**HKI Senegal Successful M-Health strategy: The routine delivery of Vitamin A Supplementation at six months using SMS appointment reminders**

Dr. C. Thiaw, Amy Cooper, Maguette Beye, Khadidiatou Thiam, A. Thiam


---

**Introduction**

Vitamin A supplementation (VAS) in Senegal is carried out primarily through bi-annual Child Health Days where VAS and deworming are distributed to all children aged 6-59 months.

Supplementation with vitamin A in the routine setting is relatively weak in Senegal, with 8% of children receiving a dose at a sick visit, 12% receiving a dose during a routine weigh-in and 15% receiving a dose during scheduled vaccination visits (HKI, USAID, 2005).

Strengthening of the routine supplementation is of high importance and for this purpose a pilot project to test the effectiveness of an integrated package of interventions on VAS coverage at 6 month contact point (6mcp) that includes sms appointment reminders.

**Objectives**

1) To improve Vitamin A supplementation coverage in the routine setting, particularly for children at six months.
2) Raise awareness of the VAS six-month visit and increase both demand and supply
3) Test the effectiveness of an integrated intervention package including 6mcp on the child health card, sms reminders, and sms stock capsule monitoring.

**Methods Cont’d**

2) Census of Intervention Districts for a database of beneficiaries & their phone numbers.
3) With the use of Telerivet* m-health software, SMS reminder messages are sent to improve demand
4) Weekly SMS stock reports to improve supply and reduce outage occurrences.
5) Social mobilization & sensitization activities such as radio spots, posters, follow-up visits etc.

---

**Results**

1) Baseline and Final Evaluation with randomized sampling in 6 districts; 3 interventions districts : Thionck Essyl, Dakar West, and Mbacké; 3 control districts: Thiés, Bambey and Diouloulou.

---

**Fig 1. Child receiving Vitamin A red capsule**

---

**Fig 2. Illustration of Study design with integrated activities pre-post.**

---

**Fig 3. Illustration of flow of activities & information using mhealth strategic plan**

---

**Fig 4. Illustrating % coverage pre-post intervention; (intervention-Dakar-ouest, Mbacké, Thionck Essyl, control- Thiés, Bambey, Diouloulou**

---

**Fig 5. Results of different occasion of VAS receipt in intervention and control zones pre/post integrated sms reminder package**

---

**Fig 6. Results of information source for VAS appointments in intervention and control zones**

---

**Fig 7. Phones use by community health workers (CHWs) for stock sms and sms reminders**

---

**Conclusions**

1) Coverage of Vitamin A supplementation at six-months in the routine setting significantly improved in all districts that implemented the six-month contact point.
2) Use of low end mobile technology for sms appointment reminders could be useful in enhancing demand & supply for VAS.
3) Further strategies may be needed to achieve high coverage in urban and semi-urban areas.