Global Health Development

Supporting Immunization Program Strengthening: Enhancing Governance, Quality, Evidence, Demand and Surveillance

Project Information

- **Department: Public Health Programs**
- **Unit: Polio and Routine**

OBJECTIVES

This project aims to "strengthening immunization program system including routine immunization services, surveillance, and outbreak investigation and response in Sudan". The overall aim will be achieved through supporting cohorts of PHEP-SPO in the context of emergency and conflict, ensuring the functionality of a coordination committee during emergency, improving vaccine demand generation and community engagement, and strengthening immunization data quality.

REGIONS OF WORK

This project will be implemented in Federated Government of Sudan.

BENEFICIARIES

The main beneficiaries of this project are Surveillance/EPI officers, technical working groups and committees, governance/technical bodies in Sudan.

PROJECT Activities

The project will strengthen Sudan's immunization program through capacity building for EPI officers, enhanced coordination and NITAG functionality, improved community-based surveillance and immunization data quality, and regular program reviews, planning workshops, and supportive supervision across states. It will also generate evidence to guide immunization interventions, expand community health promoter networks to reach zero-dose and under-immunized children, scale up digital immunization and surveillance systems, strengthen risk communication and advocacy, and provide technical assistance to improve immunization planning, service delivery, and outbreak preparedness and response.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

"Partners' Engagement Framework- Targeted Country Assistance (PEF- TCA) for Sudan, GHD|EMPHNET support" is a 1-year project. The project follows a comprehensive approach outlining six key outcomes to realize its overarching goal. Initially, it focuses on strengthening the technical capacities of Surveillance /Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) officers to enhance immunization, surveillance, and outbreaks investigation and response. Achieving this involves conducting three cohorts of Public Health Empowerment Program-Surveillance Polio Officer (PHEP-SPO) in the context of emergency and conflict. The second outcome entails enhancing the PHEP-SPO program and its impact in the context of emergency and conflict through conducting an evaluation for the first PHEP-SPO cohort. The third outcome aims to ensure the functionality of a coordination committee during emergencies and beyond through supporting the implementation of the coordination committee. The fourth outcome concentrates on strengthening capacity of governance/technical bodies for planning, coordination, and tracking progress at all levels to guide the immunization policy.

This will be achieved through conducting Evidence to Recommendation (EtR) training workshop for National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (NITAG) members.
The fifth outcome centers on improving vaccine demand generation and community engagement to increase the use of services by beneficiaries. This will be achieved through developing a creative communication strategy. And finally strengthening immunization data quality through strengthening community-based surveillance.

Project Start and End Date	**January 2026– December 2026**
Partner Organizations	**Federated Ministry of Health (FMOH)**
Funded by	**Gavi**

Currently . . .

Sudan's immunization program continues to face significant challenges due to recurrent vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks, gaps in immunization coverage, weak surveillance systems, and limited resources and technical capacity for outbreak detection and response. The ongoing conflict and population displacement further disrupt service delivery, particularly among vulnerable and hard-to-reach communities. Strengthening health workforce capacity, surveillance and data quality, program planning and supervision, digital systems, community engagement, and evidence-based decision-making is essential to improving immunization coverage, reaching zero-dose and under-immunized children, and enhancing the country's preparedness and response to public health emergencies.

What's next . . .

This project aims to strengthen EPI officers' capacity in immunization planning, surveillance, outbreak preparedness and response, and emergency management. It will improve coordination and evidence-based decision-making, enhance immunization data quality and digital systems, strengthen communication and community engagement, and expand community-based surveillance to reach zero-dose and under-immunized children in remote, rural, and hard-to-reach communities across Sudan.

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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