



Global Health
Development

Support the MOH in Operationalizing Routine Immunization Micro-plans in Pakistan.

Project Information

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

OBJECTIVES

This project goal is to support Pakistan in achieving an increased and equitable immunization coverage through improved Routine Immunization (RI) microplanning. In specific, the project will strengthen the knowledge and capacity of the Expanded Immunization Program (EPI) staff at selected state to generate updated micro-plans.

REGIONS OF WORK

The project was implemented in Pakistan, at Khayber Pakhton Khwa province. Specifically targeting high risk and poor performing districts.

BENEFICIARIES

The targeted beneficiaries are EPI staff at province, district and health facility levels.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Building on GHD experience in the country in other areas of public health and drawing from the experience in Iraq in rolling out microplanning, GHD conducted a situational analysis in Pakistan in the area where the polio cases are reported, and frequent outbreak of VPDs are reported. A set of criteria were developed to select low coverage targeted districts. A series of training activities took place to train vaccinator of health facility at poor performing and high-risk union councils at selected districts. Further, field monitoring visits by provincial and district level EPI staff took place to monitor that RI micro-plans are updated to respond to the immunization coverage enhancement requirements.

PROJECT PHASES

This project involves three phases as follows:

Phase 1- Planning: Planning and coordination with Pakistan MOH officials and stakeholders to present project activities, reach consensus and gain support on implementation. Situational analysis of the current EPI data at the health facility level.

Phase 2- Development of materials: Based on the situational analysis findings, the micro-planning training curriculum, manual and materials will be developed.

Phase 3- Implementation: TOT workshop to train EPI staff as master trainers to train on updating the RI micro-plans. Training health facilities vaccinator to update the micro-plans to expand the coverage of immunization and overcome the limitations in accessing immunization services.

Project Start and End Date	10/1/2019 – 04/30/2021
Funded by	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Collaborators	Pakistan Ministry of Health (MoH), National Institute of Health (NIH), World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and National Integrated Development Association (NIDA-Pakistan)

Currently . . .

Immunization coverage in Pakistan has stagnated over the last decade. Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey (PDHS) findings indicate that the increase in coverage rate between 1999 and 2008 was only 12%. The current vaccination coverage varies between 47% to 88%. The most common cause for the poor performance of EPI Pakistan, is the limited access to the immunization service. EPI services to the public are provided mostly through the public health delivery network through fixed centers and outreach services. There are more than 6000 fixed centers for vaccination all over the country i.e. one in each Union Council (UC) which also has an attached outreach services at most places. The immunization campaigns for Polio and other VPDs also utilize the same infrastructure to implement their activities nationwide.

Currently large parts of immunization services are delivered via outreach (extending from a fixed site), a lesser part by fixed sites, and a small part by mobile teams in remote areas.

What's next . . .

Continued efforts for universal immunization of under five children against vaccine-preventable diseases is one of the best practices contributing towards preventing neonatal, infant and child mortality. The access to each child is ensured by using the Reaching Every District (RED) Strategy. The project will contribute to this key strategy to increase immunization coverage at high-risk union councils of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and increase delivery of the equitable immunization services at sub-national level to reach and immunize every child.

The EPI staff at health facilities will be able to develop, regularly update RI microplans to support EPI team in reaching target population with immunization services targeting areas where the polio cases are reported, and frequent outbreak of VPDs are reported. the optimal.

By the Numbers

35.53 million

Population of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province

40

EPI provincial staff trained as RI Microplanning master trainers

+170

Health Facilities targeted to update RI micro-plans

+600

EPI vaccinator targeted by RI Microplanning trainings

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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