rearing with their parents)

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The specific objectives are:

- To create high level of awareness on the uptake of Polio and other immunization against childhood diseases in the communities.
- To reduce non-compliance on accepting polio and other antigens due to various reasons in the communities.
- To reach the non-compliance households, Islamiyah schools of block rejection in the communities.
- To increase health seeking behavior in the communities through VCMs and CBOs compiled.

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