



Establish community-based surveillance for AFP in border provinces in Lebanon

Project Information

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

OBJECTIVES

GHD will establish community-based surveillance for Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) in bordering provinces in Lebanon following the declaration of the polio case in OPT in March 2022 as it is indeed considered an alarming threat, amidst declining immunization coverage and surveillance indicators.

REGIONS OF WORK

The project will be implemented in Lebanon.

BENEFICIARIES

The targeted beneficiaries are community informants from target provinces and PHEP trainees.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In the last two years, the COVID-19 pandemic, socioeconomic instabilities, and the unprecedented high turnover and immigration of medical personnel have all taken a heavy toll on Lebanon's health system. Considering the trend of declining immunization coverage and surveillance indicators, the polio case reported in OPT in March 2022 is indeed seen as an alarming threat. Given this context, GHD will implement a community-based surveillance system for AFP in neighboring provinces. In addition, it will provide resources to help facilitate coordination meetings. Standards of practice, advocacy tools, and visual health messages will be created. Community informants will undergo training, receive nine months of prepaid phone credits, and ongoing mentoring and guidance. Number of community informants trained and number of AFP cases reported by community informants in target provinces will be used to evaluate the success of this activity. The outcome is the improved rate of non-polio AFP (NPAFP) in those provinces.

Also, GHD will support Lebanon MoH in implementing one cohort for 25 participants in Public Health Empower Program (PHEP).

PROJECT PHASES

This project involves four phases as follows:

1. Planning Phase: Conduct coordination meetings, develop guidelines and SOPs, advocacy material and pictorial health messages.

2. Training Phase: Train Epidemiological Surveillance Unit at Ministry of Health (ESUMOH) officers on providing ongoing mentoring and guidance to the community informants.

3. Reporting Phase: Report AFP cases by community informants from target provinces.

4. Adapt PHEP training curriculum to Lebanon context and conduct the PHEP training for estimated

Project Start and End Date	08/1/2022 – 07/31/2023
Funded by	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Collaborators	GHD team, ESUMOH team and Community informants

Currently . . .

The COVID-19 pandemic, socioeconomic instabilities, and the unprecedented high turnover and immigration of medical personnel have been particularly detrimental to Lebanon's health care system over the past two years. In light of deteriorating immunization coverage and surveillance indicators, the polio case that was discovered in OPT in March 2022 is, without a doubt, regarded as a cause for grave concern. In this light, the GHD has proposed the establishment of community-based surveillance for AFP in neighboring provinces.

What's next . . .

Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) surveillance is known as the gold standard of polio surveillance as active case finding (ACF) is the primary symptom of poliomyelitis infection which is mainly seen in children below 15 years of age. Thus, the goal of AFP surveillance is to detect, report and evaluate all AFP cases so that poliomyelitis can be ruled out as the cause of the paralysis.

Implementing a community-based ACF in Lebanon will enhance the reporting of all AFP cases and the detection of polio cases amid the declined immunization coverage and surveillance indicators.

By the Numbers

Around 25

ESUMOH officers from central, provincial and district levels will be trained on CBS in Lebanon

Around 25

Participants from Lebanon will be trained on PHEP

Around 50

Community informants will be trained on CBS in Lebanon

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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