



Zero-Dose Learning Hub

Key Learnings and Recommendations

Gavi Learning Day 2024



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Zero-Dose
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About the ZDLH

Gavi ZDLH Model



- Hub-and-spoke model, with four country learning hubs (CLHs) in Bangladesh, Mali, Nigeria, and Uganda, comprised of local consortiums that generate and use country-level programmatic data and evidence.
- At the global level, the ZDLH synthesizes and manages evidence and learnings on effective methods and approaches for identifying and reaching zero-dose children and missed communities.
- ZDLH collaborates with the CLHs to advance the uptake of research and evidence to improve each country's immunization policy and programming, with a focus on subnational levels.

Timing of Country Learning Hubs relative to EAF and HSS funding and Gavi Strategy period

Bangladesh

LH

HSS

EAF (under revision)

Mali

LH

HSS

EAF

Nigeria

LH

HSS

(No EAF)

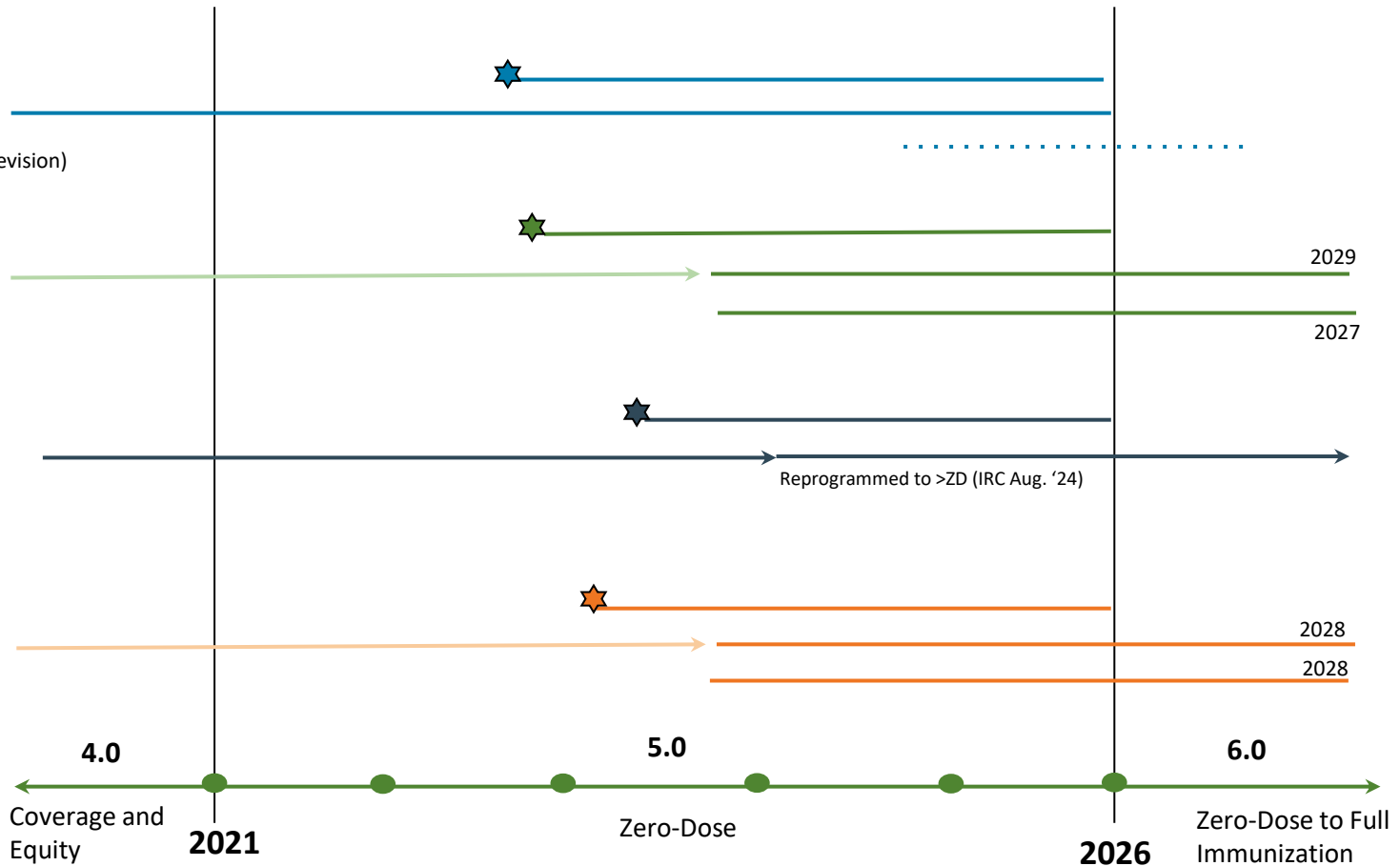
Uganda

LH

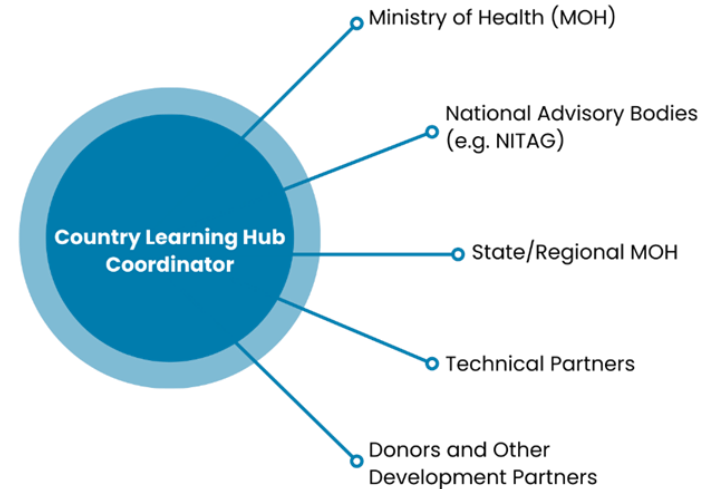
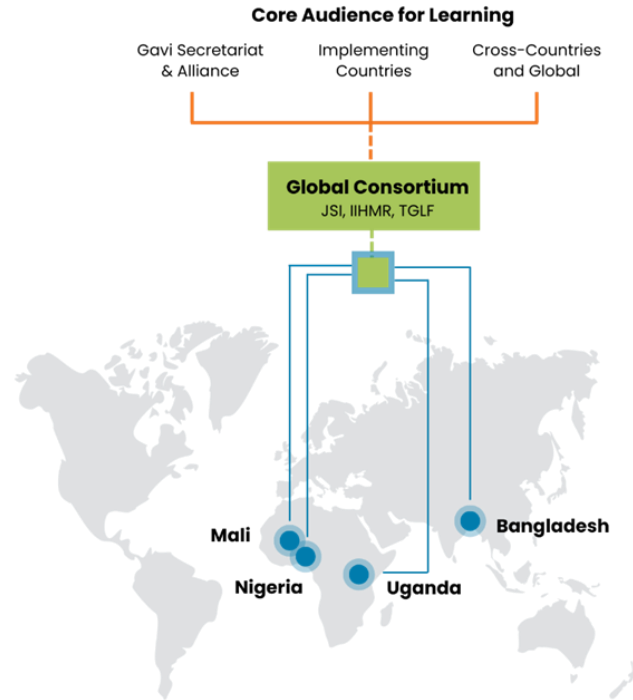
HSS

EAF

Gavi strategic periods and priorities



Country Learning Hubs



* Local partners: Generate evidence related to barriers and inequities faced by zero-dose children and missed communities through a range of MEL activities.

ZDLH Objectives

- To **support implementation of the country learning hubs** through technical assistance, operational troubleshooting, and tailored capacity strengthening activities.
- To **synthesize and share evidence and learning** – country learning hubs and other Gavi countries and across the Alliance, other implementing partners and donors, and regional and global networks.



ZDLH Consortium Partners





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Key Learnings and Recommendations for the Alliance



IDENTIFY

Intersecting Barriers to Immunization

- Barriers to immunization are **context-specific**, **interlinked**, and **interact** in ways that complicate access for ZD and UI children.
- LH evidence aligns with recent research showing **multiple intersecting barriers** related to gender, poverty, geographic access and service experience.
- Addressing only one barrier may be **insufficient** without considering the broader context.



Recommendations

Integrate **intersectionality** mindsets into new or existing planning processes.

Design interventions to address **multiple barriers in combination**.

Move beyond supply/service delivery perspective and prioritize key **demand barriers based on evidence**.



IDENTIFY

Primary Data for Tailoring Interventions

- Primary data uncovered **barriers missed** by desk reviews and secondary data.
- Primary data at sub-national levels used to identify **community-specific challenges** and design effective ZD programs. Secondary data guides **national or regional resource allocation**.
- **Formative research**, combined with human-centered design, ensures interventions are grounded in community realities.



Recommendations

Integrate primary data collection into situation analyses in grant applications or as an early activity in grant implementation.

Promote wider **adoption of well-tested tools** (BeSD framework, targeted surveys, and caregiver journey mapping).



REACH

Theories of Change for Implementation Research

- Comprehensive approach to understanding how **supply-side or demand-side** interventions contribute to reaching ZD children.
- Useful when IR is funded for a **subset of interventions** (Mali) or existing, **ongoing interventions** (Uganda, Nigeria).
- Mali **TOC clarifies assumptions** and considers demand-side factors and other necessary conditions for interventions to be successful.



Recommendation

Include more **guidance on how to use TOC in proposed IR** in country M&L guidelines to clarify underlying assumptions for interventions and ensure that all necessary factors for success are accounted for and addressed.



REACH

Connecting Frontline Providers through Peer Learning

- Potential for **moderated virtual platform** to connect frontline immunization providers.
- **Experience-sharing, problem-solving**, insightful case studies.
- Peer learning sessions can be a valuable resource for providers to overcome implementation challenges by **learning from each other's experiences**.



Recommendation

Implement **peer learning approaches** more widely to share practical solutions used by providers to address implementation challenges and foster **collaboration across different cadres** of service providers.





REACH

Adapting to Delays in EAF Funding

- Uganda team showcased the Learning Hub's ability to **pivot in response to funding challenges**.
- **Adapted** research plans to include assessment of a UNICEF ZD intervention in two districts.
- House to house registration was **feasible** by VHT and **acceptable** to caregivers, though may be insufficient to reduce caregiver barriers to vaccination.
- Results used to inform **plans for scale up** under EAF.



Recommendations

Clarify which interventions need **evidence to inform scale**.

LH can be leveraged for additional studies on how to **scale or sustain interventions** for better planning and implementing Gavi grants.



REACH

Value of Evidence Reviews

- FHI360, supported by Gavi, **reviewed primary research** on pro-equity ZD interventions.
- Scoping review methodology is a **valuable resource** to ensure Gavi's program funding guidelines are **evidence-based** & consider **implementation factors**.
- Can be **replicated** to expedite design of methods for future types of evidence reviews.



Recommendations

Prioritize using **existing methods** for future evidence reviews of intervention effectiveness.

More effort is needed to quantify and **increase the level of evidence** of ZD interventions.





MONITOR & MEASURE

Varying Definitions of Zero-Dose

- Definitions of ZD children can vary **within** and **across** countries and according to the **data source**.
- Varying definitions for ZD children creates confusion in relation to **Gavi's official definition**.
- Potential for **inconsistencies and conflicting data** at global, national, and subnational levels.
- Challenges in designing and implementing effective interventions and in **accurately measuring their impact**.



Recommendation

Develop **specific guidance on operational definitions** for ZD and UI children to ensure consistent reporting and data comparability.

Clearly distinguish between interventions designed to **prevent ZD** from those intended to **catch up** older children.





MONITOR & MEASURE

Other Approaches to Improve Immunization Monitoring

- CLHs use **targeted surveys** for more reliable data on DTP1 coverage and other indicators.
- **Bangladesh:** annual DHIS2 analysis revealed significant shifts in ZD/UI areas likely due to supply shortages.
- **Nigeria:** decentralized immunization monitoring (DIM) using LQAS to monitor LGA coverage and Ward-level performance, providing insights into barriers for adaptive learning.
- **Mali:** triangulation with multiple data sources—HeRAMS, DHS, SARA surveys, and a planned LQAS—immunization landscape.



Recommendations

Use "**sentinel site**" model **like the Learning Hubs** for higher-quality data and more actionable insights on ZD efforts.

Enhance timely and reliable ZD monitoring using multiple methods such as **LQAS and ongoing data triangulation**.



MONITOR & MEASURE

Limitation of Data Systems to Track Changes in Key indicators (DTP1)

- Limited by **EAF implementation delays** in Mali & Uganda, and its **absence** in Nigeria and Bangladesh.
- Ongoing **JRF and DHIS2 analyses** expected to reveal DPT1 trends with EAF implementation.
- Concerns with **data quality** and better tracking of contribution.
- Difficult to track ZD children using DHIS2 data because data are based on **current birth cohort** and by definition these are not ZD.



Recommendations

Partners should carry out **triangulation of data throughout the grant cycle**, including using vaccine utilization data reported from facilities and districts.

Support countries to revise vaccination data tools and systems to capture data for **older children beyond the annual birth cohort**.



ADVOCATE

Role of Knowledge Translation for Local Advocacy

Nigeria LH leveraged findings from subnational funding assessment to support **budget advocacy Community of Practice**:

Practice:

- Workplan and scorecard with indicators derived from **accountability framework**.
- Tailored to **state level**, ensuring that advocacy is contextually relevant, evidence-based, and impactful.
- Bauchi State created **dedicated budget line for immunization**—a step toward improving immunization coverage.



Recommendation

Synthesize findings from the Learning Hubs and Alliance partners to identify priority activities for Gavi 6.0 that can **enhance subnational immunization funding**.



ZDLH Resources

[ZDLH Zero-Dose Landscapes: Bangladesh, Mali, Nigeria, Uganda](#)

[ZDLH Semiannual Updates](#)

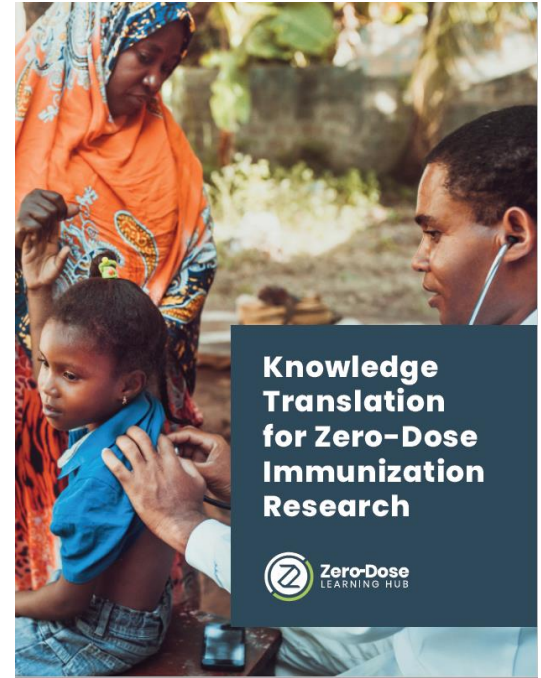
[Knowledge Translation for Zero-Dose Immunization Research](#)

[ZDLH Inter-Country Peer Exchanges \(ZDLH-X\)](#)

[Zero-Dose Webinar Series](#)

[Pro-Equity Evidence Map](#)

[Zero-Dose Case Studies](#)





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