

Support EPI Programs in Reaching Defaulters and Unimmunized Children in Priority Countries

Project Information

- ◆ Department: Public Health Programs
- ◆ Unit: Polio and Immunization

SCOPE OF WORK

The main objective of this project is to decrease the negative impact on immunization coverage due to COVID-19 emergency response. Also, to maximize reaching and vaccinating many unimmunized and dropout children in two high-risk provinces in Diyala and Diwaniya.

REGIONS OF WORK

This project is being implemented in Iraq, 12 priority districts in 2 provinces: 7 districts in Diyala and 5 districts in Diwaniya.

BENEFICIARIES

The project's main beneficiaries are EPI focal points, Cold chain focal points, Children less than 5 years old, and Women of reproductive age

PROJECT PHASE

This project involves two phases as follow:

Phase I – Planning: updating and operationalizing micro-plans for routine immunization.

Phase II – Implementation: Support conducting outreach immunization sessions to vaccinate children younger than 5 years old and women of reproductive age.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

GHD|EMPHNET will support the Ministry of Health (MOH) in targeted countries in the identification of the unimmunized children and track the Defaulter and approach the defaulters through various channels (SMS, partnership with cellular phone companies, direct phone call with families in the catchment area, and community conversation). As well as reaching the defaulters and unimmunized children through logistical support of outreach sessions while prioritizing hard to reach areas.

Project Start and End Date	October 1st, 2020 – April 30th, 2021
Funded by	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Collaborators	Ministry of Health, Iraq



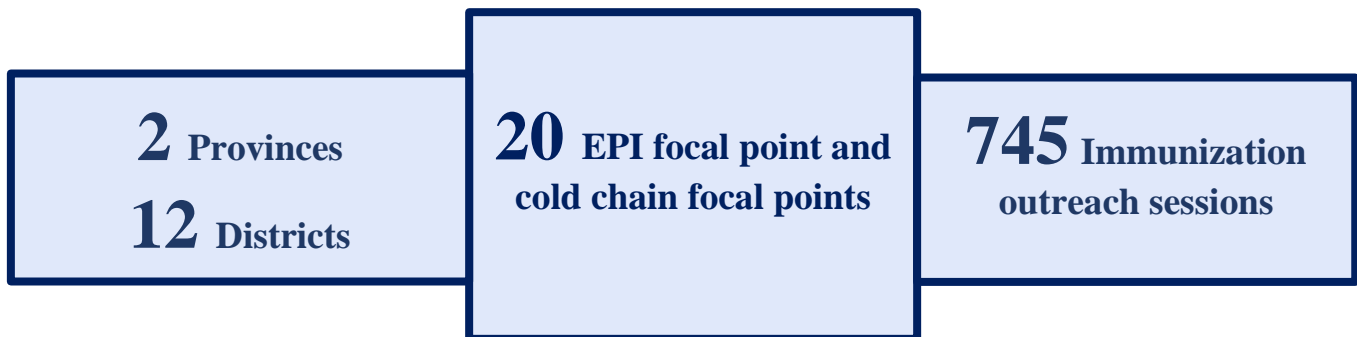
Currently . . .

The COVID-19 emergency has a negative effect on the vulnerable healthcare system in Iraq. Children immunization was one of the main challenges faced by the MOH in Iraq. The disruption of immunization in Iraq was due to both COVID-19-related burdens on the health system and decreased demand for vaccination. Decreased vaccination coverage along with high reported dropout children will threaten the immunization program achievements by increasing the numbers of susceptible individuals and the possibility of the emergence of Vaccines Preventable Disease (VPDs) outbreak.

What's next . . .

Implementing the strategical approach will improve the utilization of immunization services leading to enhance reaching out the unimmunized children in the high-risk areas and track the defaulters to vaccinate them according to the national immunization schedule. This will provide protection and decrease the spread of preventable diseases to others.

OUTCOMES BY NUMBERS



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.

▪ 42 Abdallah Ben Abbas Street, Shmeisani, Amman, Jordan ▪ Tel: +962-6-5519962 ▪ Fax: +962-6-5519963 ▪ www.emphnet.net



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