



Improving Performance of Routine Immunization in Practice in Iraq

Project Information

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

OBJECTIVES

This project aims to strengthen the performance of routine immunization at the high-risk provinces in Iraq, by supporting the Ministry of Health (MoH) in training the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) workforce to improve their knowledge, skills, and practices on Immunization and Vaccine Preventable Disease (VPDs).

PROJECT PHASES

This project involves three phases as follows:

Phase I – Preparations: Meetings with Iraq MoH and representatives from WHO and UNICEF country offices to agree on Routine Immunization in Practice activity's concept, objectives, methodology and the workplan for implementation. Therefore, it was advised to include Interpersonal Communication for Immunization (IPCI) skills within the Immunization in Practice training curriculum.

Phase II – Implementation: starting with a ToT training for provincial EPI staff and followed by subsequent sub-national training workshops for vaccinators and district health staff from 60 Districts in 10 provinces.

Phase III – Monitoring and Evaluation: Supervise samples of the training workshops through field visits.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project is a continuity and is complementing previous years' support to ensure a holistic approach in the targeted provinces towards strengthening the immunization system. Targeted priority provinces are the provinces who participated in microplanning activities and training, in addition to one or more of the other criteria including: low coverage and high dropout rate, variations in the immunization coverage among the districts in the same province, presence of hard-to-reach areas and population, hosting of Internally Displaced Populations, retaken provinces, and presence of insecure areas. Through the workforce capacity building, the aim is to decrease the dropout rate of DPT1 and DPT3 containing the vaccine following the trainings as compared to the same period before the trainings at provincial level.

BENEFICIARIES

The targeted beneficiaries are EPI managers, district health staff from sub-centers, health center, and vaccinators at high-risk provinces.

REGIONS OF WORK

This focus of this project is ten priority provinces in Iraq. These are Baghdad Al-kerkh, Karbala, Wasit, Diyala, Misan, Kirkuk, Thi-Qar, Muthana, Babel and Diwaneya.



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

Currently . . .

Despite ongoing improvement in rehabilitation of health services in Iraq, the provision of quality immunization activities is a major concern due to attrition of the well-trained staff, and lack of refreshing training and supervision. In addition to other factors such as the presence of hard-to-reach areas and population, hosting of Internally Displaced Populations, retaken provinces, and presence of insecure areas and recently the COVID_19 pandemic, which has all affected the immunization services and uptake. This situation continues to hinder the country from reaching its immunization targets.

What's next . . .

Training of the newly appointed EPI staff and ongoing refreshing trainings are essential to empower them by accurate and updated information about the vaccines & Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPDs). Furthermore, well-structured training enhances the vaccinators skills and practices in providing safe and effective vaccines to their users and improve immunization access and utilization. Adding to that, training all vaccinators and peripheral managers will ensure equipping them with an up-to-date knowledge and skills to have high quality vaccination. This will support the MoH EPI in reaching immunization targets.

By the Numbers

35

EPI Managers
trained

2000

Vaccinators and district
health staff targeted

420

Sub-centers will
be supported

504

Health centers
will benefit of this project

60

districts in ten provinces
in Iraq targeted

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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