

## **Immunization-Data-Quality in Public Health Facilities in the Pastoralist Communities: A Comparative Study Evidence from Afar and Somali Regional States, Ethiopia**

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**Abstract :** The Consortium of Christian Relief and Development Associations (CCRDA), and the CORE Group Polio Partners (CGPP) Secretariat have been working with Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) to improve the immunization data quality in Afar and Somali Regional States. The main aim of this study was to compare the quality of immunization data before and after the above interventions in health facilities in the pastoralist communities in Ethiopia. To this end, a comparative-cross-sectional study was conducted on 51 health facilities. The baseline data was collected in May 2019, while the end line data in August 2021. The WHO data quality self-assessment tool (DQS) was used to collect data. A significant improvement was seen in the accuracy of the pentavalent vaccine (PT)1 ( $p = 0.012$ ) data at the health posts (HP), while PT3 ( $p = 0.010$ ), and Measles ( $p = 0.020$ ) at the health centers (HC). Besides, a highly significant improvement was observed in the accuracy of tetanus toxoid (TT)2 data at HP ( $p < 0.001$ ). The level of over- or under-reporting was found to be  $< 8\%$ , at the HP, and  $< 10\%$  at the HC for PT3. The data completeness was also increased from 72.09% to 88.89% at the HC. Nearly 74% of the health facilities timely reported their respective immunization data, which is much better than the baseline (7.1%) ( $p < 0.001$ ). These findings may provide some hints for the policies and pro-grams targetting on improving immunization data quality in the pastoralist communities.

**Keywords :** data quality, immunization, verification factor, pastoralist region

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