



# Strengthen Immunization system at the sub-national level through Supportive Supervision and remote monitoring in Afghanistan

## Project Information

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

## OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of this project is to improve the EPI system at the provincial level through conducting supportive supervision and monitoring in targeted provinces in Afghanistan.

## REGIONS OF WORK

The project will be implemented in Afghanistan based on priority index.

## BENEFICIARIES

The targeted beneficiaries are frontline workers in the targeted priority provinces in Afghanistan.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Routine immunization (RI) is a key child survival intervention and a key component of polio eradication. Ensuring acceptable standards of RI service delivery is critical for optimal outcomes. The project aims to support Afghanistan MoPH through conducting supportive supervision to improve routine immunization and support polio eradication, immunization services. For the successful implementation of this project, GHD extended the contract of the Data Manager who has six years' experience in the same project to provide technical support to the NEPI. The Data Manager and other GHD country team will conduct two supportive supervisions per month for a total of 24 supportive supervisions missions. GHD will provide technical and logistic support to the 18 priority provinces to conduct supportive supervision by provincial EPI team in Afghanistan. Furthermore, GHD will engage community elders and provide top up cards for provincial EPI supervisors to conduct remote monitoring of the outreach and mobile sessions.

## PROJECT PHASES

This project involves two phases as follows:

**Phase 1-** Human Resources Planning: GHD extended the contract of the Data Manager who was working during the last six years in the same project to support the data management with innovative approaches and further improve the quality of data.

**Phase 2-** Implementation: The data manager and other GHD country team will conduct two supportive supervisions per month for a total of 24 supportive supervisions missions. Furthermore, GHD will provide technical and logistic support to the 18 priority provinces to conduct supportive supervision by provincial EPI team in Afghanistan. add RM

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| <b>Project Start and End Date</b> | <b>08/1/2022 – 07/31/2023</b>                           |
| <b>Funded by</b>                  | <b>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)</b> |
| <b>Collaborators</b>              | <b>Afghanistan MOPH</b>                                 |

## Currently . . .

Afghanistan population is overwhelmingly rural where 74% of the people live whereas 6% belong to nomadic Kochi. Considering the current EPI's under-coverage rate (61%), insecurity, weak health system, and the inability of the MoPH to monitor the hard to reach and insecure areas. The EPI coverage survey, conducted in 2014, revealed that the national crude immunization coverage for a fully immunized child was only 51%. The 90% coverage target needed to stop polio and measles outbreaks is seriously compromised. Only 2.5% of children in Farah Province are fully vaccinated and not more than 22% coverage of Penta 3 has been reached among the Kuchi nomads. A significant gap in vaccine coverage between poor and wealthy households exists. Moreover, 18.3% of children were never vaccinated with any antigen. The EPI coverage data reveal that a huge gap in vaccine coverage among provinces, nomads and between poor and wealthy households exists. In Afghanistan, beside all the efforts in logistic section, low actual community awareness, the current endemic state of the country for polio, the reported low penta-3 coverage and measles outbreaks, lack of awareness regarding the benefits of vaccines and negative perceptions regarding vaccine safety remain key challenges to increase vaccine acceptance throughout Afghanistan particularly among nomad and underserved areas.

## What's next . . .

Continued efforts for universal immunization for children under five against vaccine-preventable diseases is one of the best practices. Universal immunization for children under five contributes to preventing neonatal, infant and child mortality and reducing mortality and morbidity of VPDs. It also supports Afghanistan in achieving the polio eradication and measles elimination goals. For that, in-depth analysis of inadequate vaccination coverage and low performing districts will be designed and implemented. Health system strengthening efforts will be prioritized to end inequalities in health service provision and ensure equitable immunization services in a way that could help in interrupting all poliovirus transmission in endemic countries and stopping cVDPV transmission and prevent outbreaks in non-endemic countries.

## OUTCOMES BY NUMBERS

A total of 24 supportive supervisions missions will be conducted by GHD country team. Two supportive supervisions visits per month

A total of 180 supportive supervision visits by provincial EPI in the 18 priority provinces will be conducted on monthly basis

**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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