Partners' Engagement Framework- Targeted Country Assistance (PEF- TCA) for Sudan, GHD|EMPHNET support

Project Information

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

OBJECTIVES

This project aim was 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

This project involves six main activities:
Activity I – Support three cohorts of the Public Health Empowerment Program (PHEP-SPO) training Activity II- Conduct an evaluation of PHEP-SPO training.
Activity III – Support the implementation of the coordination mechanism.
Activity IV – Develop guidelines for NITAG functionality during emergencies and conduct an Evidence to Recommendation (ETR) Workshop
Activity V- Develop a creative communication strategy.
Activity VI- Support the enhancement of community-based surveillance and its implementation.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

"Partners' Engagement Framework- Targeted Country Assistance (PEF- TCA) for Sudan, GHD|EMPHNET support" is a 2.5-year project. The project followed 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 involved conducting three cohorts of Public Health Empowerment Program-Surveillance Polio Officer (PHEP-SPO) in the context of emergency and conflict. The second outcome entailed 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 aimed to ensure the functionality of a coordination committee during emergencies and beyond through supporting the implementation of the coordination committee. The fourth outcome concentrated on strengthening capacity of governance/technical bodies for planning, coordination, and tracking progress at all levels to guide the immunization policy.

This has been achieved through conducting Evidence to Recommendation (EtR) training workshop for National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (NITAG) members.
The fifth outcome centered 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	**April 2023– December 2025**
Partner Organizations	**Federated Ministry of Health (FMOH)**
Funded by	**Gavi**

Previously . . .

The immunization program in Sudan was facing several challenges. Recurrent outbreaks such as cVDPV2 outbreak in 2020 and 2022, Measles outbreaks in 2019, 2020, and 2021, and diphtheria, pertussis, and neonatal tetanus cases took place in many states. These repeated outbreaks indicated significant gaps in the delivery of essential vaccines to rural areas. Surveillance systems remained weak due to inadequate resources and capacity-building initiatives have not been effectively implemented. Outbreak investigation and response was hampered by limited resources, leading to delayed detection and management of disease outbreaks. Besides the political situation. Therefore, multi-stakeholder action was essential to enhance the accessibility to quality healthcare services and protecting people of Sudan from infectious diseases.

What's next . . .

This project aims to enhance the capacity of EPI officers to prepare for, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies, such as disease outbreaks or natural disasters. It also aims to improve coordination in immunization programs during emergencies, ensuring transparent, equitable, and timely decision-making. Additionally, the project will enhance communication to address sustainability issues, improve service fairness, and develop strategies for hard-to-reach groups. It will also boost data collection and complement facility-based surveillance systems by gathering data from remote, rural, and hard-to-reach communities.

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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