



Problem Solving for Immunization Programs

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Exercise 1: Local Immunization Assessment

Instructions

The aim of this exercise is to rapidly assess immunization program performance in your locality. You must complete both Exercises 1a and 1b to get full credit for Exercise 1. You'll need to use the data from both of these exercises to complete the rest of the required exercises in the course.

A. Facility Assessment

In this exercise, you will assess immunization practices in a health center, hospital, or other health care facility offering immunizations for children.

Use the Facility Best Practices Assessment Form (in the Materials section of this page) to carry out the assessment. You will select any one of the types of facilities listed in the assignment and do the facility assessment. You will observe the physical facilities and interview health workers who routinely immunize children. You need to find out whether the workers have attained "best practices" using a 27-point WHO-recommended checklist. Upon completion, show your informants their scores, discuss your findings with them, and thank them for their collaboration.

B. Community Assessment

This exercise will give you the opportunity to assess immunization coverage in your locality.

Use the Local Immunization Coverage Assessment Form (in the Materials section of this page) to carry out the assessment. You will contact eight children between one and four years of age in your locality, preferably in the catchment area of the facility/practice that you interviewed, to find out whether they have been fully immunized against polio, measles and diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis. (You'll need to interview their parents!) We have excluded other vaccines in the 4-3-1-3-3-1 series so that we can obtain uniform responses from different countries. You will also collect additional information from the parents about their knowledge and practice regarding immunizations.

Important Note

Do not identify the health facility, neighborhood, or your informants by name. Explain to your informants that this is merely a training exercise and that all results will be kept confidential.