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YEMEN

SUCCESS STORY

Safer Vaccination Practices observed in Al Swedish Hospital

Save handling of vaccines lowers risk of exposure to HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis.



After training: Safe handling of Tetanus vaccine

Unsafe injection practices can harm both health workers and patients and expose them to higher risks of infections such as HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis. Improper handling of vaccines can also reduce their efficacy.

An evaluation of the routine immunization practices at the Yemeni-Swedish Hospital in Ta'iz revealed improper practices such as unsafe disposal of vaccine waste in certain departments, such as the Ante Natal Care (ANC) department. ANC vaccinators were not following safe vaccination practices and procedures.

For instance, used syringes were recapped and placed in overfilled safety boxes. Many other used syringes were found in plastic bags. The tetanus vaccine vial was placed directly on a frozen ice pack, and cold tetanus doses were injected without prior warming of the tetanus vial, contrary to established procedure.

The Health Systems 20/20, the main USAID health unit, conducted the evaluation and, as a result of its findings, revised guidelines for safe immunization practices at immunization posts and trained vaccinators at the Hospital in Ta'iz in proper routine procedures and safe handling of vaccines.

As a result, safer immunization practices and proper disposal of vaccine waste have been observed during post-training evaluations.