Who will be involved in the exercise?
Please add to the list: Red Cross Volunteers, Faith Based Organisations, Uganda Scouts

Key messages

- Polio is a highly infectious disease that kills but can be prevented by immunising your children.
- The Polio vaccine is SAFE, EFFECTIVE and FREE
- Ensure that all your children under 5 years are immunised against Polio during the house to house campaign
- This mass Polio immunisation is supplementary and is not replacing routine immunisation

Remember:

If all children under 5 years are immunised, Polio will be controlled in Uganda

UGANDA UNITED AGAINST POLIO FOR HEALTHY CHILDREN

ENSURE THAT ALL YOUR CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS ARE IMMUNISED AGAINST POLIO DURING THE HOUSE TO HOUSE IMMUNISATION CAMPAIGN IN ALL DISTRICTS OF UGANDA
Introduction
Uganda has been identified as being at high risk of Polio circulation, due to high numbers of unimmunised children creating a risk of Polio spreading within Uganda from our neighboring countries, Kenya and Democratic Republic of Congo.

What is Polio?
Poliomyelitis (Polio) is a highly infectious disease caused by the Polio virus. It attacks the nervous system and also the muscles of the arms and/or legs and can cause paralysis or even death in a matter of hours.

How is Polio spread?
The Polio virus (scientifically known as the wild polio virus – WPV) enters the body through the mouth, in water or food that has been contaminated with faecal material from an infected person. The virus multiplies in the intestine and is excreted by the infected person in faeces, which can pass on the virus to others.

Who is at risk of catching Polio?
Polio mainly affects children under 5 years of age, but may also affect adults.

What are the effects of Polio?
The effects of Polio are:
- Irreversible paralysis usually in the legs or arms
- Among those paralysed, one out of ten die when their breathing muscles are immobilised by the virus.

Is there a cure for Polio?
No, there is no cure for Polio. Polio can only be prevented by immunisation with a safe and effective vaccine. The oral Polio vaccine (OPV) is an essential protection for children against Polio.

What is the target for mass Polio immunisation?
The mass Polio immunisation is targeting children under 5 years. This mass Polio immunisation is supplementary and is not replacing routine immunisation.

What will be given to the children during the house to house exercise?
Polio vaccine drops will be given in the mouth to all children under 5 years.

Why are children given oral Polio vaccine?
Polio vaccine is the only effective protection against Polio, a paralysing disease for which there is no cure. It is essential that every child under 5 years of age in Uganda is immunised against Polio.

Does the oral Polio vaccine have any side effects?
The oral Polio vaccine is one of the safest vaccines ever developed. It has been used all over the world to protect children against Polio, saving at least 5 million children from permanent paralysis by Polio.

Is the oral Polio vaccine safe for new born babies and sick children?
Yes. The oral Polio vaccine is safe to be given to new born babies and sick children. It is important that new born babies and sick children are also immunised during the house to house campaign because their immunity levels are lower than other healthy children.

Where will mass Polio immunisation take place?
The mass Polio immunisation will take place in your home. This a house to house exercise in all homes, in ALL districts of Uganda.

What are the signs and symptoms of Polio?
A child with Polio may have the following:
- Fever
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Vomiting
- Stiffness in the neck
- Pain in the limbs