

Hard-to-reach Populations

A systems mapping approach to bridging the gaps for vaccination

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INTRO

- Vaccination involves a complex system of people, equipment, and processes
- **Identifying hard-to-reach populations and the underlying economic evidence requires a systems approach**

METHODS

1. Developed a systems map of essential mechanisms for vaccination & associated costs, health effects, economic benefits
2. Interviewed N=24 immunization economics experts to elicit and incorporate content, structural, and conceptual feedback

RESULTS

Using this systems map, decision makers can:

- Consider where processes may be interrupted or weak
- Examine possible effects throughout the entire system
- Design interventions to improve vaccination coverage
- Efficiently allocate finite resources

Understanding what makes populations Hard-to-Reach can help identify strategies and allocate adequate resources.

SYSTEMS MAP DEVELOPMENT

- We focused on mechanisms at the service delivery level and excluded mechanisms and process at higher, central or policy levels (for example procurement, supervision, etc.)
- Mechanisms were only included if they were essential to vaccination, and the absence of that mechanism would result in a beneficiary not becoming vaccinated, or if the mechanisms results in costs, benefits or health effects
- Immunization economic experts interviewed represented academic institutions, government agencies, major technical organizations, and key philanthropies
- **Blue** relational arrows represent logical or chronological relationships (i.e., necessary or precedent conditions), not necessarily cause-and-effect relationships, to show how each mechanism impacts the others and demonstrate dependencies and processes

