



Global Health
Development

Positioning Immunization as a backbone to achieve UHC in post COVID 19 Arena

Project Information

- ◆ Department: Public Health Programs
- ◆ Unit: Polio and Immunization

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this project is to focus on health system requirements to enhance immunization coverage, positioning immunization as an essential package of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and its costing and financing estimates.

BENEFICIARIES

The project's main beneficiaries are Primary Health Care (PHC) Directors, Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) Managers, and Planning and Policy Directors.

REGIONS OF WORK

This project was implemented in Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) Priority countries: Afghanistan, Iraq, and Sudan

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project is about creating synergy between immunization and Universal Health Coverage (UHC) to achieve and sustain high immunization coverage, and essential Primary Health Care (PHC) coverage. The selected priority countries were technically supported to review their current immunization position in UHC related policies, accordingly, developed a policy brief. Furthermore, GHD conducted 2-day regional workshop to facilitate country integration of EPI within essential Primary Health Care (PHC) package for UHC.

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| Project Start and End Date | October 1, 2020 – July 31, 2021 |
| Partner Organizations | - |
| Funded by | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). |
| Collaborators | Ministries of Health in the targeted EMR countries (Afghanistan, Iraq, and Sudan). |



PROJECT Phases

The project involves three main phases:

Phase I: Review: Review the current immunization position in UHC related policies in three EMR countries.

Phase II: Policy Brief Development: One country will be technically supported to develop a policy brief on immunization and UHC.

Phase III: Facilitate Integration: Facilitate countries integration of Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) within essential PHC package for UHC in selected countries. Lessons learned will be shared from COVID-19 under current policy and identified area for improvement and synergies to achieve UHC.

Currently . . .

COVID-19 pandemic and its negative impact on the healthcare system generally and on immunization specifically demonstrate the urgency to integrate vaccination as an essential package for UHC and to harmonize in-country effort and policies to enable that in three priority countries: Afghanistan, Iraq, and Sudan where new outbreaks of VPDs have emerged.

What is next . . .

Under this project, a review for the UHC-related policies were conducted in the targeted countries and one policy brief on immunization and UHC was developed. GHD supported the selected countries to finalize their road map and to position immunization in UHC national policy and strategy.

This action will result in sustaining both high immunization coverage and essential PHC coverage. It will also assist in maintaining human right to health, equity, social solidarity, lives saving, and world health improvement, especially for most vulnerable people. Noting that routine immunization can be the first step towards comprehensive primary healthcare.

OUTCOMES BY NUMBERS

- 3 EMR countries participated in immunization position in UHC related policies review activities.
- One Policy Brief developed in Sudan.

21 EPI managers, polio surveillance officers and PHC directors from Afghanistan, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen participated in the UHC regional workshop

GHD|EMPHNET Information: Global Health Development (GHD) | 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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