

Title:

Participatory engagement of community influencers to improve measles vaccination uptake: A case of Alwa Health Center III in Uganda.

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Background

Gender Youth and Social Inclusion (GYSI) barriers, continue to contribute to low immunization uptake in Uganda. Despite the availability of free measles vaccination, uptake has been low.

Objective

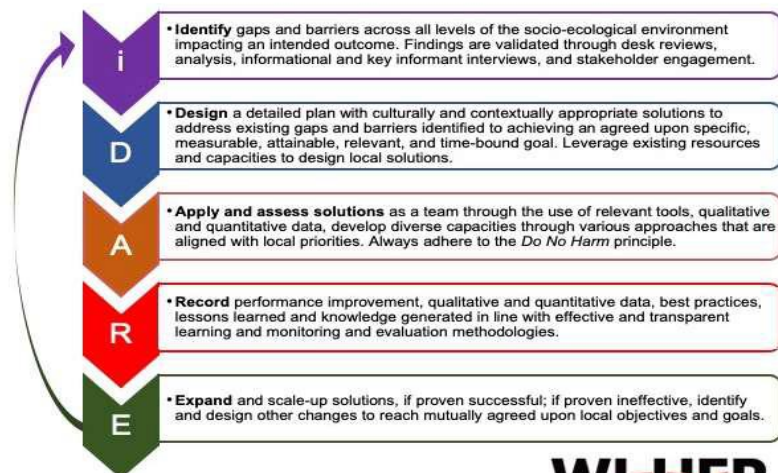
The Team aimed at increasing measles vaccination from 42% (March 2021) to 95% (facility's monthly target) by December 2021.

Methodology



A participatory engagement of community influencers and facility level stakeholders was applied to address barriers. The approach guides institutions to

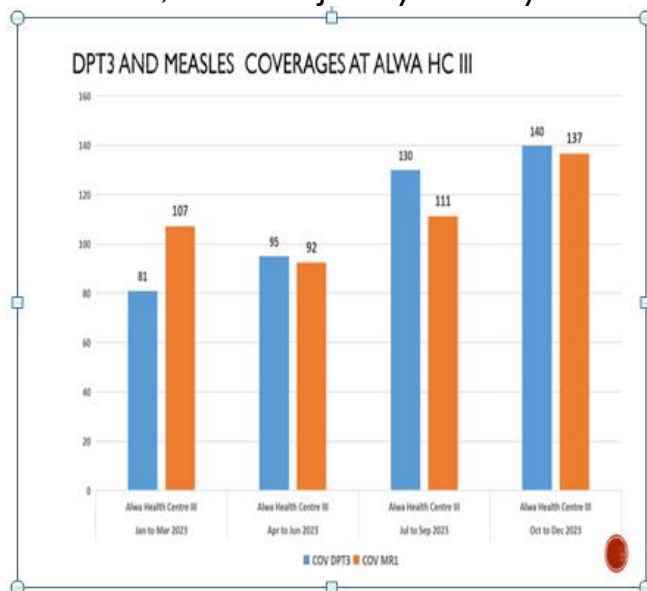
identify gaps, *Design local solutions, Apply and assess the solutions, Record successes and failures, and Expand successful solutions in a stepwise approach as indicated below in Fig 1*



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Results

Community influencers had the following role: carried-out mobilization at boreholes, market places and community gatherings about the importance of completion all immunization schedules and conducted home visits to follow up mothers whose children missed measles vaccination within seven days. Alwa HC III surpassed its goal, reaching **106%** of the facility's monthly target for measles vaccination (December 2021), compared to a baseline of 42% (March 2021). Participatory monitoring through iDARE data revealed a structural barrier, viz: though parents continued to bring children for vaccinations, from January-February 2022,



Conclusion

Participatory engagement of community influencers using the iDARE technique increased connectivity between multi-level stakeholders, developed local capacity for Social Behavior Change, and promoted sustainability while improving health targets. This demonstrates the value of equipping local partners and influencers with skills for continuous adaptation and learning through iDARE up to date

