

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TO MEASLES OUTBREAK: WOREDA SITUATIONAL ASSESSMENT

AUTHORS: Saba Amdework

AFFILIATIONS: ARHB, APHI, ORHB, SRHB

01

BACKGROUND

- Ethiopia reported >83,000 measles cases since Aug 2021.
- Project HOPE, with MoH, EPHI, and RHBs, is strengthening systems for outbreak detection and response.
- 14 high-priority woredas across Amhara (4), Oromia (5), and Somali (5) regions were assessed using WHO risk assessment tools, epidemic preparedness checklist, and 7-1-7 timeliness metrics.

02

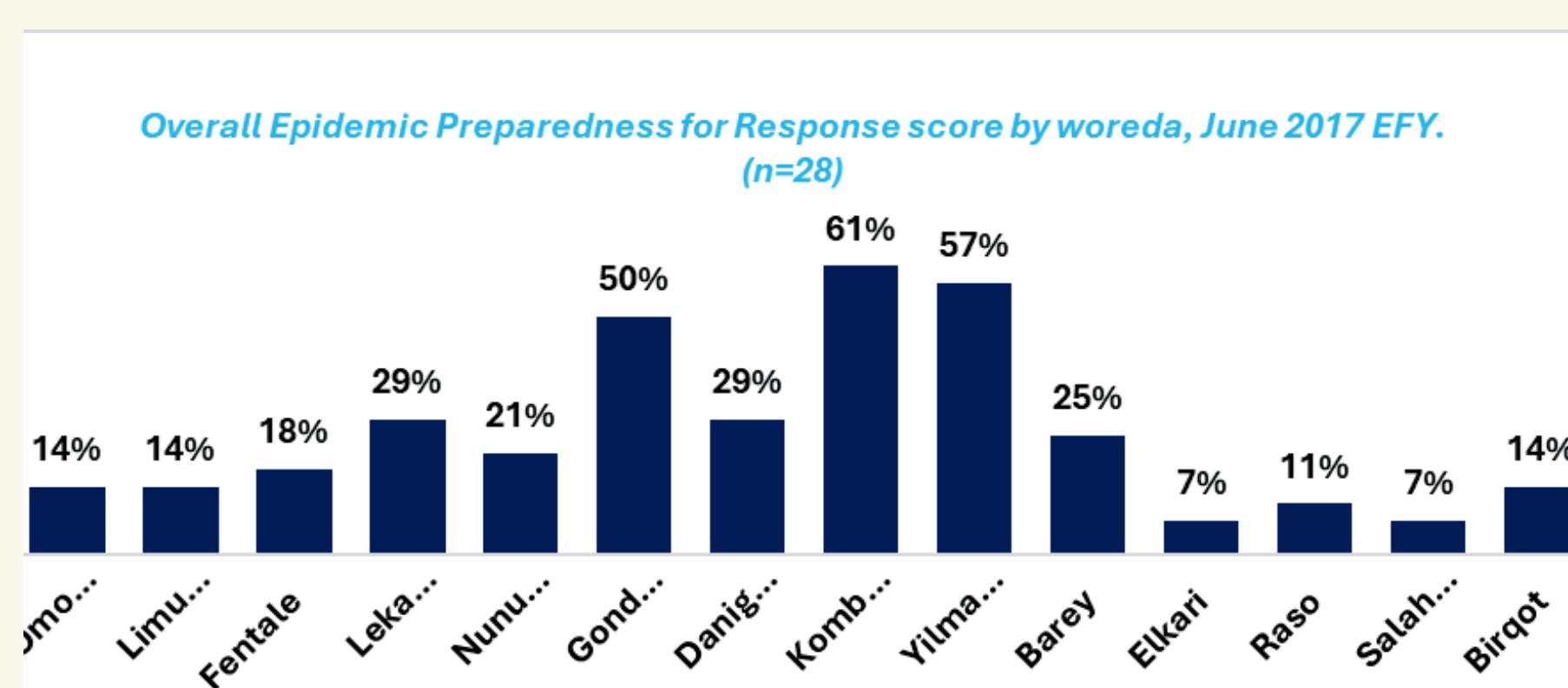
OBJECTIVE

- Assess woreda-level measles preparedness & response.
- Identify gaps in immunization & surveillance.
- Measure timeliness of detection, reporting, response.
- Provide evidence for subnational implementation.

03

METHODOLOGY

- Tools: WHO measles programmatic risk assessment, epidemic preparedness checklist, 7-1-7 timeliness tool.
- Data: desk reviews, secondary reports, and key informant interviews.
- Fieldwork: 3 technical experts (EPI & surveillance) visited all 14 woredas.



04

KEY FINDINGS

- Workforce: 328 staff, only 29% trained in measles response.
- Immunization: Oromia ≥80% coverage; Somali & Amhara low with high dropout.
- Surveillance:
 - Completeness ≥80% in 71% of woredas.
 - Timeliness ≥80% in 93%.
 - NMFR detection below target in 12/14 woredas.
- 7-1-7 Timeliness:
 - 3 woredas met detection target.
 - 50% met notification.
 - None met response initiation.

Preparedness (P4R): Scores low (7–61%); Amhara better; Somali weakest.

05

DISCUSSION

- Immunization services inconsistent, esp. Somali.
- Workforce gaps: <30% trained on measles.
- Cold chain & vaccine transport issues.
- Surveillance weak in case detection & timely investigation.
- Preparedness/coordination mechanisms often absent.

06

CONCLUSION

79% of woredas at high outbreak risk and Immunization, surveillance & preparedness gaps persist.

Key Actions:

Expand outreach & ZDC vaccination, Improve cold chain & data quality, Train workforce in EPI, surveillance & RRT, Strengthen CEBS & 7-1-7 monitoring, and Establish preparedness & coordination systems.

