

**SECRET**

**JUNE 2018**

**NCH/61/005D**

**MEMORANDUM OF THE HONORABLE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH, JIGAWA STATE ON BOOSTING ROUTINE IMMUNIZATION THROUGH THE CONDUCT OF STATE OUTREACH DAYS (SODs)**

**1. PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this memorandum is to notify and seek Council's approval for States to conduct the State Outreach Days (SODs) to rapidly increase routine immunization coverage.

**2. BACKGROUND:**

Routine immunization has remained the corner stone of primary health care. More than 80% of childhood morbidity and mortality in Nigeria is due to vaccine preventable diseases. Most states in the northern parts of the country have single digit immunization coverages. Low RI coverage has been observed to be due to a number of factors including inadequately trained front-line service providers, poor quality Reaching Every Ward (REW) micro-plans, gaps in vaccine supply chain management, inadequate data tools, as well as lack of effective engagement of communities leading to poor health seeking behaviour by the household heads and caregivers to mention but a few.

The current fixed sessions at health facilities and outreach services are not adequately conducted and generally speaking, are currently too slow and insufficient to provide the platform for a rapid scale up.

In order to fast track the uptake of RI in the Jigawa state, State Outreach Days (Ranar Lamba) was launched in September 2017. During this period (5 days monthly) all health workers who are licensed to give injections, except for a critical mass that remained at the health facilities, were mobilized to the field to provide RI services at community level and issue immunization cards. So far seven rounds were conducted, and it is interesting to note that the percentage of children that were fully immunized rose from the SMART 2017 value of 7%, to WHO LQAS value of 46% in April 2018. The RI processes are also being carried out in which an in-between-round plan is implemented tracking defaulters and immunizing them as well as continued social mobilization activities at the community levels.

**3. CONTENT:**

**SOD Components**

The SOD strategy is a quick-win intervention that is used in addressing low immunization coverage in Jigawa state. It involves the following steps.

- a. Community mapping and health worker allocation
- b. Trainings at state, LGA and ward levels
- c. Cold chain logistics
- d. Mobilization of tools and supervisors

- e. Community mobilization activities
- f. Conduct of the SOD
- g. Post implementation review meetings

During each cycle, health workers move from village to village to provide RI. Before the arrival of the health workers, the community is informed through the community focal person who ensures the mobilization of eligible children to the vaccination point. The data is entered into the local health facility register while a line list of all the RI eligible children with their vaccination status is left with the community focal person.

**PRAYERS:**

**The Council is invited to approve** the conduct of SODs by States of the federation and the FCT towards increased coverage of immunization services

**Honourable Commissioner for Health, Jigawa State,**

**June 2018.**