

Utilize Polio Program Assets to Reach the Targets for Measles/Rubella Elimination and Strengthening the Routine Immunization Program in Egypt

Project Information

- ◆ Department: Public Health Programs
- ◆ Unit: Polio & Routine Immunization

OBJECTIVES

This project's main goal is to maximize the use of national polio program assets in strengthening immunization activities and addressing challenges in low immunization coverage areas in relation to Measles and other vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs) with particular focus on Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP), Fever and Rash surveillance. Adding to that, the project also aims to strengthen sustaining polio essential functions and performance indicators in the targeted governorates to achieve and sustain high population immunity against measles/rubella in the high-risk areas.

BENEFICIARIES

The targeted beneficiaries are health Centers staff, district level EPI and surveillance officers, community informants, marginalized groups, slum areas remote populations specifically children under the age of 10.

REGIONS OF WORK

The project will be implemented in four governorates in Egypt: Cairo, Giza, Qalubia, and Sharkia.

PROJECT PHASES

This project involves three phases as follow:

Phase I – Preparation: Identifying high risk area with low immunization coverage, analyzing the causes of low coverage such as hard to reach, unregistered marriages or births, and the lack of awareness about the importance of vaccination,

Phase II – Implementation: Documenting, upgrading and operationalizing EPI activities, building on Polio assets with particular focus on AFP and other VPDs surveillance, social mobilization and advocacy, communication and community engagement, Technical support to Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP), support the meetings of the project team at central and governorate levels, conduct training workshops for governorate teams on transitioning Polio Program Assets, conduct training workshops on detection, notification and health education on AFP, fever and rash cases for EPI and surveillance officers at district levels and community informants, and conduct limited micro survey for AFP and Fever and Rash cases.

Phase III – Monitoring and Evaluation: Conduct quarterly supervisory visits from central level to the target district, conduct monthly supervisory visits from governorate level to district, GHD conduct quarterly project follow-up and technical support visits, data collection and analysis by national EPI.

Project Start and End Date	October 1st, 2019 – April 30th, 2021
Partner Organizations	Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP), Egypt
Funded by	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

GHD|EMPHNET piloted transition of polio program assets project in three frontiers governorates (Aswan, Red Sea and Matrouh) in the past years and the MOHP was committed to sustain the project activities in these three governorates. In continuation of this project, GHD|EMPHNET will support MOHP in utilizing the experience and lessons learned from the implementation in the previous governorates towards expanding this project into new four governorates: Cairo, Giza, Qalubia and Sharkia. The project was instrumental in identifying high risk area with low immunization coverage, analyzing the causes of low coverage such as hard to reach, unregistered marriages or births, lack of awareness about the importance of vaccination. Hence, will contribute towards maintaining the country polio free status as well as reach targets of measles elimination.

Currently . . .

Egypt achieved polio-free status in 2006, through implementing and sustaining intense activities targeting both population immunity against polio and polio surveillance (AFP and environmental surveillance). Accordingly, they gained experience in management, social mobilization, micro-planning, identifying and reaching previously missed and hard to reach communities, and monitoring and evaluation. Project will use these assets to support country achieve immunization targets.

What's next . . .

Expansion of this project into new governorates will maximize the use of national polio program assets in strengthening immunization activities and addressing challenges in low immunization coverage areas. For every cluster with 10% or more of the surveyed children with <2 MCV doses, an action plan will be developed and implemented to catch up defaulters and achieve and sustain higher immunization coverage rates with all EPI vaccines.

By the Numbers

120

Health centers staff to be trained on polio program assets

500

District level EPI and surveillance officers to be trained on polio asset transition

500

Community informants to be trained on Polio asset transition

300

Micro survey for FP and Fever and Rash cases among children under the age of 10 to be supported

GHD and EMPHNET: Working together for better health

Global Health Development (GHD) is a regional initiative created to support countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region strengthen their health systems in response to public health challenges and threats. GHD was initiated to advance the work of the Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET) by building coordination mechanisms with Ministries of Health, International Organizations, and other institutions to improve population health outcomes. As an implementing arm to EMPHNET, GHD aligns its strategies with national policies and directions, while serving as a collaborative platform dedicated to support national efforts in promoting public health policies, strategic planning, sustainable financing, resource mobilization, public health programs, and other related services.

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