**GUIDELINES FOR MONITORING POLIO SUPPLEMENTARY IMMUNIZATION ACTIVITIES (SIAs) IN SOUTH SUDAN**.

**Background**

Southern Sudan had not reported any polio cases for three consecutive years, from May 2005 until April 2008. Between then to December 2008, a total of 24 polio cases were confirmed. In 2009, the outbreak continued widely with an additional 40 cases (all WPV1) reported across South Sudan. As at June 2009 when the last case was confirmed, only Western Bahr El Ghazal was spared in the WPV resurgence. The occurrence of cases in Southern Sudan triggered the implementation of several rounds of SIAs in 2008(4 NIDs, 3 SNIDs) and 2009 (7 NIDs, 1 SNID), with extensive technical and logistical support provided by the MoH-GoSS and her implementing Partners. By the end of January 2010, South Sudan has gone through 7 months without a case, with major surveillance indicators at acceptable international standards at national level.

Following the November 2009 Consultative meeting of the Advisory Committee on Polio Eradication, the Southern Sudan polio programme is charged with bringing a renewed vigor (as would be required for an endemic country) to overcoming the challenges which stand in the way of reaching all the targeted children. One of the areas that require strengthening is the weak supervision and monitoring at all levels; evaluation of the campaign during and after the round is critical to assure that children are not missed. Field reports from senior supervisors continue to show a persistent discordance between the reported administrative coverage data and the gaps in the entire management of the polio NIDs/SIAs.

**Objective**

The overall objective is to evaluate the quality of each NIDs/SNIDs round measuring the proportion of missed children in high risk settlements.

The specific objectives are:

* To get reliable data on missed children to guide program activities
* To assess the quality of NIDs/SNIDs (including coverage, awareness on SIAs, reasons for missing children, reasons for zero dose)
* To guide immediate mop-ups on poorly covered areas (> 10% missed children)

**Methodology**

The monitoring process is conducted by trained and supervised independent interviewers (“Independent Monitors”). The monitors are not part of the polio implementation team of the health system but are trained on NIDs issues and monitoring data collection. Sources of monitors would include NGOs, UN staff, students of Universities/other higher institutions of learning in the locality. They should be literate in English language and be able to communicate with household members in the appropriate local language either directly or through an interpreter.

They are responsible for collecting the data during (*in –process*) and after the NIDs *(end-process*). For each round, the Independent Monitors are trained for one full day by the State teams (Ministry of Health and Partners) on data collection procedures.

The monitoring will take place after the round is complete in the selected area. Monitors are expected to visit at least 10 houses or camps in 4 different areas of each Payam (as much as feasible) each round. Additional areas can be covered if they can assure the quality of the monitoring. If an area is found to have been completed, the monitoring form should be completed for 10 houses in the selected village/Boma (PCE cluster) and the information should be included in the analysis.

When a monitor reaches the selected area, they should first meet the local chief or leader and discuss the campaign, understand the village area and complete the descriptive questions on the top of the “Polio NIDs/SNIDs Monitoring Form”. A guide should be obtained from the leader and the monitor should start monitoring at the geographical central or middle point of the village. The monitor should NOT start at the leader’s house unless it is the physical centre of the village

Upon reaching the centre house, the monitor will spin a pen on their notebook, at this house, the monitor can select the direction they will move in and go to the first house the pen points towards. After completing the survey questions with that family, the surveyor will go towards the next house on his right but skip every other house until 10 households are completed. One row represents one household, and one form would be used for one cluster of 10 households.

In towns or clustered areas (ie, large cattle camps, some villages), monitors can skip up to 3 households between those selected for interview. If the area is a scattered area---you must walk 15-30 minutes to reach the next household or there are less than 20 households per area, every other house or every house can be taken. For the purpose of the survey, a household is any house or camp in which the family shares one cooking place.

To further ensure reliability of the data, within the County, Independent Monitors should be swapped to avoid conducting end-process Monitoring in the same Payams repeatedly.

**Selection of Areas for Monitoring**

The areas will be selected by the WHO IFP/NFP, in consultation with the County/ Field Supervisors. Areas will include town areas, village areas, scattered houses, cattle camps (or fishing camps). High risk areas should be prioritized including border areas or areas which have been known to have been missed in the past.

For larger town areas with more than 200 houses, sub-areas should be identified for the survey from the leaders. The monitor should then write the sub-area names on pieces of paper, roll them and ask the leader to pull out the piece of paper. The monitor will then complete the survey form in that sub-area following the same instructions. This will avoid only monitoring in the town center.

**Data Organization and Analysis**

Data generated during *in process* are collected and analyzed at the County level during the daily review meetings. The findings are used to guide subsequent day’s plans.

Upon completion of the *end- process* survey, the County/Field Supervisors should carefully review the survey forms (data quality check) before finalizing full payment to the monitors. If due to the location of the monitor, money needs to be provided through the Field supervisor, money should not be released to the Field supervisor until the forms have been confirmed by the WHO Focal Points as completed correctly.  *End process* data is submitted 4 days after the implementation to the State team. Thereafter, data is entered by Payam using a customized database on Microsoft Excel.

The consolidated State data by Payam is then submitted to the National level for compilation and analysis of the number and percentage of missed children per Payam/County/State level as a unit of analysis.

The household monitoring is meant to estimate the proportion of missed children (unvaccinated) and the reasons for missing children respectively

**Outcome Indicators**

* % of missed children
* % of Payams with > 10% missed children
* Reasons for missed children
* Commonest source of information (awareness on NIDs)

**Scope of Independent Monitoring**

Each Monitor would be deployed for a total of 6 days each round: 2 days for in-process and 4 days for end-process monitoring. For in-process, each Monitor should cover at least 2 clusters (in villages or Bomas) or 20 households per day, and provide the survey findings to the Field/County Supervisor (by whatever means possible) for use at the daily evening review meetings.

During the end-process, each Monitor is expected to cover at least 3 clusters (in villages or Bomas) or 30 households per day. Over a period of 4 days, each Monitor should have completed 12 clusters (120 households). The completed forms are submitted to the Field/County Supervisor, who in turn hands them over (after validation) to the State WHO IFP/NFP for electronic entry and analysis. ***ONLY the end-process data is used to determine the coverage and other outcome indicators for each round*.**

**Description of Expected Work load during Independent Monitoring**

1. In-Process: 2 Clusters (20 Households) X 2 Days = 40 households

Number of Households monitored per State: Number of Monitors X 40.

1. End-Process: 3 Clusters (30 Households) X 4 Days = 120 households

Number of Clusters: 4 per Payam each round

Number of Monitors required per State: Total number of Clusters

 12

This also corresponds to 1 Independent Monitor for every 3 Payams