

## ETHIOPIA

Gambella region is one of the high risk regions in the country selected to conduct three rounds of TT SIAs in 2007, 2008 and 2009. The third round of TT SIAs in Gambella was conducted from December 10 to 15, 2009. This campaign was integrated with the Enhanced Outreach Strategy package.

Proper and timely advocacy and social mobilization is a key component for the success of TT campaigns, in which the awareness and involvement of community leaders, religious leaders, political leaders, and women's associations are vital for smooth implementation. Providing information about the benefit of TT immunization, the date of the campaigns and related activities through local radio broadcasts in local languages is also essential for reaching and mobilizing direct beneficiaries such as school girls and women's groups. However, improper communication and advocacy could result in resistance in the uptake of TT vaccination.

During the December 2009 TT and EOS SIAs in Gambella region, procedures for the above were properly followed. Campaign messages were disseminated in the two main languages in the region (Nuer and Anuak) throughout the entire campaign. Thanks to proper and timely advocacy and social mobilization and the full participation of the community in the campaign process, the results achieved surpass those of the previous two campaigns conducted in that region. No resistance to TT immunization observed in any woreda in the region. Mothers were continuously coming to vaccination posts to get vaccinated. During this round, school girls were the main agitators for mothers to come to the vaccination posts.

The main reasons for the success of the third round TT and EOS SIAs in Gambella region were:

- Early regional advocacy and woreda social mobilization meetings involving all stakeholders,
- Radio messages and meetings conducted in different woredas focusing on the success of the campaign
- Efforts of UNICEF consultants and regional campaign supervisors
- Full participation of community leaders in the campaign at lower levels



Figure 1:

A woman receiving tetanus toxoid vaccination in Gambella region

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Figure 2:  
School girls waiting to receive TT  
vaccine in Gambella region  
Photo: © UNICEF  
Ethiopia/2009/Hailemariam



Figure 3:  
A woman receiving tetanus toxoid  
vaccination in Gambella region  
Photo: © UNICEF  
Ethiopia/2009/Hailemariam



Figure 4:  
A woman receiving tetanus toxoid  
vaccination in Gambella region  
Photo: © UNICEF  
Ethiopia/2009/Hailemariam



Figure 5:  
A woman receiving tetanus toxoid  
vaccination in Magenger Zone,  
Gambella region  
Photo: © UNICEF  
Ethiopia/2009/Belew