STRENGTHENING CAPACITY FOR GLOBAL PEDIATRIC IMMUNIZATION CHAMPIONS

Improvements in child healthcare delivery on a global scale have contributed to a 59% decline in the under-five mortality rate and cut the infant mortality rate by nearly half. But there is still more work to do. Though vaccines are one of the most successful and cost-effective health interventions in history, one in five children around the world—including 19.7 million infants—still do not have access to life-saving vaccines.

Through a collaborative agreement with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) is engaging pediatric leaders in priority countries to support national immunization improvement through advocacy, education, and targeted action.

WHY PEDIATRICIANS?

Pediatricians & pediatric societies are uniquely qualified to promote vaccination programs in their communities and countries. They reach children across the health system.

Medical school professor
The next generation is trained by pediatricians

Child health provider
Some pediatricians provide care in the private-sector

Civil society leader
Pediatric societies shape their profession and the health system of their country

Hospital supervisor
Pediatricians manage nurses and other lower-level health workers who serve children

Immunizer
Pediatricians are leaders in providing new and under-used vaccines, especially in the private sector

HOW WE WORK TOGETHER

Our approach leverages AAP’s advancements in immunization uptake in the United States, but is country-led by our partner societies in:

Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Tanzania, and Uganda

ASSESSING the current engagement of pediatric societies in immunization advocacy and working together to understand national priorities and needs.

TRAINING champions to identify immunization advocacy issues and implement best practices and strategies by developing an advocacy plan.

IMPLEMENTING an advocacy activity to help champions develop their skills, strengthen the pediatric voice, and advance national immunization priorities.

LEARNING AND SUSTAINING to ensure ongoing platforms for pediatric involvement with the national immunization system.
Together, We Are Change Makers

Across eleven countries and growing, Pediatric Societies are making real change in improving immunization access for children through training health workers, influencing Ministries of Health, and educating communities on the benefits of vaccines.

200 pediatricians across 11 countries were trained in immunization advocacy. These partners ultimately reached 3,500 health workers across all cadres of the immunization system, and over 2,500 community members, policy makers, and cultural leaders with stakeholder-specific immunization messages.

Commitment & Demand
Support health workforce to appropriately respond to community and caregiver needs and concerns regarding immunization
- In Nepal, 100 frontline vaccinators were trained in AEFI detection/reporting, vaccine preventable disease counseling, and referrals to supplement standard EPI trainings
- Decreased vaccine refusals after 2,000+ caregivers reached by immunization safety campaign
- Trained 200 religious leaders, 20 media outlet leaders, and hosted 6 national televised media engagements to promote routine immunization in Tanzania
- Launched nationwide evidence-based media campaign to support Rotavirus vaccine introduction in Uganda

Coverage & Equity
Ensure all children have access to quality immunization services.
- Through mentorship and training of local EPI staff and service providers, improved coverage of routine immunization by 40% in hard to reach communities in Indonesia
- Developed culturally-specific job aids to improve immunization counseling and provider interaction in two Ethiopian districts with ethnic minorities and low immunization coverage
- Trained 100+ Ugandan private providers to improve quality of immunization service delivery and provided ongoing supportive supervision to supplement EPI services

Life Course & Integration
Engage and adapt lessons learned from private sector to strengthen immunization programs
- Successfully advocated for incorporation of second year of life vaccines in the Indonesia routine immunization program
- Developed a cross-cadre training curriculum on cadre-specific roles in immunization service delivery that will reach 86% of the Kenyan immunization workforce
- Developed mechanisms for coordinated service delivery reporting across public and private sectors in Indonesia and the Philippines

Research & Innovation
Leverage relationships with academic leaders to establish action-oriented research and training approaches
- Ethiopia: Created immunology training course in coordination with Ethiopian MOH to ensure EPI training materials utilized up-to-date science and research
- Indonesia and Nigeria: Documented timely COVID-19 changes in routine immunization service delivery in Indonesia and Nigeria

Outbreaks & Emergencies
Provide scientific, nonpolitical voice in support of outbreak response
- Philippines: Developed immunology course to combat vaccine hesitancy and clinical misinformation following Dengvaxia vaccine introduction and crisis in the Philippines
- DRC: Supported measles outbreak response in the DRC through traditional media and social media campaigns

Supply & Sustainability
Advocate for country ownership of immunization systems
- Indonesia: Developed electronic information system to collect private sector immunization data and provided private data and reporting to the Indonesian MOH
- Worked with national policy makers to implement policy mandating national budget increases to support immunization program expenses in Uganda and Nigeria

01/2021