

Health System Strengthening Programme Evaluation

Burkina Faso

Gavi provided funding for Burkina Faso's health system strengthening (HSS) programme from 2008-2012. The 2014 HSS support evaluation was commissioned by Gavi and conducted by SERSAP, USI, and CHUM.

BACKGROUND

Recognising that achieving immunisation coverage is dependent upon strong service systems the Gavi Board took the first steps to widen Gavi support to HSS in 2005.

Countries are encouraged to use Gavi HSS funding to target the "bottlenecks" or barriers in the health system that impede progress in improving the provision of and demand for immunisation and other maternal and child health (MCH) services.

Burkina Faso's HSS programme focused primarily on improving maternal and neonatal health and immunisation, plus community mobilisation, through 44 main activities or groups of activities.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the evaluation are to focus on lessons learned from the design and implementation of the Gavi HSS programme and to a lesser extent, the use of resources.

METHODOLOGY

Findings are based on both qualitative and quantitative data collected through document review, questionnaires, field visits, and key informant interviews.

KEY FINDINGS

Measurable effects on immunization as a result of the HSS programme in the study districts cannot be identified.

The 'human dimension' has been very instrumental in the gains observed, in particular the programme's focal point and other workers demonstrated great personal motivation working under difficult conditions.

Various stakeholders have different understandings of Gavi's approach to HSS and where to situate the HSS grant in relation to other Gavi grants in Burkina Faso.

Programme implementation was heavily constrained by the lack of a management unit and regular monitoring of activities.

Gavi HSS holds an important place in exchanges between Gavi and the Ministry of Health.

Persistent vaccination bottlenecks were not or not sufficiently targeted by the HSS programme, in particular the status of community health workers, cold chain, and logistics.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Clarify for national partners whether the HSS programme is to be positioned as a "response built on stated actions" or as "a financial device to fill unmet needs."

Review expectations of the different parties concerning monitoring, considering both opportunities and constraints in the health information system.

Select performance indicators that are sensitive to change and sufficiently specific, rather than the production of outputs.

Base the process of needs analysis on a systematic identification of bottlenecks, difficulties, and present or anticipated failures, particularly regarding vaccination.

Create an HSS "management unit" or "technical monitoring committee" including all expertise required to monitor implementation, coordination, and monitoring.

Ensure coordination of the various Gavi programs in Burkina Faso and consider whether they could all fall under the same steering committee.

The report's final recommendations help inform the country and Gavi Board regarding future HSS proposals from the country.
