



TIP-Bangladesh

Barriers and Drivers to Routine Childhood Vaccination and Future COVID-19 Adult Mass Vaccination in Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals/Rohingya Refugees in Cox's Bazar

Duration

2021 – 2023

Budget

approx. 450,000 EUR

Partner countries

Bangladesh

Challenges addressed by the project

Vaccines are crucial public health measures to fight vaccine-preventable diseases, e.g. measles or diphtheria. Further, COVID-19 vaccines are essential to fight the pandemic. In Cox's Bazar, 860,697 Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMN)/Rohingya refugees live in camps. Since their arrival, several epidemics of vaccine-preventable diseases have affected them. According to WHO, immunization rates among FDMN/Rohingya children in Cox's Bazar are low despite available technical support. The WHO emphasizes that identifying barriers and drivers for vaccination uptake is important for developing targeted, tailored interventions. Similar factors could also affect the uptake of COVID-19 vaccines, once accessible for the people living in the camp. However, these factors are currently unknown.

Objectives

- » Explore barriers and drivers to routine childhood vaccination and COVID-19 vaccination
 - » amongst FDMN/Rohingya refugees living in Cox's Bazar
 - » amongst health service providers (e.g. health workers, EPI managers, vaccination campaign staff)
- » Determine factors associated with vaccination uptake
- » Identify recommendations for targeted, tailored evidence-based interventions

Overview of activities

A three-phase WHO Tailoring Immunization Programmes (TIP) approach will be used for developing targeted vaccination programmes for children and adults for FDMN/Rohingya to protect them from potentially life-threatening infectious diseases including measles, poliomyelitis, diphtheria but also COVID-19. A situational analysis will assess the current situation by reviewing immunization and disease rates, relevant scientific and grey literature and by engaging with stakeholders. A technical deployment is planned early during this phase to create the base for later remote technical support by understanding the context, potential limitations and barriers for the research and to gain insights into the local vaccination activities. In the following mixed methods research phase, different subpopulations of FDMN/Rohingya and service providers will be interviewed regarding barriers and drivers of childhood – and COVID-19 vaccination uptake. The RKI will support remotely and in person during the data collection and analysis. In the intervention design phase, evidence and theory-informed targeted, tailored interventions based on the research

Supported by:



on the basis of a decision
by the German Bundestag

findings and stakeholder input will be identified. A workshop with key stakeholders will be held and a series of methods exercises will be completed. The aim is to (1) improve coverage of childhood vaccination, and (2) prepare for implementation of a COVID-19 vaccine. The interventions will be tailored to address the specific barriers and strengthen the drivers of selected target groups. These target groups will be informed by the research findings. A technical deployment by the RKI is planned for this phase to support in the development and potentially in the implementation of the suggested interventions based on the research.

Partner institutions

- » WHO Emergency Sub-office in Cox Bazar, Bangladesh
- » WHO Country office, Bangladesh

Supporting institution in Germany/Contact

Robert Koch Institute
Information Centre for International Health Protection (ZIG 1)
Dr Basel Karo karob@rki.de
Sarah Reda redas@rki.de
www.rki.de/en



Online meeting of the project's Steering Committee, September 2021



Cox's Bazar

Photos ©RKI