**Brief update for diplomatic missions domiciled in Lao People’s Democratic Republic**

Following the Ministry of Health announcement of the Vaccine-derived poliovirus type 1 (cVDPV Type 1) outbreak in Lao People’s Democratic Republic in October, we would like to provide a brief update on the current situation and response strategy to all diplomatic missions domiciled in the country.

**Current situation**

As of 17 November 2015, there have been 4 confirmed cVDPV1 cases, 3 from Phamueng village, Bolikhan District of Bolikhamxay Province; and one from Homthat village, Hom District of Xaisomboun Province. There are an additional 20 cases of Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) (suspected polio) cases reported in these provinces since the announcement of the outbreak. A total of 15 AFP cases tested negative for any polio virus. The test results of other AFP cases are pending.

**Response strategy**

The first round of Supplementary Immunization Activities (SIA) of oral polio vaccine (OPV) took place in October 2015 following the identification of the case.

Bolikhamxay Province has commenced the second round of SIA, and Xaisomboun and Xiengkhuang provinces will begin from 18 November 2015.

There will be four additional rounds of OPV targeting all children under 15 years. The planned round in December 2015 will include all provinces in the country. It is important that you get your children vaccinated during these rounds.

The doses provided in these SIAs are supplementary doses and every child under 15 years should receive these doses even if they have received all doses in routine vaccination.

**Social mobilization activities are being conducted to increase the uptake of vaccination, particularly in areas known to have low vaccination rates. Key Messages:**

Key messages have been developed and shared with affected community:

* Polio is a serious disease that can cause paralysis and death.
* There is no cure for Polio.
* Protect your children from Polio by getting them vaccinated. The vaccine is safe, effective and free.
* Polio is spread from person to person by contact with the stool of infected people. Good sanitation and hygiene is KEY.
* It is normal for your child to have slight fever after receiving injectable vaccines.

20 November 2015