

Positioning Immunization as a Backbone to Achieve UHC in Post COVID-19 Arena

Project Information

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

SCOPE OF WORK

The main objective of this project is to focus on health system requirements to enhance immunization coverage, positioning immunization as an essential package of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and its costing and financing estimates.

BENEFICIARIES

The project's main beneficiaries are Primary Health Care (PHC) Directors, Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) Managers, and Planning and Policy Directors.

REGIONS OF WORK

This project is being implemented in Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) Priority countries: Afghanistan, Iraq, and Sudan.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project is about creating synergy between immunization and Universal Health Coverage (UHC) to achieve and sustain high immunization coverage, and essential Primary Health Care (PHC) coverage.

The selected priority countries will be technically supported to review their current immunization position in UHC related policies, accordingly, develop a policy brief. Targeted audience will be empowered through sharing the lessons learned from COVID-19 under current policy and identified area for improvement and synergies to achieve UHC.

PROJECT PHASES

The project involves three main phases:

Phase I – Review: Review the current immunization position in UHC related policies in three EMR countries

Phase II – Policy Brief Development: One country will be technically supported to develop a policy brief on immunization and UHC

Phase III – Facilitate Integration: Facilitate countries integration of Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) within essential PHC package for UHC in selected countries. Lessons learned will be shared from COVID-19 under current policy and identified area for improvement and synergies to achieve UHC

Project Start and End Date	October 1st, 2019 – April 30th, 2021
Funded by	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Collaborators	Ministries of Health in the targeted EMR countries (Afghanistan, Iraq, and Sudan)



Currently . . .

COVID-19 pandemic and its negative impact on the healthcare system generally and on immunization specifically demonstrate the urgency to integrate vaccination as an essential package for UHC and to harmonize in-country effort and policies to enable that in three priority countries: Afghanistan, Iraq, and Sudan where new outbreaks of VPDs have emerged.

What's next . . .

Under this project, a review for the UHC-related policies will be conducted in the targeted countries and one policy brief on immunization and UHC will be developed. GHD will support the selected countries to finalize their road map and to position immunization in UHC national policy and strategy.

This action will result in sustaining both high immunization coverage and essential PHC coverage. It will also assist in maintaining human right to health, equity, social solidarity, lives saving, and world health improvement, especially for people who are the most vulnerable. Noting that routine immunization can be the first step towards comprehensive primary healthcare.

OUTCOMES BY NUMBERS

3 EMR countries participate in immunization position in UHC related policies review activities

1 Policy Brief to be developed in one selected country

30 PHC directors, EPI managers and planning and policy directors participate in consultation workshop to support brief Policy development on immunization and UHC

30 PHC directors, EPI managers and planning and policy directors participate in the regional workshop to facilitate country integration of EPI within essential PHC package for UHC in selected countries

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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