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Appreciation Letter

This letter is being issued on behalf of District Health Department Jhelum, in order to recognise efforts made by Civil Society Human and Institutional Development Programme (CHIP), for increasing immunization coverage in UC Chotala, UC Darapur, UC Naka Khurd and UC Sanghoie. The CSO has done the following major activities since October 28, 2008:

1. Formed village health committees and made them responsible for raising awareness of parents of children under 23 months old
2. Prepared list of children under 24 months old including missed and default children.
3. Facilitated mobile vaccination teams in vaccinating children in the above mentioned Union Councils of Tehsil and District Jhelum
4. Undertook exclusive follow up for the coverage of missed and default children
5. Undertook mass awareness raising campaigns on importance of immunization of children under 23 months old and pregnant women through multiple mediums such as organised puppet shows, interactive theatre, art competitions, speech competitions, article writing competitions, health baby competition, celebration of world immunization week, distribution of awareness raising flyers, awareness raising messages through radio programmes and cable Television.
6. Trained 40 health promoters who undertook individual visits to mothers and fathers of children under 23 months old and mobilised them to get their children immunized.
7. Strengthened health facilities located at the Union Council Level through provision of basic apparatus such as weighing machine and apparatus for blood pressure check up etc.

As a result of CSO's activities, the immunization coverage of the above mentioned Union Councils have improved. CSOs are an important stakeholder and can support health department in increasing immunization coverage through its community mobilisation and awareness raising activities. CSOs should also attend coordination meetings of health department at district level, provincial and national level to share ideas and perspectives of communities and village level health problems.

Dr. Capt. Asif Ali Khan
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