Reviewer's report

**Title:** Determinants of Performance of Supplemental Immunization Activities for Polio Eradication in Uttar Pradesh, India: Social Mobilization Activities of the Social Mobilization Network (SM Net) and Core Group Polio Project (CGPP)

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 15 July 2012

**Reviewer:** Heidi Larson

**Reviewer's report:**

The paper is clear and well-written and addresses the important issue of evaluating the impact of some of the social mobilization activities conducted as part of the polio eradication initiative.

The paper also clearly outlines the limitations, especially that this paper only looks quantitatively and not qualitatively at the activities conducted and noting that there are multiple factors, beyond the SIAs and specific mobilization activities investigated, that can affect vaccine acceptance.

I have one significant discomfort, which is that the activities identified are very strongly persuasion tactics, rather than any suggestion of sitting down and talking with people and better understanding their concerns. But, this is more of an issue of the programme's choice of activities than the evaluators who wrote the paper, and could be addressed in a more qualitative study which the authors recommend.

**Minor Essential Revisions**

1) From the abstract and throughout the paper, I would put "bullawa tollies" in quotation marks as it is a local language term, not understood out of local context;

2) In the first para of the Background (page 3) the article states that the total number of polio cases worldwide "is 195 and there has been only (1) report case of wild poliovirus in India"...and later continues " India, however, has never interrupted transmissio of wild poliovirus". I appreciate that the peer review and revision process can take awhile, but this introduction needs to be updated in light of India's interruption of poliovirus, and graduation to a non-endemic country, and also the total number of cases world wide should be updated.

3) P. 3 para 3. "PVO" needs to be spelled out (There are a lot of acronyms in this paper, although I realize that the polio eradication initiative alone has many and difficult to avoid.)

4) In the Conclusions, 1st para, 2nd sentence, I would not say "In India, mosque announcements...were inportant determinants of vaccination outcomes." India is a large country and muslims are not the majority religion...I would say "In some
districts of Uttar Pradesh, India..."

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests