

Presentation of Results from Evaluation of Immunization Services using Lot Quality Technique

Prishtinë/Priština, 3 November 2010 – The National Institute of Public Health supported by UNICEF Kosovo and the Luxembourg Government Office in collaboration with Ministry of Health, will be presenting results from the Evaluation of Immunization Services using the Lot Quality Technique.

Parents are constantly concerned about the health and well being of their children and therefore take several steps that can prevent the child from diseases. Vaccination is said to be the most cost effective intervention to decrease high morbidity and mortality rate in children. Immunization is a proven tool for controlling and even eradicating diseases. It is estimated that Immunization averts about 2.5 million deaths among children under five every year. Kosovo is currently declared free of chicken pox and poliomyelitis, thanks to its vaccination campaigns. It is for this reason that the Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) in Kosovo has made it its priority to achieve high coverage rate, with all mandatory vaccines especially for children younger than 12 months.

The Expanded Programme of Immunization through the approval of the National Institute of Public Health of Kosovo works on a wide range of programs ranging from the Polio Eradication Program, Measles Elimination Program and many others. The Lot Quality technique which was introduced provides health workers the possibility to ascertain and identify the problems and reasons for vaccination failure, vulnerable groups, high risk groups and high risk areas in the different municipalities in Kosovo.

The survey which was carried out in 26 municipalities around Kosovo will be attended by different stakeholders including the Ministry of Health, Health professionals and International Organisations. Major highlights will be on the presentation of findings and recommendation on issues relating to: vaccination status of children between 12 – 23 months; the interval between the different doses; coverage rate according to vaccination card; an assessment on whether or not vaccinations are done at the appropriate ages; and an assessment of health institutions where vaccines are administered.