



Immunization Backlogs: A Quick Assessment of the Effects of COVID-19 on the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) in Bangladesh

Timeline: Starting date: April – June 30th 2020

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Brief Overview: The study was initiated on 15th April 2020. In the first phase, 389 households were surveyed. As the study follows a cohort design, the follow-up survey will start again in Mid-July, 2020. Hopefully, by 30th July 2020 we will be able to complete the data collection. Unfortunately, we couldn't connect to 120 households (about 20%) because of the incorrect phone numbers. We have requested the Ayesha Abed Foundation for the correct contact numbers. So, we may need to survey the remaining households once we get it.

Objectives: To understand the possible effects of COVID-19 pandemic on the EPI in Bangladesh. The study primarily focuses on identifying inoculation deferrals with respect to the immunization schedule and its association with the recent pandemic. It will help suggesting possible strategies to avoid resurgence of the targeted vaccine-preventable diseases.

Methodology: The study, as part of the ongoing rapid surveys, will take advantage of a cohort of women who gave birth between September 2019 and March 2020. The survey also includes modules on women empowerment and usage of mobile financial services. Moreover, we will conduct 4-5 Key Informant Interviews (KII) with the field officers of the immunization program. Partner and Donor: BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health is internally funding the study as part of its COVID-19 rapid research responses.