

Child Immunization: Struggles and Strategies during COVID-19

Seattle Convention Center - Room 602-604 (6th Floor)

Monday, October 31, 7:15 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Sponsored Symposium held in conjunction with the 2022 ASTMH Annual Meeting

Sponsored by  Save the Children.

This Sponsored Symposium will focus on challenges and mitigation measures adapted to improve routine child immunization coverage in the global COVID-19 pandemic context. COVID-19, the world's most widespread pandemic in a century, has put health systems in all countries under unprecedented strain. Countries have been able to respond to COVID-19 thanks to previous investments in their health systems. However, strict lockdowns and shifting government priorities to combat the pandemic disrupted health services and routine immunization services, highlighting and exacerbating inequities both within and between countries. The effects of the pandemic have varied between lower-income countries, as many of them found it challenging to accelerate the roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines while maintaining and extending the reach of routine immunization systems. For child healthcare, the global coverage rate for diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTP3) doses - a benchmark for measuring global coverage of routine immunization - dropped from 86% in 2019 to 83% in 2020, leaving 3.7 million more children un-or under vaccinated than in 2019. Disruption of health services including routine immunization caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has increased the number of zero-dose children, and continued disruption in 2021 shows the need to safeguard routine immunization amid COVID-19 vaccine rollout. In the proposed symposium sessions, we aim to share the results and lessons learned from activities supported by International Vaccine Access Center (IVAC) at Johns Hopkins University and Save the Children's country office teams in Bangladesh and Kenya. The presentations and discussion session during the symposium will focus on the challenges faced and the strategies adapted to overcome them in order to keep the pace and coverage of routine immunization services, specifically in low and middle income countries. We believe that the symposium will offer an opportunity to cross-share lessons from the different geographic regions represented, and the information-rich content and discussion will be instrumental in offering the global health audience a comprehensive summary of effective ways to address post-COVID challenges for keeping child immunization coverage high.

CHAIR

Irene Koek, Head of Global Health
Save the Children, Washington, DC, United States

WELCOME ADDRESS

Irene Koek, Head of Global Health
Save the Children, Washington, DC, United States

MODERATOR, PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION

Charles A. Knirsch, Vice President, Clinical Research and Development
Pfizer Inc., New York, NY, United States

KEYNOTE SPEECH: BUILDING BACK BETTER STRATEGIES FOR IMMUNIZATION: LESSONS FROM COVID-19

Anis Siddique, Team Lead, Immunization Coverage/Equity
UNICEF HQ, New York, NY, United States

RESULTS FROM DOOR-TO-DOOR IMMUNIZATION STRATEGY IN NAIROBI COUNTY, KENYA

Linda T. Misiko, Health Technical Advisor
Save the Children Kenya, Nairobi, Kenya

RESULTS FROM DOOR-TO-DOOR IMMUNIZATION STRATEGY IN NAIROBI COUNTY, KENYA

Asma Ali Awadh, Sub-County Medical Officer Health
Kibra/Langata Sub-County, Nairobi Metropolitan Services, Nairobi, Kenya

CHILD IMMUNIZATION CATCH-UP AFTER COVID-19 DISRUPTIONS IN BANGLADESH

Shohel Rana, Project Mgr, Tackling Childhood Pneumonia
Save the Children Bangladesh, Barisal, Bangladesh

CHILD IMMUNIZATION CATCH-UP AFTER COVID-19 DISRUPTIONS IN BANGLADESH

Md Shamsul Haque, Line Director (MNCAH)
Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare,
Bangladesh, Dhaka, Bangladesh

A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF IMMUNIZATION SERVICE DISRUPTION AND RECOVERY IN THE WAKE OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN LMICS

Chizoba Wonodi, Associate Scientist
IVAC at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, United States

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ROUTINE IMMUNIZATION IN THE ERA OF COVID-19 VACCINE ROLLOUT IN NIGERIA

Daniel Ali, Assistant Scientist
IVAC at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, United States

