Actions taken to maintain/improve immunization/VPD surveillance performance following the COVID-19 pandemic, Bangladesh

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Impact of COVID-19 on EPI

- Immunization coverage less in 2020 compared to 2019. Although coverage improved in 2021, however, still there are missed children.

- Urban areas coverage is less compared to rural areas.

- Staffs repurposed for the COVID-19 response activities

- New vaccine introduction
  - NITAG recommended introduction of HPV
  - Decision on JE and Typhoid TCV at final stage
  - Discussion with GAVI ongoing
  - Affected by COVID crisis

- Reason for less Coverage in 2020
  - Lockdown,
  - Session site close,
  - Irregular session and
  - Fear of COVID

- Surveillance performance indicators have improved in 2021 as compared to 2020 but low as 2019.
Actions taken to improve routine EPI

• Guideline developed to conduct immunization activities amid COVID-19 pandemic and circulated
• Immunization Dashboards developed and used for data driven monitoring
• IPC training conducted among the vaccinators
• Vaccination for missed children—Line listing, tracking and mobilization is ongoing
• Catch-up vaccination drive as part of world immunization week 2021
  • MR1> 121,000 vaccinated; MR2> 54,000 vaccinated
• App based real time Routine Immunization monitoring tool developed and piloted. Scale up planned
• Scaling up of Routine EPI advocacy- National level COVID-19 press briefing platform used
• Developed and circulated SBCC materials on IPC
• Completion of Nationwide MR campaign (Dec 2020-Feb 2021) for 9 months to > 10 years
  • Vaccinated >36.5 million
  • Resulted in enhancing public confidence in program
Activities taken to improve VPD Surveillance

• High level reviews with City Corporations and Districts with a feedback on cardinal Measles/ AFP and other VPD surveillance indicators (June 26, 2021)
• > 250 AFP/Measles/VPD orientations conducted (Mar-June 2021)
• MR Bulletin developed and shared across country, initiating VPD bulletin
• Advocacy meetings on VPD surveillance planned with Bangladesh Medical Association and Bangladesh Paediatric Association
• Focused reviews from National level planned with weak performing districts
• Internal VPD/EPI review planned in 5 high priority districts/corporations
• Orientation drive of newly inducted medical officers planned
• Meeting to sensitize NGO platform planned
• Community involvement for increasing the case notification (report through mobile phone SMS, App or social media)
Monthly distribution of AFP cases Jan –June (2019-2021)

### AFP case reporting

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**Intensified Orientations on AFP & VPD**

> > 250 orientation (Mar-Jun 2021)

**Review meeting conducted with Low performing Districts**

AFP surveillance, recovering ground

- Bangladesh continues to maintain Non-Polio AFP reporting rate as per global standard however variability at district level
- 16% decline observed in reporting of AFP in 2020 as compared to 2019
- AFP reporting increased in 2021 as compared to 2020.

*Data as on 1 Aug 2021*
MR campaign (9 months to >10 years) conducted in Dec 2020-Feb 2021 (36 million vaccinated)

• More than 60,000 HWs, and 20,000 supervisors trained, platform used for strengthening Measles / VPD reporting

• Post campaign less cases being reported
• Non-Measles non-rubella discarded rate Variable in districts .
• Risk assessment exercise being done
Thank you