Improving the generation, quality, and use of data for routine immunization systems through the use of process indicators and other strategies: Lessons drawn from Maternal and Child Survival Program (MCSP) multicounty learning activities.

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Background
Why use process indicators for routine immunization and why focus on improving routine immunization data quality?
- The immunization program mainly monitors output and outcome indicators (coverage and dropout rate). However, the coverage is often mired with poor quality data and influenced by other contextual factors
- Generation and use of high quality routine data is critical to managers at all levels, donors, and other partners aiming to achieve the Global Vaccine Action Plan with the goal of preventing child and maternal deaths
- Process indicators (listed in AFRO Reach Every District guidelines) are useful to monitor the immunization system and help managers (at all levels) take timely action. However, they are not being used optimally for decision making.

Learning Questions
1. Which process indicators are appropriate for providing real-time system data to demonstrate strengthening of routine immunization (RI) on a pathway to uniformly high immunization coverage that is sustainable over time?
   - Settings: Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda
   - Methods:
     - Identification of common process indicators
     - Developed 2 tools: indicator testing and quality check
     - Qualitative interviews with frontline health workers to check the quality of the information
     - Testing for the relevance, usefulness, feasibility, acceptability, reliability, and accuracy of the indicators at 3 points in time
     - Monthly reporting of process indicators from HFs to districts

2. What are the lessons learned across MCSP countries regarding approaches to improve the generation and active user of RI data?
   - Settings: Haiti, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe
   - Methods:
     - Desk review of documents (reports, tools, presentations) submitted by country staff related to RI data
     - Key informant interviews with MCSP country staff and sub-national level government partners who are familiar with MCSP's efforts in improving RI data

Data Quality Self-Assessment and Training: Improved recording of immunization in MCSP districts in Uganda

Key Findings: Process Indicators
Relevance/Usefulness, Feasibility, Acceptability, Accuracy/Reliability of Process Indicators at the Sub-National Level

Key Takeaway Message
- Process indicators are critical for decision making and regularly monitoring the progress of RI activities at the sub-national level as demonstrated in the MCSP supported countries
- Process indicators do not necessarily predict the coverage
- There are also other process indicators which are country-context specific and should be explored and encouraged
- Generating meaningful data and utilizing data for decision making to strengthen RI system, especially at the sub-national level have gained major focus among program managers with impetus from MCSP
- Technical support from MCSP has encouraged government partners to focus more deeply on improving data quality.