



Incentivized Peer Referral Approach for COVID-19 Vaccination

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE



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1. Overview

- Context
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- Referral Cascade

Context

- In many communities, segments of the population still have not been vaccinated against COVID-19.
- Many are hesitant due to rumors, fears, or a lack of perceived need, but are not necessarily resistant to vaccination.
- Most programs do not have the financial or human resources to identify and reach these individuals.
- Our research in Côte d'Ivoire suggested that encouragement from a friend or family member can motivate a person to overcome their hesitation, however, few newly vaccinated people discuss their vaccination experience with their social network.





Solution

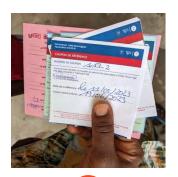
Recruit newly vaccinated individuals as peer mobilizers.

Peer mobilizers are encouraged to share their experience with their social network, helping to dispel rumors and fears about vaccine safety, and reinforcing the perception that vaccination is increasingly widespread within the community.

This approach was developed and piloted in Côte d'Ivoire.



Case Study



Mariame shares her vaccination experience with her sister, Beatrice, and gives her one of the coupons.



Beatrice's coupon is traced to Mariame, which triggers a small payment for Mariame.



Mariame is recruited as a peer mobilizer and receives coupons as she leaves the COVID-19 vaccination site.



Beatrice shows up at the same site to get vaccinated. She submits the coupon she received from Mariame.

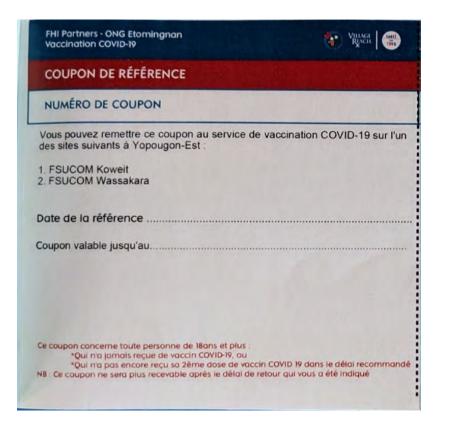


Beatrice is invited to become a peer mobilizer and take coupons to distribute to people in her social network.



Key Element 1: Referral coupon

- Serves as a reminder for the peer mobilizer to share their vaccination experience with others.
- Includes a unique number linking the referred person (Beatrice) to the peer mobilizer (Mariame) to ensure the peer mobilizer receives a small payment.





Key Element 2: Referral from a friend or family member

- The peer mobilizer (Mariame) shares their vaccination experience with a friend or family member (Beatrice) and gives them a coupon.
- This conversation helps to dispel rumors and fears and reinforces the perception that COVID-19 vaccination is increasingly widespread in the community.





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Key Element 3: Small payments

 The peer mobilizer receives a small payment for each successful referral to compensate for their time and travel expenses.





Referral cascade

Recruiting Agents*

Full-time trained worker based at vaccination site. Recruits newly vaccinated people as they leave the vaccination site.

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Vaccinated peer mobilizer (level 1)

Decides to participate in the program and provides contact information. Receives referral coupons to distribute to people in their social network.

Vaccinated peer mobilizer (level 2)

Accepts a referral coupon and brings it to the vaccination site. After being vaccinated, decides to participate and receives their own set of referral coupons.

Vaccinated peer (level 3...)

Accepts a referral coupon and brings it to the vaccination site. After being vaccinated, decides to participate and receives their own set of referral coupons.

*In Côte d'Ivoire, the Recruiting Agents were community mobilizers supervised by a local organization. In other contexts, a service provider could play this role.





2. Roles of the Implementation Team

- Recruiting Agent
- Finance Manager
- Monitoring and Quality Control Manager



Recruiting Agent

- 1. Recruit peer mobilizers
- 2. Enroll and register
- 3. Fill in referral coupons

RECRUITING AGENT

1. Recruit peer mobilizers

The primary role of Recruiting Agents is to **recruit newly vaccinated individuals** as peer mobilizers and **orient them** to the different elements of the program:

Take referral coupons

FHI Partners - ONG Etomingnan Vaccination COVID-19	Village Kart				
COUPON DE RÉFÉRENCE					
NUMÉRO DE COUPON					
Vous pouvez remettre ce coupon au service de vaco des sites suivants à Yopougon-Est :	cination COVID-19 sur l'un				
1. FSUCOM Koweit 2. FSUCOM Wassakara					
Date de la référence					
Coupon valable jusqu'au					
Ce coupon concerne toute personne de l8ans et plus : "Qui ma jamais reque de vaccin COVID-19, ou "Qui ma pas encore reçu sa 2ême dose de vaccin COV NB. Ce coupon ne sera plus recevable après le délai de retour	1D 19 dans le délai recommandé qui vous a été indiqué				

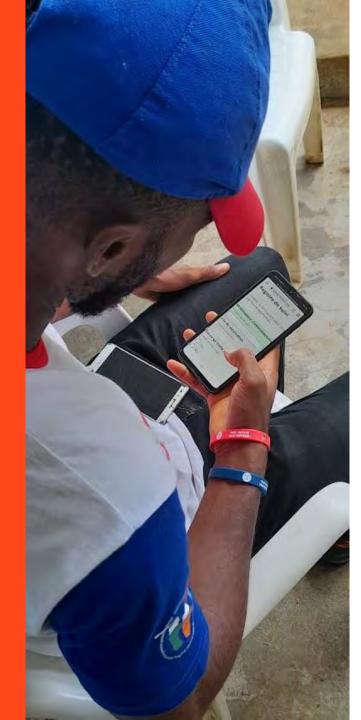
Share your experience and give coupons to people in • your social network

Receive a small payment for each successful referral









RECRUITING AGENT

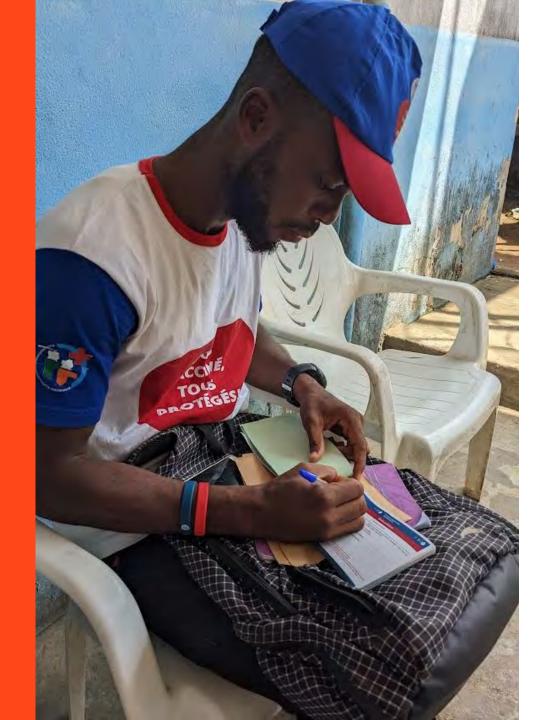
2. Enroll peer mobilizers

Recruiting Agents use a **standard registration form** to enroll peer mobilizers into the program. This form should collect information necessary to link coupons back to the peer recruiter and facilitate payment of their incentives. You might also collect other information relevant to your program. Our program used an electronic form on REDCap, but paper registers work too.

Registre de suivi			
remplir le formulaire pour chaque personne approc	hée		
Mobilisateur Communautaire * must privide value	ESSAN Kouadio Manus Henoc	•	
site de vaccination	FSUCOM Wassakara		erri e
Est-ce qu'il/elle a été vacciné? "must provide value	 Yes No 	reset	Registre de suivi a D
Type de pair? *must provide value	Principal PV		Mobilisation Communication and provide time Amines Families - The die vancemation
numéro du PV (numéro du coupon de base OU du coupon collecté)	Pair.referé		International Activation
* müst provide value			1 Tel 0 NO reset
Combien de coupons ? * must provide value	9*		Type de pair?
Nom et Prénom * must provide value			Comfilien de couports ?
Numéro de téléphone (associé avec un compte WAVE) +225-	10 Manual monoral		
* mast provide value			
Date de naissance	DJA.T		

The registration form used in our program was digitized with REDCap.





RECRUITING AGENT

3. Fill in referral coupons.

The Recruiting Agent then prepares referral coupons, filling in the **peer mobilizer's assigned code**, so they are easily linked back to them. Once completed, these coupons are provided to the peer mobilizer. See Implementation Resources for more information on how to assign peer mobilizer codes.





Note: Recruiting Agents can be **program staff** or **community mobilizers** hired full-time for this role, or the same **providers** who deliver the vaccine. What is important is that they must be **present at the site full-time** to receive the coupons.







Finance Manager

- 1. Consult data dashboard
- 2. Make payments
- 3. Document payments

- 1. The Finance Manager should consult the data dashboard weekly to determine amounts to be paid. Our program used PowerBI to facilitate these reviews.
- 2. They also make payments to peer mobilizers (via mobile money, in cash, or in kind). Our program made weekly payments to keep peer mobilizers motivated.
- 3. And importantly, they **document payments** with a *Payments Made* form. Our program used a form on REDCap.

PV éligible	Coupons	Prime gagné	Paiement déjà	Reste à payer
	retournés	•	reçu	
101	5	10000	2000	8000
100	2	4000		4000
101-3	1	2000		2000
109	1	2000		2000
110	1	2000		2000
208	1	2000		2000
300	1	2000		2000
Total	12	24000	2000	22000







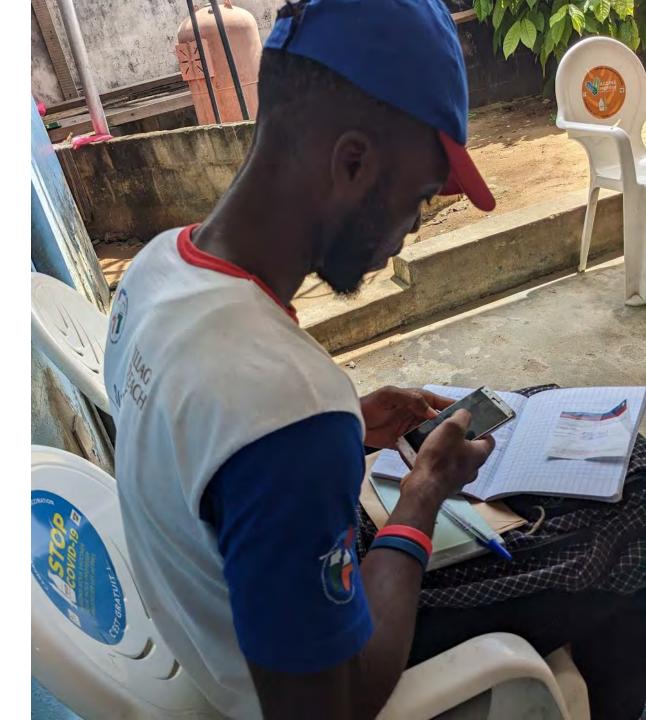
Monitoring and Quality Control Manager

- 1. Train Recruiting Agents
- 2. Monitor the first peer mobilizer enrollments
- 3. Create a chat group
- 4. Correct errors
- 5. Review data daily to identify errors
- 6. Review data dashboard to share results

MONITORING & QUALITY CONTROL MANAGER

1. Train Recruiting Agents

In our program, the Monitoring and Quality Control manager was responsible for training Recruiting Agents. Since correct coding of referral codes is key to the smooth operation of the program, much time should be dedicated in this training to **explaining, practicing, and coaching** Recruiting Agents on code development. See Implementation Tools for a sample agenda from our training of Recruiting Agents.



MONITORING & QUALITY CONTROL MANAGER

2. Monitor the first peer mobilizer enrollments

The Monitoring and Quality Control Manager should be **on-site during the first few days** of peer mobilizer enrollments to provide supervision and coaching support to Recruiting Agents. Supporting them to correctly recruit and assign their first few codes will ensure the quality of program data.





- 3. In our program, the Monitoring and Quality Control Manager created a chat group, using WhatsApp, to quickly communicate with Recruiting Agents.
- 4. The Monitoring and Quality Control Manager used this chat group to correct errors and share lessons with all Recruiting Agenda.



5. Each day, the Monitoring and Quality Control Manager should review data to identify and correct:

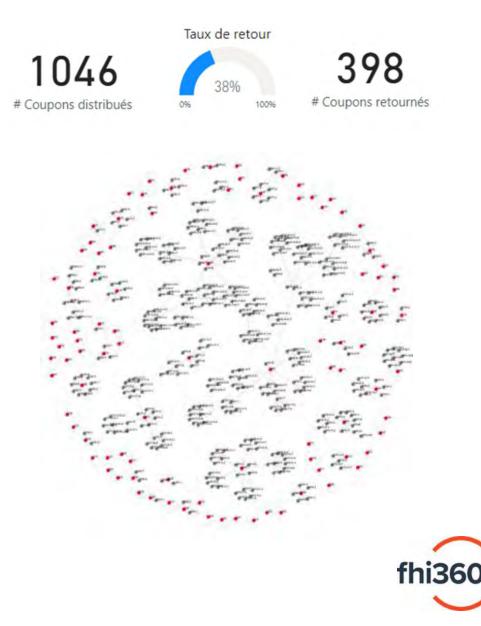
- Duplicates
- Missing data
- Entries in wrong order

Survey Timestamp registre_de_suivi_ timestamp	Date (AUTOMATED) date	Mobilisateur Communautaire mc	site de vaccination site	Est-ce qu'il/elle a été vacciné? vaxed	Est-ce que vous voudrez participer à la pilote? participant
[not completed]	26-04-2023				
04-27-2023 10:23	27-04-2023	BEHINAN Loué Arsène Fabrice (4)	FSUCOM Koweit (0)	Yes (1)	Yes (1)
04-27-2023 10:44	27-04-2023	TORAH Elie Junior (6)	FSUCOM Wassakara (1)	Yes (1)	Yes (1)
04-27-2023 12:30	27-04-2023	DJA Anne ALICE (1)	FSUCOM Koweit (0)	Yes (1)	Yes (1)
04-27-2023 13:21	27-04-2023	Mariame (7)	FSUCOM Wassakara (1)	Yes (1)	Yes (1)
04-27-2023 15:00	27-04-2023	Mariame (7)	FSUCOM Wassakara (1)	Yes (1)	No (0)
04-27-2023 23:04	27-04-2023	TORAH Elie Junior (6)	FSUCOM Wassakara (1)	Yes (1)	Yes (1)
04-29-2023 18:55	29-04-2023	EHOUMAN Kouao Jean Baptiste (5)	FSUCOM Wassakara (1)	Yes (1)	Yes (1)
05-01-2023 12:16	01-05-2023	YEO Mama Ouattatra (3)	FSUCOM Wassakara (1)	Yes (1)	Yes (1)
05-01-2023 21:18	01-05-2023	BEHINAN Loué Arsène Fabrice (4)	FSUCOM Wassakara (1)	Yes (1)	Yes (1)
06-06-2023 11:38	06-06-2023	EHOUMAN Kouao Jean Baptiste (5)	FSUCOM Wassakara (1)	Yes (1)	Yes (1)
06-06-2023 12:10	06-06-2023	EHOUMAN Kouao Jean Baptiste (5)	FSUCOM Wassakara (1)	Yes (1)	Yes (1)



6. And finally, the Monitoring and Quality Control Manager should review data dashboard to share results with team each week. This helps to motivate the team by indicating progress. Our program used PowerBI to create dashboards (see at right) that showed:

- Number of coupons distributed
- Number of people returning to the site with coupons
- Coupon return rate
- Network visualizations





3. Key Decisions and Actions

- Develop a timeline
- Determine small payments
- Define eligibility for payments
- Identify and engage recruiting agents.
- Select sites
- Design and print coupons

Develop a timeline

It is important to map out key tasks in a timeline for your program. Below is an example from ours.

Preparation

WEEKS 1-4:

- Recruit agents
- Finalize schematic and print coupons
- Determine compensation amounts and payment systems
- Supply products in kind for compensation
- Site selection
- Logistics set-up
- Meetings with district, community, and religious leaders
- Vaccination data collection (intervention and non-intervention sites)

Pilot

WEEK 1:

- Train recruiters and service providers
- Begin mobilization
- Set up logistics
- Site selection

WEEKS 2-4:

- Coupon distribution and collection
- Qualitative interviews
- Vaccination data collection
- Documentation of lessons learned

WEEKS 5-7:

- Collection of remaining coupons
- Tabulation of results
- Qualitative analysis
- Changes to the implementation approach

Implementation

WEEKS 1-8:

- Retrain recruiters and providers based on lessons learned
- Coupon distribution and collection
- Vaccination data collection

WEEKS 9-10:

- Collection of remaining coupons
- Ongoing mobilization
- Tabulation of results
- Quantitative analysis

WEEKS 11-14:

 Documentation and dissemination of results



Determine small payment

As explained earlier, small payments given to peer mobilizers for each referral coupon that returns to the site are central to this program. It is important to take time to consider a few things:

Amount

- Compare with similar programs
- Consult local authorities
- Decide whether there will be a ceiling to limit possible gains
- Payment frequency
 - Weekly payment is recommended

• Format

- Money (mobile or cash)
- In kind (soap, bleach, other)
- o Mobile airtime credit



Define eligibility for payments

If you are using this approach to reach specific populations, you will need to define eligibly criteria for payments. In practice, this means that coupons returned by a peer who does not meet your criteria would result in non-payment to the peer mobilizer. Applying such criteria will encourage peer mobilizers to better target their coupon distribution.

In our program, we used the following criteria for payments:

- Is eligible for first or second dose
- Is 18 years of age or older
- Holds no position of power in the community

Any referred peer who did not meet this criteria was vaccinated but did not trigger a payment to the peer mobilizer.





Identify and engage recruiting agents

Determine whether current service providers can serve as Recruiting Agents. If not, identify personnel who can be present at implementation sites on a full-time basis for the duration of the program.



In our program, we used the following eligibility criteria for Recruiting Agents:

- Completed secondary school
- Two years of experience in community mobilization
- Has a smartphone (for REDCap software)
- Able to correctly complete required forms (following training)
- Organized and welcoming
- Available for the duration of the program
- Good listening skills
- Flexible



Select sites

It is unlikely you will have sufficient Recruiting Agents to cover all your vaccination sites. You will need to decide which sites you will include in your program, this way you can position your Recruiting Agents at those sites. Importantly, you can also clearly communicate to peer recruiters where coupons must be returned to receive payments.

In our program, we selected two sites based on the volume of vaccinations they were completing each week. Since this approach relies on recruiting newly vaccinated people as peer recruiters it is best to start with sites that have higher volumes.





Design and print referral coupons

Referral coupons are the most important tool in this program. Be sure to design a referral coupon that meets your tracking needs and is easily understood by both your Recruiting Agents and peer mobilizers. In our program we printed coupons with three stubs and two coupons per page. Our referral coupon can be used as a template, you can download it <u>here</u>.







4. Lessons Learned

Lessons Learned

- Reinforce with peer mobilizers the importance of distributing coupons only to eligible peers.
- Remind all peer mobilizers at the time of recruitment that payments are intended only as compensation for their time and transport to assist in referrals.
- Gain the trust and support of local authorities and partners by providing them with regular updates on the program and answer questions to allay concerns about coercion and sustainability.

- Select sites for success or tailor to them:
 - Choose high volume sites where peers can be quickly recruited by full-time, on-site recruitment staff
 - In low volume sites, task service providers with on-site recruitment and employ complementary approaches, such as doorto-door mobilization
- Consult implementers and local authorities to determine appropriate compensation
 - Monitor program activity to confirm compensation amount is appropriate to cover approximate transportation and communication costs and is not coercive





5. Implementation Tools

- Recruiting Agent training agenda
- Sample recruitment script
- Code development
- Guide for note taking
- Key performance indicators



Recruiting Agent training agenda

Recruiting Agent training agenda

Day 1

- Approach objectives, methodology, and tools
- Role of the recruiting agent
- Role play using the recruitment script
- Overview of code development for coupon numbering
- Practical coupon numbering exercises as group on flipchart then individually using printed coupons
- Practical registration form exercises paper version and digital (if applicable)

Homework

• Complete three registration forms with three referral levels (e.g., $101 \rightarrow 101-2 \rightarrow 101-2-5$)

Day 2

- Review and correct homework, reviewing coupon numbering logic
- Role play recruitment, numbering coupons, and registration form completion
- Discuss site logistics
- Review supervision and support plan





Sample recruitment script

Sample recruitment script

Here is the recruitment script our recruiting agents in our pilot used to explain and enroll newly vaccinated individuals into the program.



Step 1: Congratulate

Congratulate the person on being vaccinated against COVID-19.

"The more people who get vaccinated against COVID-19, the better it is for all of us."



Step 2: Present approach

"Unfortunately, we don't have enough community health workers to reach everyone and talk about COVID-19 vaccination. That's why we're launching a new program to recruit newly vaccinated people like you to tell others about their experience and encourage them to get vaccinated. If you join the program, you can earn a small payment to compensate you for any transportation and communication costs associated with your referrals. Would you like to find out more?



3

Step 3: Explain

"If you agree to participate in the program, I will give you coupons; you can decide how many. You can give these coupons to people you know who are eligible for COVID-19 vaccination and are at least 18 years old." "You must ask this person to bring the coupon to one of the two COVID-19 vaccination centers indicated on the coupon before the end of the program. If the person brings the coupon and meets the criteria I mentioned, you will receive 2,000 CFA as compensation for transportation and communication." "You will receive your payment via WAVE on the Saturday after we receive the coupon."

4

Step 4: Invite

"Would you like to participate in this program?"





Step 5: Register

- Fill in the participant registration form on REDCap.
- Confirm that the coupon numbers match those on the registration form.
- Confirm contact information.



Step 6: Reiterate key messages

"You will only receive the 2,000 CFA per coupon if the person referred:

- Is eligible for COVID-19 vaccination and over age 18
- Goes to one of the two vaccination centers indicated on the coupon
- Arrives with their coupon before the end of the program"

"Above all, don't pressure people who are not interested or who refuse your coupon. No one is obliged to be vaccinated. You must respect everyone's choice."



Step 7: Request for participation in research (if applicable)

- "My colleagues are trying to learn what participants think of this approach. They will be contacting some participants in the coming weeks to ask some questions about their experience. The interview should last between five and 10 minutes. If you are selected, they will explain the research in more detail at that time, and you can decide whether or not you would like to take part. Do you agree to your telephone number being given to them for this purpose?"
- Finalize participant registration form on REDCap
- If the researchers are present on site and the person recruited is in one of the desired categories for the day, refer them to the researchers to determine eligibility:
 - "My colleagues who are trying to learn what people think about this approach are here today; sitting over there in the corner. Do you have five minutes to share your opinions with them?"





Step 8: Closing

"What questions do you have for me? Thank you for your participation in this program. If you have any problems or questions, please call me at this number XX XX XX XX."





Code development

1

Step 1: Designate a seed code range for each site *or* recruiting agent

A seed code range is designated for each site or recruiting agent. The seed code range represents the total number of seed codes that might be assigned as participant codes by a site or recruiting agent. For example, if a site or recruiting agent is assigned seed codes 100 to 199, this assumes they can assign up to 100 seed codes as participant codes. By designating ranges, you simplify the coupon numbering process and can trace each referred peer back to a specific site or recruiting agent.

Seed codes are only assigned to the first peer mobilizer in a network chain. See step 2 of this process. For example:

Recruiting agent	Seed code range
Laouratou Barry	100-199
Baillo Bah	200-299
Aliou Doukoure	300-399



2

Step 2: Assign seed codes to peer mobilizers

Seed codes are assigned to peer mobilizers who **did not** enter the site with a referral coupon. As a result, they represent the first participant in a referral network chain. Seed codes are derived from the code range of the site or recruiting agents and assigned in sequence. For example, if the recruiting agent's seed code range is 100 to 199, the first peer mobilizer they enroll would be assigned participant code 100. The second peer mobilizer enrolled would be assigned participant code 101; the third, participant code 103, and so forth. See example at right.

Peer mobilizer	Arrival order	Participant code
Alpha Diallo	1	100
Lamarana Barry	2	101
Aissata Fofana	14	113

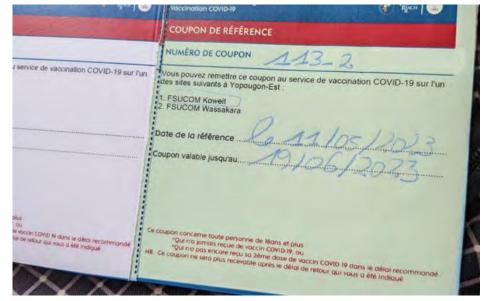


3

Step 3: Number coupons taken by the peer mobilizer

Each coupon taken by the peer mobilizer should be numbered sequentially. For example, if the peer mobilizer's participant code is 113 and they take 5 coupons, the coupons would be numbered 113-1, 113-2, 113-3, 113-4, and 113-5.

This numbering is important to distinguish between individuals who return with a coupon connected to the same peer mobilizer.



De-coding the coupon above: this was the second coupon given to the 14th peer mobilizer enrolled by a recruiting agent designated with seed codes ranging from 100 to 199.





Step 4: Assign codes to *referred* peer mobilizers code

For individuals who present at the site **with** a referral coupon and decide to become a peer mobilizer, their referral coupon number becomes their participant code. For example, a peer mobilizer who entered the site with coupon 113-2 becomes participant 113-2.

Similarly, a peer mobilizer who entered the site with coupon 113-2-6 becomes participant 113-2-6.



Step 5: Number coupons taken by referred peer mobilizer

Each coupon taken by a referred peer recruiter should be numbered sequentially. For example, if the peer mobilizer's participant code is 113-2 and they take 5 coupons, the coupons would be numbered 113-2-1, 113-2-2, 113-2-3, 113-2-4, and 113-2-5.

Similarly, if the peer mobilizer's participant code is 113-2-3 and they take 3 coupons, the coupons would be numbered 113-2-3-1, 113-2-3-2, and 113-2-3-3.



6

Step 6: Record coupons in registration form

Be sure to record in the registration form the assigned participant code and coupons given to the peer recruiter.

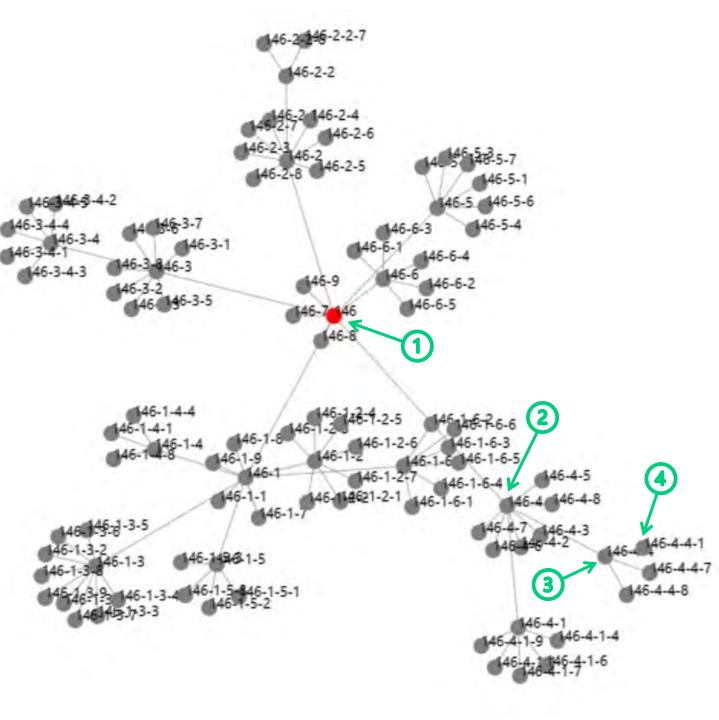
Registre de suivi remplir le formulaire pour chaque personne approchée		
Mobilisateur Communautaire * must provide value	DJA Anne ALICE 👻	
site de vaccination * must provide value	site mobile Wassakara 🛩	
Est-ce qu'il/elle a été vacciné? * must provide value	 Yes No 	reset
Quelle dose avez-vous faite aujourd'hui ? * must provide value	Première dose	
Type de pair? * must provide value	Principal PV 🛩	
numéro du PV (numéro du coupon de base OU du coupon collecté) * must provide value	100	
Combien de coupons ? * must provide value	2 •	



Example: Evolution of a participant code

Here is an example of how a participant code might evolve in a network chain as referred peers become peer mobilizers.

Peer Mobilizer	Network Level	Participant Code
Aya	1	146
Fatoumata	2	146-4
Konan	3	146-4-4
Mamadou	4	146-4-4-1





Guide for back-up note taking

Why back-up notes?

If a digital registration form will be used, it is important for recruiting agents to also keep back-up notes. Back-up notes:

- Provide a way to trace individuals in cases of data entry errors, duplicate phone numbers, etc.
- Help verify mobile money numbers in cases of doubt, error, or claims regarding missed incentive payments.
- Maintain information the data manager may need in the event of changes to peer mobilizer information (e.g., a mobile money number change, the digital platform malfunctions, etc.).
- Provide a means of verification when questions arise about data entered into the digital platform.



Information to capture

- Peer mobilizer's participant code (same as on referral coupon and in registration form)
- Peer mobilizer telephone numbers (referrer and referred)
- Total number of coupons taken by each peer mobilizer
- Total number of coupons returned at each site
- Registration date of each peer mobilizer at the site
- Age of peer mobilizer





Key Performance Indicators

Key performance indicators

Measuring the performance of the program will be important to inform its continuation, expansion, or modifications. Below are key performance indicators that might be used for this purpose.

Indicators	Calculation	Potential disaggregation
% of newly vaccinated people who agree to distribute coupons	# of newly vaccinated people who agree to distribute coupons / # of newly vaccinated people approached x 100	GenderAge
% of coupons distributed that return to site	# of coupons that return to the site / # of coupons registered to peer recruiters x 100	 Gender of peer recruiter Age of peer recruiter Network level of peer recruiter
% of coupons presented by eligible peers	# of coupons presented by eligible peers / # of coupons returned to the site x 100	GenderAgeNetwork level of peer recruiter
% of newly vaccinated people who presented a coupon	# of newly vaccinated people who presented a coupon / # of people newly vaccinated x 100	GenderAgeNetwork level of peer recruiter





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For questions or feedback about this guide, please contact <u>sbc@fhi360.org</u>.