

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Recognizing the vulnerability of children, Govt. of India, in the early decades after independence has taken initiatives to protect vast population of its young citizens from life threatening diseases and diseases causing disability for the rest of life. Consequently, Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) was initiated by the Government of India in 1978 with the objective of reducing morbidity, mortality and disability from six of the major Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPD) by making vaccination services available to all eligible children free of cost through the public health sector. The immunization programme acquired a new name in 1985 and launched as Universal Immunization Programme (UIP). As part of national health policy, UIP is being implemented in the state of Uttar Pradesh and the state Govt. is fully committed for the complete immunization of children as programme has been given further impetus after the launch of NRHM in the state. Several initiatives have been taken to augment and streamline the programme in the state.

SIFPSA which has been supporting private and public sector projects with the main objective to increase access, improve quality and create demand for the reproductive and child health services, had conceptualized an evaluation study of Routine Immunization Programme in collaboration with SPMU-NRHM both at the programme and beneficiary level to have an understanding and evidence of issues and challenges that create impediments in full immunization of the children.

The evaluation of the said project was undertaken at the instance of SIFPSA. On behalf of our organization, we take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the SIFPSA Management, particularly Mr. Amit Kumar Ghosh (IAS), Executive Director, for entrusting us with this important assignment.

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We hope that findings of the evaluation would be quite useful and facilitate SPMU-NRHM/SIFPSA in fine tuning the RI programme and taking policy and programme related decisions to bring in a qualitative improvement in its functioning to achieve the desired results.

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Director, CREATE**