



preventivecareinternational

MID TERM EVALUATION REPORT SUMMARY

ACCELERATING DEMAND FOR IMMUNIZATION SERVICES
IN MUKONO DISTRICT UGANDA USING MALE
IMMUNIZATION CHAMPIONS



PCI



Background:

Male partner involvement in routine children immunization (RCI) services influences women's immunization behavior, utilization and timely completion of an infant's RCI schedule.

From a study conducted by Baguma (2011) in rural, In Uganda, only 29% of all male participants were highly involved in RCI. This is partly associated with the fact that interventions that generate demand for immunization services in Uganda have traditionally targeted women neglecting the involvement of men. This is due to the general belief that women are typically responsible for child immunization. Paradoxically, male involvement is particularly emphasized in MCH with little attention to child vaccination, one of the world's most cost-effective child survival strategies

Project scope

The male immunization project is 12-month project supported by the gates foundation and Openideo and implemented by Preventive care international (PCI). The project's purpose is to accelerate demand for immunization services in rural Uganda particularly Mukono district through use of male immunization champions

This pilot project is being implemented in three sub counties in Mukono district, Uganda:

- **Goma** Sub County which is in the urban locality of the district,
- **Nnama** sub county in rural Mukono majorly constituted by farmers
- **Ntenjeru** a peri urban sub county majorly constituted by the mobile Population Specifically Fisher Folks

Project specific objectives

Reaching un/ under immunized communities in Mukono, using male champions to:

- Increase and personalize education, for those who don't have access to information, or who have been misinformed
- To change the perception that “immunization is a woman's issue”.
- To create community ownership over child health care

Assumptions

- That \$1 coupons will be enough incentive for champions.
Coupons distributed to champions will make it back to health centers via clients encouraged to seek health care services.
- Champions will be able to find and convince under/un-immunized community members to seek out services.
- Incentives and programs will look different in different contexts.

Project activities

- Identifying and training male immunization champions
- Reaching out and referring care givers for immunization services at the health facility using coupons/vouchers
- Engaging communities and care givers on immunization through sports
Building collaboration with stakeholders and district local leadership on immunization
- Supporting male champions to achieve financial resilience through small saving groups.

Purpose, Objectives and Scope of the Evaluation

The evaluation sought to assess the extent to which the project has achieved its intended objectives and identify broader lessons to inform further project implementation.

Specifically, the evaluation sought:

- To assess the effectiveness of the project in achieving the desired change and results
- To identify and document any promising practices and approaches generated by the project

Methodology

For this midterm evaluation, we have used both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods. Specifically data has been collected through:

- Abstracting data from facility immunization registers specifically, child health register and Health Management information system (HMIS) form 105
- Comparing baseline and midterm immunization trends
- Collecting stories from both female and male care givers
- Conducting Key informant interviews with the health facility staff ■

RESULTS

Overall, the project so far made significant contribution of about 65% towards accelerating demand for immunization services in Mukono

district, Uganda; Demonstrating a model of best practice to inform policy makers. Midterm evaluation findings show that in this project we have:

1. Identified and trained 45 male immunization champions



One of the training session for the champions

ARCHETYPE: WOMEN

Champions were recommended by each district. They therefore come with various motivations and capabilities.

THE ADVOCATE

Generally young and with great engagement skills, the advocate can approach men and seamlessly weave immunization into a casual conversation. He is effective at mobilizing.

His success may be a result of their status as an athlete in the community.

THE RECORD KEEPER

A rare archetype who keeps diligent records of the parents he mobilizes and builds a relationship with them. He follows up and shows a higher return of vouchers at the clinic.

His success may be a result of the breadth of his network in the community.

THE VETERAN

A VHT, generally older and with more experience in the health sector. He has strong and strategic relationships with community and health leaders. He might spend less time mobilizing.

His success may depend on his competing priorities.

THE CAREER BUILDER

A very young and inexperienced mobilizer. He has a lot of energy and motivation to grow in his role. He sees his involvement with PCI as a step in his long term plan.

His success may depend on the mentorship he gets.

2. Reached out to care givers to bring their children for immunization through coupons/ vouchers



2,000

coupons have so far been distributed by male champions



1,300

children have been immunized following the return of the coupons



An immunization outreach organized by male immunization champions

3. Engaging communities and care givers through sports

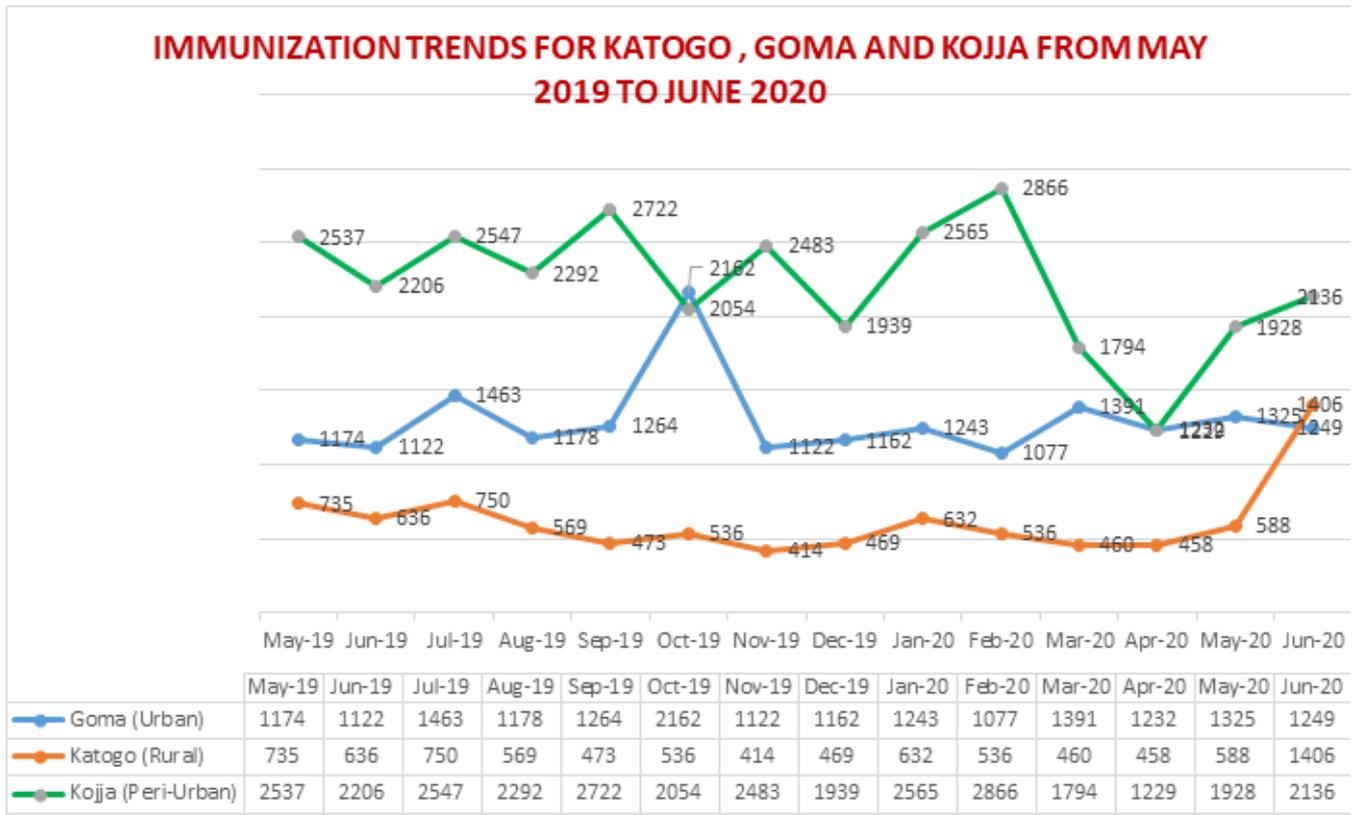
- Before the COVID19, current situation, champions organized a football tournament and they synchronized it with an immunization outreach
- Champions have also used board games to engage care givers with immunization messages

Football and other games organized by male immunization champions



4. Increase in uptake of immunization services

Baseline data (May - Oct 2019) and midterm data (Nov-May 2020) show an increment in the trends for utilization of the different antigens



Kojja

- There is a sharp decrease in numbers from March to around mid May mainly because of COVID 19. Being a site serving fishing communities access to the facility was more complicated
- When COVID 19 restrictions on movement were relaxed a bit we can see that many care givers tried to bring their children for immunization

...a sharp decrease in numbers from March to around mid May mainly because of

COVID 19 ↓

Goma

- This facility has maintained a fair performance because most of the care givers don't stay far from the facility and are able to take their children when champions engage them
- There was a sharp decrease in the number around October and November mainly because in the previous month there was mass immunization by government and a few children developed site effects
- Being an urban facility many care givers have access to radios and social media where wrong information about immunization was being shared

...many care givers have access to radios and social media where wrong information about immunization was being shared



Katoogo

- This is a rural facility and most of the care givers permanently reside there and can move to the facilities even without other means of transport
- When COVID 19 restrictions were relaxed and we met the immunization champions, we can see a great improvement in the number of children taken for immunization

...We can see a great improvement in the number of children taken for immunization



Challenges encountered during project implementation

- We could not implement project activities for three months due to COVID 19 that led to total lockdown with no transport
- Demand for us to train champions in the whole district and surrounding districts yet resources can not support this. This is due to the skills and empowerment that the trained champions have attained and increase in immunization uptake in the three sub counties that we are implementing the project.
- Some of the care givers were taking their children and coupons given to them by champions to other facilities beyond where we were operating.
- The project was on using male immunization champions but very many females wanted to be trained too. They felt that they could reach out to fellow females more than men ■

Our Future Plans



To scale up the project to the whole district and surrounding districts to reach out to more care givers and assess greater impact.



To continue supporting male immunization champions with capacity building on community engagement.



To continue supporting male champions with mentorship in management of their formed saving corporatives for sustainability of activities.



To collaborate with ministry of health, GAVI, UNICEF and other partners in supporting immunization services in the country.



To reach out to different partners for funding to scale up the male immunization champions to more districts.



To work with different partners to develop a more sustainable male champions program that can benefit more districts and reach out to all care givers.



To build more capacity for health care providers in recording of information ■



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Mid Term Evaluation Report Summary

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