

The effect of Performance Based Financing on the quality of data from the Expanded Program of Immunization: The case of Littoral Cameroon

Article by Simon Forcha
Public Health, Texila American University, Cameroon
Email: snmbunya@gmail.com

Performance Based Financing (PBF) increasingly has been accepted by many Countries in Africa seeking to reform their health system as a way forward. Though PBF is not a magic bullet, reformers believe that its adaptation to respond to specific program issues can improve the quantity and quality of some targeted services produced by motivated health workers in low income countries.

1 year of implementing PBF in Littoral region of Cameroon, it was observed that the administrative coverage of vaccines administered to children under 1 year reported from PBF facilities was decreasing contrarily to what would have been expected.

This observation prompted a quest for new insight in order to understand the reasons behind this decrease and to provide solutions for strengthening the health system.

A comparative study was therefore conducted to compare the quality and precision of data reported from health facilities implementing PBF and those not implementing PBF.

In the PBF Districts, 5655 doses within a 6 months period were administered and reported in the HMIS report form compared to 5317 recounted in the EPI register, while in the control districts 6697 doses were administered and reported in the HMIS report compared to the 4760 recounted in the register

Over reporting was observed in non PBF facilities than in PBF facilities for Pentavalent 1, Pentavalent 3 and measles administered and reported in HMIS reports when compared to data entered in EPI registers

Data precision between HMIS report, EPI report and tally sheet was far more better in PBF facilities than in non PBF facilities

Improved quality for planning, reporting, monitoring management of vaccines and cold chain was observed in PBF districts than in the control districts, there was no difference for supervision and surveillance

In conclusion therefore PBF has greatly improved the precision and quality of EPI services in PBF pilot health districts. PBF has been indispensable in strengthening the organization and the management of the prevention service for vaccine delivery and should be scaled up to other health districts.