

# TECHNICAL BRIEF: GENDER



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*Gender roles and norms, and their underpinning power relations, are powerful determinants of health outcomes. To reach every last child and achieve a polio-free world, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) is committed to identifying and addressing gender-related barriers to immunization, communication and disease surveillance.*

## WHY GENDER?

Intersecting with other determinants of health, including age, socioeconomic status and education, gender influences health-seeking behaviours and health outcomes. Gender-related barriers operate at multiple levels, from the individual and the household to the community, hindering access to immunization services. Health interventions cannot effectively meet the needs of all unless informed by sex-disaggregated data and gender-sensitive analysis. An integral part of reaching every last child with vaccines is also the increased participation of women in immunization activities. Recognizing this, the GPEI has conducted a thorough gender analysis to identify and measure gender-related barriers in its immunization and disease surveillance activities.

## GPEI GENDER BRIEF

The Gender Technical Brief analyses the ways in which the gender of the child, caregiver and frontline worker influences the likelihood that a child is immunized against polio, with a specific focus on gendered determinants of immunization in GPEI's 16 priority countries. The Brief introduces four gender-sensitive indicators for monitoring progress toward ensuring equal access to vaccinations and the engagement of women. The indicators address vaccination activities, frontline health workers and disease surveillance. These indicators function as measuring tools for gender-related changes, specifically in access to immunization and the provision of immunization.

Data for the indicators are analysed in GPEI's semi-annual reporting for the three remaining endemic countries, Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan, as well as for GPEI's priority countries and six WHO regions. The Brief is intended to inform and support the development of GPEI's gender strategy which will be available in 2018.

### GPEI GENDER-SENSITIVE INDICATORS

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>1 Equal reach in campaigns</b>   | Percentage of girls and boys under five recorded as vaccinated  |
| <b>2 Total doses received</b>       | Median number of doses of girls and boys aged 6 to 59 months<br>Percentage of girls and boys aged 6 to 59 months with 0 doses<br>Percentage of girls and boys aged 6 to 59 months with 3+ doses |
| <b>3 Timeliness of surveillance</b> | Median number of days for disease notification for males and females<br>Percentage of males and females with disease notification within 3 days   |
| <b>4 Women's participation</b>      | Percentage of female and male frontline workers (vaccinators and social mobilizers)   |