

Alternative methods for MNTE validation in armed conflict and other access-constrained settings.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus Elimination (MNTE) and how is it typically validated?

Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus Elimination (MNTE) is defined as achieving less than one neonatal tetanus (NT) case per 1000 live births in every district or equivalent administrative division of a country. The standard method for validating MNTE, recommended by WHO, is the lot quality assurance-cluster sampling (LQA-CS) survey.

2. Why are alternative methods needed for MNTE validation in conflict settings?

Conducting the standard LQA-CS surveys requires unfettered access to communities, which is often impossible in conflict and other access-constrained settings due to insecurity from armed conflicts, banditry, or the activities of non-state actors.

3. What are the two alternative methods for MNTE validation endorsed by the IVIR-AC for conflict settings?

The Immunization and Vaccine-related Implementation Research Advisory Committee (IVIR-AC) has endorsed two alternative methods for MNTE validation in conflict and other access-constrained settings: 1) Pre-validation assessment without an LQA-CS survey and 2) audit of Tetanus Toxoid Containing Vaccines (TTCV) Supplementary Immunization Activities (SIAs) coverage without an LQA-CS survey.

4. In what specific contexts are these alternative validation methods intended to be used?

These alternative methods are specifically intended for use in conflict and other access-

constrained settings where conducting the standard LQA-CS surveys is not feasible due to security risks.

5. What are the limitations and considerations when using these alternative MNTE validation methods?

The pre-validation assessment doesn't directly measure neonatal mortality, while the SIA audit is conservative as it excludes routine vaccination data and can be inconclusive if follow-up surveys are needed but not possible.

6. What are the next steps for these alternative MNTE validation methods?

The methods will be further piloted and refined in more countries. The existing validation survey guide is being updated to include these approaches. Additionally, protocols, guidelines, and tools for conducting TTCV SIA audits will be developed to ensure their standardized and effective implementation.