Reviewer’s report

Title: The global switch from trivalent oral polio vaccine (tOPV) to bivalent oral polio vaccine (bOPV): Facts, Experiences and Lessons Learned from the south-south zone; Nigeria, April 2016

Version: 1 Date: 12 Apr 2017

Reviewer: Lee Hampton

Reviewer's report:

This draft of the article is much improved from the 1st draft. With a few additional changes, the article will be suitable for publication. General: The article's copy-editing has improved, but further progress is needed. For example, on page 6 on line 7, it would make more sense to say "This study reports the experiences and lessons learned..." instead of "This study reports the experiences, lessons learned..." Specific comments, pegged to page in overall PDF with relevant text:

Page 6 Lines 14-17: Since much of the information in the report is drawn from the monitors' reports, it would make sense to mention them here. Also, "reports from immunization program supervisors" might be clearer to readers than "reports from supportive supervisions." Lines 45-49: The statement that "implementation of the switch plan would be more feasible if the declaration and dissemination of the exact amount of money available by the global partners were timely" might make more sense to readers if some explanation of why that was important was included. Consider alternate wording: "implementation of the switch plan would be more feasible with an earlier dissemination of funds from global donor organizations, which would greatly aid timely planning and preparations." Page 7 Line 11: This is the first use of cVDPV2. Please define the term here. No need to define it later in the article. Lines 17-19: Please clarify for readers that OPV containing Sabin strains of all 3 poliovirus serotypes (types 1, 2 and 3) is tOPV. Lines 24-25: The WPV1 strains in Pakistan and Afghanistan and Nigeria are not the same. It might be best to drop the sentence "The only remaining endemic..." Line 49: By April 17, 2016 only 150 countries were using OPV because 5 countries that used tOPV in 2015 had stopped by then. Authors could sidestep the issue by just dropping "155" and not specifying the number of countries that participated in the switch. Line 53-54: Rephrase "among persons without immunity to VDPV2" to "without immunity to type 2 polioviruses" since the immunity in question applies to all type 2 polioviruses. Lines 57-59: Many countries (including Nigeria) introduced IPV before having pre-switch tOPV SIAs - might make more sense to say "using tOPV along with introduction of at least..." instead of "using tOPV followed by introduction of at least". Line 60: Instead of "reduce risk associated with WPV2" state "reduce risk associated with type 2 polioviruses." Page 9 Line 10: A river's "Y tail" is usually referred to as a "delta". Might be better to just write "where the river Niger joins the Atlantic Ocean..." Page 10 Line 20-21: No need for possessive 'partners' " - should just be "partners". Line 54: Instead of "establishment," consider "stakeholders." Page 11 Line 45: Are "all states" actually "all states in the south-south zone"? Page 14 Lines 45-46: The authors' statement that the global IPV shortage affected IPV supply at state cold stores only makes sense if Nigeria had had delays in resupply of IPV from the UNICEF SD. UNICEF SD prioritized Nigeria in terms of receiving the available IPV, so the global supply shortage was probably not the cause of the shortfalls in the state cold stores. Recommend deleting sentence unless the authors can support with with specific sources or references that clearly state that Nigeria suffered delays in...
IPV resupply from manufacturers due to the global IPV shortage. Page 15 Lines 22-24: The sentence beginning "Moreover, the delay..." is not accurate. The global guidelines on monitoring the switch were available on the WHO website by August 2015. An updated version of those guidelines were released in March 2016, but the updated guidelines contained the same basic information. Recommend deleting sentence "Moreover, the delay..." Could instead add text about the late development of a monitoring and validation plan in Nigeria compounded the challenge of budgeting since the plan was developed after the budgeting was done. Line 28: Epileptic seems like inappropriate word choice. Episodic or unreliable might be more appropriate.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
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Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
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Not relevant to this manuscript

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