

# The Power of Microplanning



The STRIPE (Synthesis and Translation of Research and Innovations from Polio Eradication) project is a collaboration of academic and research partners in 8 countries. We are collecting and disseminating lessons learned from the global polio eradication effort. We surveyed 3,955 people and interviewed 194 people, getting insight from people around the world about their experiences with polio eradication.

In our research, health professionals across the world expressed consistent and strong enthusiasm for a surprising topic—microplanning.

**565 of our survey respondents from across the world, at levels from the local to the global, had planning as a primary responsibility. Of those, nearly half said the process of conducting planning was the primary facilitator of program success.**

**“Microplanning is a great asset. When you get those microplans it’s mind boggling; it gives you so many details.”**

India

**“When I first heard about microplanning, I fought it! But planning, real microplanning, opened my eyes. I have learned that to plan is good.”**

Nigeria

**“It may seem that vaccine delivery is simple but it is not. You need to map the community, how many people there are, where they live, how they move, who influences them.”**

Ethiopia

**“If microplanning is done properly I can get to know my target population; I can ensure logistics and vaccines; I can set up the manpower; I can evaluate how much I covered and how much I didn’t.”**

Bangladesh

**“Microplanning at the base, it’s really an asset, a force.”**

DRC

# Best Practices in Microplanning

1

ENGAGE  
COMMUNITIES

2

USE FINDINGS FOR  
ACTION

3

INTEGRATE  
MICROPLANNING  
ACROSS PROGRAMS

**Microplanning fulfills its potential when it is more than a paper exercise.**

Across our interviews, people said that microplanning was a particularly powerful tool when it was used as a platform for community engagement, program improvement, and health system strengthening.



## ENGAGE COMMUNITIES

**“We made the microplanning more participatory. The community was involved in the microplanning. Political leaders would participate as well. By this kind of microplanning, when we were doing things precisely, we could see the whole Bangladesh.”**

Bangladesh

Engaging community members, particularly community leaders, directly in the microplanning process has multiple benefits. It not only results in better data, it also builds stronger relationships and strengthens community engagement and buy-in.

## USE FINDINGS FOR ACTION

**“There were shortages of health manpower... and the microplanning was done in such a way that they could move people around and make sure that the vacant positions are not affecting the program delivery.”**

India

Microplans can be transformative when they are used not only for making work plans for a campaign, but for taking substantive action to improve health services. This is particularly true in reaching mobile or otherwise hard-to-reach populations, which may show up on a health system’s radar for the first time through the microplanning process.

## INTEGRATE MICROPLANNING ACROSS PROGRAMS

**“The microplanning that was implemented from the polio campaign extended to microplanning routine immunisation activities and integrated even with maternal and child health interventions. We even harmonized the microplanning framework with all other maternal and child health interventions. So it's not only polio or vaccination, but the other interventions of mother and child health are included in this microplanning scheme.”**

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Detailed microplans are powerful. They also take substantial work. Sharing the results of this effort across health programs fulfills microplanning’s potential for broad health system benefits.



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