

Trace Defaulters to Improve Immunization Performance

WHAT

Defaulter tracing is finding children who missed their scheduled immunization

WHY

Tracing defaulters will improve immunization performance. This will mean:

- healthier children and communities,
- lower health care costs for families,
- increased job satisfaction, and
- greater community appreciation of health workers

WHO

HEW, Nurse

WHEN

At the end of every month

HOW

1. Using the EPI register or a tickler file, identify infants who missed their last appointment.

- Review the register to identify infants who are overdue for their next dose.
OR
- Keep a tickler file. After each immunization visit, move the card to the month when the next visit is due.
- Every month, review the cards that have not been moved.
 - Look for names of infants who missed their immunizations that month.

Example: Abeba received her Penta1 in January but did not return for Penta2 in February.

Example: When Abeba receives Penta1 in January, place the card in the February section (the month when Penta2 is due).

Example: In February, Abeba did not return for Penta2, so her card was not moved to March.

2. For infants who have not returned, list their name, location, etc. in the Defaulter Tracing Template.

Woreda _____ Kebele/HF _____

S. No	Date of registration	Child name	Name of mother	Sub-kebele Name/Code	Household Code/ Phone number	Missed antigen	Outcome**
1	20/9/2009	Abeba Kebede	Almaz Dejene	mender-5		Penta2, PCV2, Rota2, OPV2	Received

Outcome: child vaccinated, transferred to other area, refused, died

3. Nurse: Give the HEW a copy of the Defaulter Tracing Template for the kebele or sub-kebele where the infant lives.
4. Ask the HEW to find the infant and help ensure s/he gets caught up as soon as possible. HEWs may enlist others in the community to help.

HEW:



1. TRACK

- Contact the family yourself or with the help of others in the community
- Tell the parent when and where the next RI session is
- Bring, or have the community member bring the infant to next RI session



2. COMMUNICATE

- Ask the reason the infant missed the RI session
- Ask if the family has questions about the vaccine(s) or about immunization in general
- Ask if you can help with any other health issue



3. RECORD

- Indicate on the Defaulter Tracing Template the outcome of the follow up:
 - 1 Received the vaccine
 - 2 Transferred to another area
 - 3 Refused
 - 4 Died
- If the infant was vaccinated, tell the caregiver when and where to bring the infant for the next immunization
- Update the register and immunization card with the date of the vaccination or an appropriate remark (for example: moved, refused)
- Give the completed Defaulter Tracing Template to the supervisor to review