

Assessment of Polio campaign

Executive Summary

There are 26 confirmed polio cases in Sudan in the year 2005 with the last case reported in June and previous one in April. Eight National immunization rounds were implemented in 2005 in the country. However as Sudan is entering final stages of the polio eradication initiative; it is of immense importance that the strategies aimed at polio eradication such as National Immunization Days (NIDs) are of highest quality. The aim of these National Immunization days is to interrupt circulation of poliovirus by immunizing every child less than 5 years of age with OPV, regardless of previous immunization status.

National Immunization Days (NID) consists of intensive house-to-house immunization with OPV. All children in a specified age group (less than 5 years) are immunized during the three days. It is imperative to assess the quality of implementation of National Immunization Days (NIDs), which can be done through survey of households and localities. A post campaign monitoring provides an assessment of the coverage activities and contributes toward better planning and improved coverage.

Reports from external supervisors suggested problems in implementation in Barbar and Aldamer localities in River Nile state. In order to verify the findings and estimate the magnitude(if any) a post campaign assessment was planned by Federal EPI and WHO in these two localities. Considering exercise as an activity of national interest, and in order to get reliable data the task was entrusted to independent monitors from youth Union.

The objectives of the exercise were set to validate the reported coverage rate of the target population vaccinated during the polio campaign in two localities; to determine the proportion of target population who received Polio vaccine for the first time during the campaign; to verify reasons of non- vaccination of the target population during the campaign; To determine the contribution of different strategies implemented for advocacy for the campaign.

Systematic random cluster sampling methodology was used to carry out the task to achieve the objectives. 52 clusters were selected from each locality, each cluster including 15 children of the age 1 day to 59 months.

Six teams were proposed with two members in each team. To ensure the quality and maintain close supervision every team was supplemented with a supervisor

Training workshop/session was held at Atbara on 27th November and field work was started from 28th. Data was collected in 4 days from 2 localities of the State.

Eight administrative units in two selected localities were monitored during the exercise.

In Aldamer locality the teams monitored 925 children in 52 areas visited and 847 were found vaccinated. Whereas in Barbar a sample of 841 was selected and 794 were found vaccinated. Vaccination coverage was found to be 91.6% in Damar locality whereas 94.1% in Barbar locality. Two administrative units in Aldamer and one

administrative unit in Barbar were identified to have coverage problems and recommended to be considered for implementing a mopping up campaign in late December.