



# Improving Performance of Routine Immunization in Practice in Iraq

## Project Information

- ◆ Department: Public Health Program
- ◆ Unit: Polio & Immunization Department

## OBJECTIVES

Strengthen the performance of routine immunization at the high-risk provinces in Iraq, by supporting the Ministry of Health (MoH) in training the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) workforce to improve their knowledge, skills and practices on Immunization and Vaccine Preventable Disease (VPDs).

## PROJECT PHASES

This project involved three phases as follow:

**Phase 1** Preparation: Meetings with Iraq MOH and representatives from WHO and UNICEF country offices to agree on Routine Immunization in Practice activity's concept, objectives, methodology and the workplan for implementation. Therefore, it was advised to include Interpersonal Communication for Immunization (IPCI) skills within the Immunization in Practice training curriculum.

**Phase 2** -Implementation: started with a ToT training for provincial EPI staff and followed by subsequent sub-national training workshops for vaccinators and district health staff from 60 Districts in 10 provinces.

**Phase 3**- Monitoring and Evaluation: Supervise samples of the training workshops through field visits.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project was a continuity and is complementing previous year's support to ensure a holistic approach in the targeted provinces towards strengthening the immunization system. Targeted priority Provinces are the provinces who participated in microplanning activities and training in addition to one or more of other criteria including: low coverage and high dropout rate, have variations in the immunization coverage among the districts in the same province, presence of hard-to-reach areas and population, hosting of Internally Displaced Populations, retaken provinces and presence of insecure areas. Through the workforce capacity building it is aimed at decrease in the dropout rate of DPT1 and DPT3 containing vaccine following the trainings as compared to the same period before the trainings at provincial level

## BENEFICIARIES

The targeted beneficiaries are EPI managers, district health staff from sub-centers, health center and vaccinators at high-risk provinces.

## REGIONS OF WORK

This focus of this project is ten priority provinces in Iraq. These are Baghdad Al-kerkh, Karbala, Wasit, Diyala, Misan, Kirkuk, Thi-Qar, Muthana, Babel and Diwaneya.



<b>Project Start and End Date</b>	<b>10/1/2019 – 03/31/2021</b>
<b>Partner Organizations</b>	<b>Iraqi Ministry of Health (MoH)</b>
<b>Funded by</b>	<b>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)</b>

### Currently . . .

Despite ongoing improvement in rehabilitation of health services in Iraq, the provision of quality immunization activities is a major concern due to attrition of the well-trained staff, and lack of refreshing training and supervision. In addition to other factors such as the presence of hard-to-reach areas and population, hosting of Internally Displaced Populations, retaken provinces and presence of insecure areas and recently the COVID\_19 pandemic which has all affected the immunization services and uptake. This situation continue to hinder the country from reaching its immunization targets.

### What's next . . .

Training of the newly appointed EPI staff and ongoing refreshing trainings are essential to empower them by accurate and updated information about the vaccines & Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPDs). Furthermore, well-structured training enhances the vaccinators skills and practices in providing safe and effective vaccines to their users and improve immunization access and utilization. Adding to that, training all of the vaccinators and the peripheral managers will ensure equipping them with an up-to-date knowledge and skills to have high quality vaccination. Which will support the MOH EPI in reaching immunization targets.

## By the Numbers

**35** EPI Managers trained      **1890** Vaccinators and EPI Focal points trained  
**420** Sub-centers supported      **504** Health centers was benefit of this project  
**60** districts in ten provinces in Iraq targeted      **93** Immunization in Practice training conducted

**GHD|EMPHNET Information:** Global Health Development (GHD) and Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET) works at achieving its mission by responding to public health needs with deliberate efforts that allow for health promotion and disease prevention.

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