As reported by the Department of Health (DOH), routine immunization coverage in the Philippines has not demonstrated consistent progress. The fully immunized children (FIC) rate stands at only 62.9% in 2021 (FHSIS 2021) compared to 55.18% in 2020 and 69.08 in 2019. The 95% target coverage remains a huge challenge for most provinces and cities in the country even in the National Capital Region.

Through the qualitative study conducted under the Project IMPACT, it was found that the overarching challenges and concerns related to immunization among these population groups are:

- household competing priorities that hinder women/caretakers to remember their vaccine schedules,
- the mother not being able to decide because of familial (husband/in-law) opposition to vaccines,
- unpleasant experiences in the local health facility due to long/slow queues and hostile staff,
- fear of contracting COVID-19 when they (and their children) visit the health facility,
- vaccine hesitancy due to misinformation and fear of serious adverse effects, and
- downplaying of disease severity.

This project, funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australia under the Vaccine Access and Health Security Initiatives (VAHSI), aims to address the low immunization coverage among children under two years of age, pregnant women, and boost COVID-19 vaccination rate both for primary and booster doses. Intervention under the Project IMPACT, such as sending of SMS reminders to target populations for their scheduled visits to the local health center for vaccines and check-up, will continue in order to cover all the required doses for a child’s routine immunization. Should this prove to be effective in other localities, its expansion to additional project sites will encourage vaccine uptake and provide further evidence on context-specific behaviour change interventions. Otherwise, another socio-behavioral change communication (SBCC) plan and materials will be developed. The promotion of an inclusive and non-discriminatory healthcare will still be pursued through health service providers’ trainings and child-centered social accountability (CCSA) efforts.

**AREAS OF IMPLEMENTATION**

**NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION:** Muntinlupa City, Pasay City, Caloocan City

**REGION III:** Malolos City, Bulacan

**REGION IV-A:** Naic, Cavite; Tanay and Antipolo, Rizal

**REGION VIII:** Samar

**BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO (BARMM):** Lanao del Sur

**PARTNERS**

- Department of Health (DOH) Central Office – Health Promotion Bureau & National Immunization Program
- DOH Regional Offices
- Research Institute for Tropical Medicine
- Center for Utilizing Behavioral Insights for Children (CUBIC), Save the Children International
- UNICEF
- World Health Organization
- National Commission on Indigenous Peoples
- Local CSOs – Integrated Midwives Association of the Philippines, Raheema Women Peace Weavers, and Center for Empowerment and Development in Eastern Visayas
- Community Support Groups (CSGs), Children and Youth Groups
Scaling Up IMPACT
Improved Immunization Coverage with People’s Acceptance through Communications & Technology

GOAL, OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS

Goal:
Contribute to increased coverage of the National Immunization Program of the Department of Health to include routine immunization for children, maternal immunization and COVID-19 vaccination

Outcome 1
Increased vaccination uptake among target groups (pregnant women, parents/caregivers, COVID-19 vaccination eligible groups)

Output 1.1
Improved knowledge on the importance of vaccination among eligible target groups

Output 1.2
Improved knowledge, attitudes and skills of health service providers on the delivery of quality care

Outcome 2
Improved accountability of government units to deliver quality immunization services

Output 2.1
Feedbacks are provided by local CSOs to local government units using social accountability approach

TARGET REACH

CHILDREN
PREGNANT WOMEN
PERSONS-WITH-DISABILITY
PARENTS/CAREGIVERS OF CHILDREN <2 Y/O
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDERS

PROJECT TIMELINE 2023-2024

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAY-JUN</th>
<th>JUL-SEP</th>
<th>OCT-DEC</th>
<th>JAN-MAR</th>
<th>APR-JUN</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt; coordination meetings</td>
<td>&gt; assessment of immunization barriers</td>
<td>&gt; interventions roll-out</td>
<td>&gt; HSP capacity-building on SBCC</td>
<td>&gt; post-intervention surveys</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt; partnership assessment</td>
<td>&gt; continuation of research</td>
<td>&gt; HSP self- and client-assessment</td>
<td>&gt; local ordinances</td>
<td>&gt; post-training activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; logistics preparation</td>
<td>&gt; co-design workshops</td>
<td>&gt; organizing/strengthening children’s groups and CSGs</td>
<td></td>
<td>&gt; local ordinances that support children’s groups’ and CSGs’ participation in government planning, monitoring, and assessment of programs and services</td>
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