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**Abstract**

Evaluation of acute flaccid paralysis surveillance system in Liberia 2016-2017

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**Introduction**: Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) is a highly contagious disease caused by the poliovirus (serotype 1, 2, and 3). It affects children of the age groups 0 - 15 years. The disease is a global health concern and is targeted for eradication of which Liberia is not an exceptions. We aimed is to evaluate the AFP surveillance system of Liberia, to assess its usefulness and key system attributes.

**Method:** The AFP surveillance system was evaluated by adopting the Center for Disease Control and prevention Guidelines for evaluating public health surveillance. We interview stakeholders using semi-structured questionnaire and review AFP surveillance report/documents. We calculated frequency and proportions and presented our results in tables and graphs.

**Results:** The AFP surveillance system in Liberia is funded mainly by partners (World Bank, CDC, WHO) with limited support from national government. Ninety-two percent (92%) of respondents said that the system is useful, data generated was used to planning. An example of the system usefulness is the implementation of a pilot project called Auto Visual AFP Detection and Response (AVADAR) in Montserrado County in four districts beginning 2017. The system is not simple, because 56% of respondents finds it difficult in collecting two stool specimens in 48hrs and conducting the 60 days follow-up. The system is flexible and has ability to accommodate other diseases like yellow fever, lassa fever & measles. Reports are submitted in time which is 85% timeliness at all levels. Records review showed 86% of patient’s information with missing information for at least one variable while, 11% of case investigation form were not properly filled.

**Conclusion:** The AFP surveillance system is useful and flexible while timeliness is excellence however, the system is not simple and the data quality is fair. Supervisors at all level should increase their level of supervision to strengthen case detection, filling case investigation form, 60 days follow-up and properly storing of surveillance data.

**Keywords :**pilot, acute flaccid paralysis, center for disease control and prevention, surveillance, contagious, virus, poliovirus, serotype, stakeholder, Grand Kru, Liberia