In order for HBRs to be used effectively, they need to be available at all levels of the health system. National level HBR stock-outs were reported by 19 and 22 countries during 2014 and 2015, respectively. Information on HBR stock-outs was either not available or not reported by 66 countries (19 were Gavi-eligible) for 2014 and 2015. Among the 22 countries reporting HBR stock-outs in 2014, 12 (54%) countries reported a single HBR Financing source, and 19 countries reported more than one source for HBR Financing. In Benin, the June 2017 national consensus workshop brought together 23 health zone and district managers to improve vaccine management and increase use of the Immunization Card (HBR) by parents. In two districts in Manicaland Province, Zimbabwe, Health workers and Village Health workers (VHWs) have reintroduced the use of community registers maintained by VHWs to update facility registers with doses that may have been received at another facility or during outreach.

JSI is supporting the redesign of HBRs and testing interventions to increase their availability & use in 4 countries in 2017. A package of materials is being developed (to be available in early 2018).

In NEPAL the June 2017 national consensus workshop brought together MOH and partners from various MOH departments to discuss and agree on improved format and content of the vaccination section in the card and also to ensure financing, availability at all levels, and stock management.

In two districts in Manicaland Province, Zimbabwe, Health workers and Village Health workers (VHWs) have reintroduced the use of community registers maintained by VHWs to update facility registers with doses that may have been received at another facility or during outreach. National level HBR redesign workshop and support for immunization data quality improvement to improve the format and reinforce completion, stock management, use and retention of cards.

To better understand the country experiences with HBRs, JSI conducted an online survey in spring 2016. The survey was sent to EPI Managers and VHW and UNICEF Immunization focal points in Gavi-eligible countries and we received 32 responses from 24 countries in Africa and Asia.

An overview of findings is summarized here.

Respondent’s experiences with HBRs for the following uses:

- Communication messages for cualquier enfermedad or service received
- As a reminder for caregivers to take immunization service
- To ensure that the child seeking immunization is included in the BIH
- To track the growth and development of the child
- To verify that all doses have been received
- To elevate the importance of this document

Another mother shared that, “I have kept it safely. Vaccination of my child is not completed yet. Also I heard it will be used in future.”

For HBRs to be most effective, they must be:

- Available in sufficient quantities at health posts and for parents/children
- Correctly used and completed by health workers

Preliminary Findings from the 4 Countries:

Improved use of cards by health workers and parents for tracking and completing vaccination schedule (Kishnasa, DRC, Sindhut, Nepal, and Manicaland, Zimbabwe).

Strengthened capacity building of HBRs to complete and communicate information in the HBRs, including for retention by parents.

Attention to stock management of cards to ensure their availability.

Emphasis on sustained financing for the HBRs, redesign, dissemination and use.

JSI has a two year grant with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to look at the coordination and implementation of home-based records (HBRs, also referred to an immunization cards or child health cards/booklets). We have explored opportunities to increase availability and use of HBRs through field work in 4 countries and also supporting redesign efforts in interested countries. HBRs are one of several tools used by immunization programs at the facility and community level, some of which are name-based and others are number-based. Immunization reporting tools vary somewhat between countries, but the usual paper-based tools that may also exist in electronic form are used at the health facility level include:

- Immunization register or immunization section within a child’s health or DHIS2 register
- Tallies by recording numbers of doses given by antigen
- Immunization/child home based record (HBR for parents to keep as a record of vaccinations received and dated)

Volar the file system and/or community register (i.e. name-based tracking at the facility and/or a tool used by a CHW/mobilizer)

- Stock ledger (numeric quantities by antigen and vital syringes and needles and card supplies)
- Covariance wall chart (merely summarized coverage by antigen and number of largest population vaccinated)

It’s important that each of these is used properly to triangulate data for individual child tracking and reporting and for data summarization by the program. When used together and actionable steps are up-to-date, they provide a complete picture of the vaccination program for the largest population and for each child’s vaccination status. Although parts of the content are similar, each tool provides some distinct information that assists with name-based and/or number-based reporting and data summarization.

JSI is a global health implementation organization with a focus on improving health and population health in countries around the world. JSI is supported by a core funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to look at the coordination and implementation of home-based records (HBRs, also referred to an immunization cards or child health cards/booklets). We have explored opportunities to increase availability and use of HBRs through field work in 4 countries and also supporting redesign efforts in interested countries. HBRs are one of several tools used by immunization programs at the facility and community level, some of which are name-based and others are number-based. Immunization reporting tools vary somewhat between countries, but the usual paper-based tools that may also exist in electronic form are used at the health facility level include:

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