

Zero-Dose Learning Week post-event webinar:
a deep dive on the top-rated ZD evidence
(full day open webinar)
27th November 2024

Chair: Gustavo Corrêa, Senior Programme Officer, Measurement Evaluation and Learning (Gavi)

Time (UTC) <small>Click links below for time zone conversion</small>	Agenda Item	Speaker
8:30-8:40	Welcoming and opening remarks	Gustavo Corrêa, MD, MPH
8:40-8:55	Strategies to reach Zero-Dose children in crisis-affected states in Sudan: a qualitative study	Majdi Sabahelzain, PhD
9:00-9:15	Identifying Zero-Dose and Under-Immunized communities using Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (LOAS) method: evidence from Bangladesh	Hemel Das, MS
9:20-9:35	Identifying Zero-Dose children: are more efficient frontline workers (FLW) records the answer?	Krishna Choudhary, PhD
9:40-9:55	Missed community or a missed opportunity?	Krishna Choudhary, PhD
10:00-10:15	Innovative approach for immunizing Zero-Dose children in Somalia	Mohamed Hussein Muhumed
10:20-10:35	A political economy analysis of the routine immunization landscape in Ethiopia: a qualitative study	Yohannes Hailemichael, PhD
10:40-10:55	Identifying the Zero-Dose child: insights from the house-to-house registration of children by village health teams in Uganda.	Faith Namugaya, MPH
10:55-12:00	Break	
12:00-12:15	Case study: early learnings from innovative border post vaccination outreach to tackle Zero-Dose children of migrant communities in Cambodia	Seungwoo Kang, MPH
12:20-12:35	Leveraging technology and outreach service delivery to identify and reach Zero-Dose children in Afghanistan	Bahman Shahi
12:40-12:55	A gender-responsive, peer-to-peer strategy to identify, engage, and immunize Under-Immunized and Zero-Dose children for measles and other immunizable childhood diseases in Uganda	Flavia Najjuma, MBChB, Masters in paediatrics and Child Health
13:00-13:15	Reducing Zero-Dose children and improving routine immunization following COVID-19 through community health workers in Cameroon	Martha Ndiko Ngoe, Msc
13:20-13:35	Addressing challenges to reaching Zero-Dose children in Nigeria: a mixed-methods study	Yahaya Mohammed, MBBS, MPH, FWACP
13:40-13:55	Leveraging rapid-cycle phone surveys for improved immunization: a case study for Madagascar	Viviane Azais
13:55-14:20	Break	
14:20-14:35	Small-area variation in child under-vaccination in India	Mira Johri, PhD, MPH
14:40-14:55	The effects of Zero-Dose vaccination status in early childhood & level of community socio-economic development on learning attainment in pre-adolescence in India: a population-based cohort study	Mira Johri, PhD, MPH
15:00-15:15	Multi-sectoral urban immunization enhancement using Identify, Advocate, Reach, Monitor, Measure (IARMM) approach in mid-level towns in Ethiopia	Amsalu Shiferaw, MPH
15:20-15:35	Transit point vaccination and care group mothers: an innovative model to identify, reach and vaccinate zero dose children	Josephine Ihahi, MPH
15:40-15:55	Impact of demand-side incentives in increasing childhood immunization coverages in Kwara and Oyo states in Nigeria: insights from baseline assessment	Uche Ibe, MPH
16:00-16:15	Closing equity gaps in immunization and primary care systems in Africa: expanding vaccine Zero-Dose by introducing the concept and indicator of 'Multi-Zero-Dose'	Brooke Farrenkopf, PhD, MSPH
16:20-16:35	The Immunization Agenda 2030 strategy to reach Zero-Dose children in low- and middle-income countries: a living scoping review	Audrey Beaulieu, MPH
16:40-16:45	Closing remarks	Gustavo Corrêa, MD, MPH

Panelists Bios:

Majdi Sabahelzain, PhD

Majdi Sabahelzain is a public health researcher from Sudan. He currently works as a research fellow at the School of Public Health, University of Sydney. His research focuses on assessing and addressing access to and acceptance of vaccination in fragile and conflict states. Before joining the University of Sydney, Majdi held several positions in Sudan, including assistant professor and director of the Nutrition and Health Center for Training and Research at Ahfad University for Women. Additionally, he served as a National consultant for UNICEF, where he co-led the development of the National Strategy for Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) for the Ministry of Health in Sudan.

Hemel Das, MS

Mr. Hemel Das is a Statistician of icddr,b. He has been working with the Bangladesh Country Learning Hub team since its inception. Mr. Das completed his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Statistics from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. His research interests include statistical methods applied to outcomes related to the health system, especially in child immunization. He has shared his expertise through published research articles in several renowned journals.

Krishna Choudhary, PhD

Dr. Krishna Kumar Choudhary is a Senior Specialist in Monitoring and Evaluation with the Uttar Pradesh Technical Support Unit (UPTSU), leading the M&E function of the RIPMU within the larger UPTSU framework. His work focuses on strengthening data-driven decision-making and enhancing state capacity in governance, management, and accountability for immunization programs. With seven years of experience across various organizations, Krishna has meaningfully contributed to several impactful initiatives. He worked with HISP India, where he studied the evolution of Health Management Information Systems (HMIS) in India and its transition to the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM). At The Leprosy Mission Trust, India, he looked at the analysis of the economic burden of plantar ulcers among leprosy patients, assessing both direct and indirect costs. Additionally, during his tenure with the Avantha Foundation, he conducted action research on nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions. He also provided technical assistance to district-level PLHIV networks under the PACT program in Rajasthan. Krishna has more than 14 peer-reviewed publications in international and national journals and contributed chapters to books. He earned his M.Phil. and PhD in Public Health from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, and a Master's in social work from the Udaipur School of Social Work in Rajasthan, India.

Mohamed Hussein Muhumed

Mohamed Hussein (aka Kahow) is a Public Health practitioner with over a decade experience in designing and managing primary health care programs more so in humanitarian setting. He is currently pursuing Master of Public Health at Kenyatta University and leads innovative and cost-effective immunization program both in emergency and development resulting in immediate and lasting change for children. Mohamed has been in the forefront in several public health interventions including Covid-19 Pandemic Response and Vaccine Delivery as well as Reaching Zero dose Children in conflict/access compromised settings in Somalia.

Yohannes Hailemichael, PhD

Yohannes Hailemichael is a post-doctoral research fellow at Armauer Hansen Research Institute, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Obtained BSc and MPH in Public Health from Jimma University and PhD from Addis Ababa University, School of Public Health. Yohannes has worked in higher teaching institution for more than 12 years with the capacity of assistant professor demonstrating strong academic track record in research, grant writing, MPH training, monitoring and evaluation of health programmes, research collaborations, and a wide network. Yohannes also worked in the Ethiopia health care systems for 15 years at various programmatic and managerial capacities of the health system. Yohannes demonstrated a proven track record of high-quality research on health economics in Ethiopia and other low- and middle-income countries, including extensive publications (over 30). Yohannes has a proven experience with the context and health systems in LMICs. Yohannes has strong experience and interest on health systems and health economics research methodology with a strong quantitative research skill, experience in interfacing quantitative and qualitative research. Yohannes is currently leading the health economics team at Armauer Hansen Research Institute working on different projects and research on Children vaccination focusing on

zero-dose and under-immunization, economic burden of neglected tropical diseases of the skin, clinical trial studies on PV malaria and social determinants of leprosy.

Faith Namugaya, MPH

Faith Namugaya is a Public Health Specialist, with over 10 years of experience in evaluation of multi-stakeholder and donor-funded programs such as immunisation programs, the Global Fund and Family planning programs at country and global levels. She is currently the coordinator for the Uganda Learning Hub for immunisation equity, a Gavi initiative aimed at generating knowledge on challenges and opportunities for improving equity and coverage among zero-dose and under-immunised children in Bangladesh, Mali, Nigeria and Uganda.

Seungwoo Kang, MPH

Seungwoo Kang is a Senior Associate on the Vaccines Team at the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) in Cambodia, where he provides technical assistance to Cambodia's National Immunization Program through Gavi's FPP and EAF. His work focuses on new vaccines introduction, reaching zero-dose children, and data-driven decision-making. Additionally, Seungwoo leads projects on Gavi EAF operationalization and implementation research on integrated HPV education and vaccination. He has over five years of experience in project management, data analysis, and research in LMICs, such as Cambodia and Timor-Lest. He holds a Master of Public Health from the Graduate School of Public Health at Seoul National University. To learn more about Seungwoo, please visit his LinkedIn profile: www.linkedin.com/in/sw-kang/.

Bahman Shahi

Bahman Shahi is a Fulbright scholar and holds a Master of Arts in Conflict Transformation and a Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Leadership and Social Entrepreneurship at Eastern Mennonite University, Center for Justice and Peacebuilding, US. Bahman is a highly accomplished professional renowned for his extensive experience in public health, conflict transformation, and development work. As the Senior Project Manager and In-country Focal Point at Acasus Afghanistan, he effectively leads a team of 20 consultants overseeing large-scale public health reforms, emphasising routine immunisation, COVID-19 vaccine delivery, and primary health care improvement across seven regions and 34 provinces. Bahman is distinguished for his expertise in high-quality data collection, fostering strong performance, and facilitating decision-making processes. Collaborating closely with senior government health officials and international partners, he rapidly improves health outcomes in Afghanistan, designing and implementing innovative systems equipped with data to enhance health service coverage. With a solid background working with international and local development organisations in Washington D.C. and Kabul, Bahman is a trusted advisor, highly regarded for his skills in conflict transformation, public health, strategy development, and implementation.

Flavia Najjuma, MBChB, Masters in paediatrics and Child Health

Flavia Vivian Najjuma is a dedicated Ugandan pediatrician and public health expert with significant experience in clinical management, research, and project coordination. She currently works with the Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI) at Makerere University College of Health Sciences, focusing on initiatives like immunization campaigns and clinical trials to improve health outcomes, especially for vulnerable populations and children affected by infectious diseases. Flavia completed her Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery at Makerere University in 2010, later earning a Master's degree in Pediatrics and Child Health in 2023. She also holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Project Planning and Management from the Uganda Management Institute. This educational background has equipped her with a strong foundation in both clinical practice and strategic management. Her early career included work with the Makerere University Joint AIDS Program (MJAP) in Mbarara, where she provided care for HIV/AIDS patients.

Martha Ndiko Ngoe, Msc

Martha Ndiko Ngoe is an immunization professional with over a decade experience with a focus on maternal and child health with an emphasis on pregnancy and newborn health as my primary area of interest in research.

Yahaya Mohammed, MBBS, MPH, FWACP

Dr. Mohammed Yahaya is with the African Field Epidemiology Network (Nigeria) as the Project Coordinator of the Gavi led Zero Dose Learning Hub (ZDLH). He is a Professor of Clinical and Public Health Microbiology with Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto and also a Consultant Clinical Microbiologist in the Teaching Hospital of the University.

He was part of the team that established the existence of Dengue fever and West Nile Virus in Sokoto in 2016. He has also supported National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) and the Nigeria Centers for Disease Control (NCDC) in different roles, most notably as the team lead during the COVID-19 outbreak/response in 2020. Dr. Yahaya's research interests include routine immunization, vaccine preventable diseases, infectious diseases, epidemiology and clinical microbiology. He has published extensively in peer-reviewed journals and has presented his research at international conferences. He is also actively involved in teaching and training medical students and postgraduate trainees. He was formerly the head of department at his institution for five years (2016-2020). Dr. Yahaya is a respected member of the Nigerian medical community and is making significant contributions to the fight against vaccine preventable diseases and infectious diseases in Nigeria.

Viviane Azais

Viviane Azais is a public health consultant and economist specializing in maternal and child health, health systems strengthening, and global health policy. After earning her Master's in Economics from the Paris School of Economics, she worked with the OECD, the World Bank's Development Economics Research Group, and the Global Financing Facility (GFF). At the GFF, Viviane develops and implements rapid-cycle monitoring approaches to evaluate primary healthcare performance, focusing on maternal, child, and adolescent health in low and middle-income countries.

Mira Johri, PhD, MPH

Mira Johri is Professor in the Department of Health Management, Evaluation and Policy at the School of Public Health, University of Montreal. Her research explores the social and structural determinants of global child health, with a focus on equitable access to childhood vaccines globally and in India. Mira has served as a consultant to the World Health Organization, CEPI, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, where she held various roles for more than a decade and is currently a member of the Immunization Equity Reference Group (ERG). As a researcher, Mira's goal is to do applied work that is anchored in field realities, useful to communities, and informative for policy and practice. She co-led a project to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV in Guatemala from 2004-2009 and has been leading field research on immunization and child health in rural Uttar Pradesh, India since 2012. Mira's research has appeared in high-impact journals such as the Lancet, the Lancet Global Health, BMC Medicine, and the Bulletin of the World Health Organization. In 2022, Mira received the Research Excellence Award from the University of Montreal's School of Public Health.

Amsalu Shiferaw, MPH

Mr. Amsalu Shiferaw is an Immunization and Health Systems Specialist at UNICEF Ethiopia. He holds a Master's degree in Public Health from Addis Ababa University, with a background in Environmental and Community Health and received several short term trainings. With over 25 years of experience in immunization, primary health care, and health communication, he has worked at service delivery, sub-national, and national level and provided surge support for other countries. His expertise encompasses evidence generation, program design, development, planning, and the monitoring of primary health care, health systems, and immunization programs. Mr. Amsalu has played a key role in developing sector strategic plans, community health system guidelines, immunization program guidelines and has conducted research, co-authored various research findings and contributed for capacity development. Currently, he focuses on situation assessment, implementing evidence-based and theory-driven interventions, particularly in service integration and reaching underserved populations.

Josephine Ihahi, MPH

Josephine Ihahi is a public health specialist with specialized training in epidemiology, and hands-on experience on public health programs and health systems strengthening. She holds a master's degree in field epidemiology. Over the last 10 years, she has worked at various levels of healthcare in Kenya as an epidemiologist, with a focus on surveillance for infectious diseases and other public health hazards. She is currently co-managing the CORE Group partners project in Kenya and Somalia as a deputy director for the project, which is funded by USAID. The focus of this project is on health system strengthening for routine immunization and surveillance activities for acute flaccid paralysis and other vaccine preventable diseases in hard-to-reach cross border pastoral-nomadic population traversing in Kenya-Somalia-South Sudan, Uganda and Ethiopia borders. The project uses community-based disease surveillance approach to create and enhance community awareness on human and animal infectious diseases in a One Health approach, and thus enabling timely identification.

Uche Ibe, MPH

As a skilled Performance Management Professional, Uche Ibe has over 5 years' experience in successfully leading performance management, monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) and data management for immunisation programmes at health facility level in bilateral and multilateral donor-funded projects, including high impact Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health including Nutrition interventions. He is committed to strengthening community involvement in the planning, delivery, monitoring and evaluation of health services, towards eliminating preventable maternal and child deaths.

Brooke Farrenkopf, PhD, MSPH

Brooke Farrenkopf recently completed her PhD in International Health from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHSPH), as well as a Certificate in Vaccine Science and Policy. With the Johns Hopkins International Vaccine Access Center (IVAC), her research focused on approaches to measure zero dose status and reach zero dose children with integrated primary care services. Brooke is a mixed-methods researcher, focusing on implementation and research projects aimed at improving vaccine access and equity. Brooke currently serves as the Humanitarian Immunization Technical Advisor at the CORE Group to support ZIP, Gavi's Humanitarian Partnership aimed at improving vaccine access in conflict and crisis-affected settings. She previously worked as an epidemiologist at the Johns Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health on COVID-19 response efforts and vaccine effectiveness studies. Prior to that, she received her MSPH degree from the Health Systems Program at JHSPH.

Audrey Beaulieu, MPH

Audrey Beaulieu is a consultant with the Evaluation and Learning Unit at Gavi. She is also a student in the Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) professional program at the University of Montreal and works as a research assistant for Dr. Mira Johri. She recently earned her master's in public health with distinction on the Dean's Honour List. Audrey previously served as a Nursing Activity Manager with Médecins Sans Frontières in the Central African Republic and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where she contributed to vaccination campaigns, outreach clinics, and cold chain strengthening. Before joining Gavi, Audrey coordinated the immunisation program for First Nations communities in Northern Quebec, Canada. She has also volunteered with NGOs in India, Rwanda, and Uganda. Audrey is deeply committed to uncovering the root causes of vaccine inequity and other health disparities, and she strongly believes in community-driven solutions.