

## Study on the Impact of the Polio Eradication on Strengthening Routine Immunization and Primary Health Care

### ABOUT POLIO ERADICATION

#### What is the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI)?

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative is a public-private partnership led by national governments and spearheaded by the World Health Organization (WHO), Rotary International, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) that started in 1988. Its goal is to eradicate polio worldwide. For more information about the GPEI, please visit: <http://www.polioeradication.org/>

#### What is the strategy for combating polio?

The primary focus polio eradication is to stop the transmission of poliovirus forever. Key strategies for polio eradication include:

- "National Immunization Days" during which children under 5 are provided with supplementary doses of oral polio vaccine, as well as sub-national campaigns focusing on key areas of virus transmission.
- Active surveillance through reporting and laboratory testing of all cases of polio-like paralysis in children under 15.

#### What are polio eradication campaigns?

Health workers go either door-to-door or from fixed points in communities to vaccinate every child under the age of five in a given area on special polio days.

#### What financial and resource investments have been made in the GPEI?

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) is a \$9-billion-dollar project that has enlisted an estimated 20 million people to combat polio.

#### Why has there been so much focus on polio?

Polio is one of only a small handful of diseases that is potentially eradicable, meaning that it could be completely eliminated from the globe.

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## ABOUT THE STUDY

### Why was this study conducted?

This study aimed to assess the impact of polio eradication efforts on other health services, including routine immunization, focusing on sites in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

### Which research methods did the study use?

The study used both quantitative and qualitative methods to evaluate the impact of polio eradication activities.

### Where was the study conducted?

Quantitative research examined the relationship between polio eradication activities and key health indicators globally. Qualitative case studies were carried out in eight study districts, chosen to represent a wide range of contexts:

- Rautahat, Nepal
- Purba Champaran, Bihar, India
- Nizamabad, Andhra Pradesh, India
- SITE Town, Karachi, Pakistan
- South Omo, SNNP, Ethiopia
- Kumbotso LGA, Kano, Nigeria
- Rubavu, Rwanda
- Camucuio, Namibe, Angola

### Who worked on the study?

This study was a collaborative effort between Middlebury College, ISciences, LLC, and CARE, as well as consultants and research staff in the study countries.

### How was the study funded?

This study was contracted by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

### What was the overall timeframe for the study?

The study ran from September 5, 2011 – December 21, 2012.

## What were the major findings of the study?

Polio eradication has built a global system that is unmatched in terms of its consistent quality and global reach. Polio eradication's surveillance system, communications infrastructure, and outreach to populations (usually beyond the reach of health services) are all impressive facets of the program. These systems are, for the most part, focused on polio, and contributions to other health interventions and services vary. Inspiring best practices observed in many of our study sites show that building on polio eradication's infrastructure to better provide other health services is very much possible. Doing so could create a lasting legacy of polio eradication.

### Additional Resources:

#### Where can I learn more about the study?

- [http://blogs.middlebury.edu/polio\\_eradication\\_impacts\\_study/](http://blogs.middlebury.edu/polio_eradication_impacts_study/) - study website
- <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/12/728/abstract> - methods article

#### Where can I find out more about Polio and GPEI?

- <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs114/en/>
- <http://www.gatesfoundation.org/global-health/Documents/polio-strategy.pdf>
- <http://www.unicef.org/newsline/poliopkabout-printer.htm>
- <http://www.gatesfoundation.org/polio/Pages/overview.aspx>