



# Support conducting AFP surveillance internal review in Iraq

## Project Information

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

## OBJECTIVES

GHD is planning to support Iraq in conducting Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) surveillance internal independent review to identify the progress made in implementing the province-specific recommendations. The assessment team will be led by GHD and will include national reviewers, academia and FETPs in collaboration with WHO country office.

## REGIONS OF WORK

The project will be implemented in Iraq.

## BENEFICIARIES

The targeted beneficiaries are selected sites from 19 Directorates of Health (DOHs) and medical city.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Since 2020, the continued COVID-19 emergency response has weakened surveillance of Acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) in Iraq and resulting in a steady decline in immunization coverage. In addition, the new retirement regulations enforced by the government led to the departure of skilled AFP and immunization personnel, which negatively impacted the AFP surveillance system. The conclusion of the external review conducted in Iraq in 2018 was that the surveillance system is operating effectively, as evidenced by the fact that key indicators meet standards. Nonetheless, the findings of the field review indicated that provincial performance varied. GHD is planning to assist Iraq in conducting an internal independent review of AFP surveillance in order to assess the implementation of the province-specific recommendations. The assessment team will be led by GHD and will consist of national reviewers, academics, and FETPs along with the WHO country office. All of the 20 DoHs (19 DoHs and medical city) will be examined. Following training on the assessment and fieldwork assignment, review teams will cover the selected sites in the field. Each team will be responsible for reviewing two Directorates of Health DOHs, two districts from each DOH, hospitals and health centers in the selected districts. GHD will support the organization of a three-day workshop to disseminate the results and draft an action plan.

## PROJECT PHASES

This project involves three phases as follows:

**1. Training Phase:** Training on assessment and fieldwork assignment.

**2. Assessment Phase:** Review teams will cover the selected sites in the field. Each team will be responsible for reviewing two Directorates of Health DOHs, two districts from each DOH, hospitals and health centers in the selected districts.

**3. Results Dissemination Phase:** GHD will conduct three-day workshop to disseminate the results and draft an action plan.

<b>Project Start and End Date</b>	<b>08/1/2021 – 07/31/2022</b>
<b>Funded by</b>	<b>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)</b>
<b>Collaborators</b>	National reviewers, academics, and FETPs along with the WHO country office in Iraq

## Currently . . .

COVID-19 emergency response had weakened the surveillance of Acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) in Iraq and resulted in a continuous decline of immunization coverage since 2020. Furthermore, the new enforced governmental retirement rules lead to the turnover of the skilled AFP and immunization staff, which negatively impacted the AFP surveillance system. The results of the external review conducted in Iraq in 2018 concluded that the surveillance system is well-functioning as demonstrated by key indicators reaching standards. However, the findings of the field review indicated varying performances among the provinces. To identify the progress made in implementing the province-specific recommendations, GHD is planning to support Iraq in conducting AFP surveillance internal review.

## What's next . . .

This project will contribute to reducing the disparities in the AFP surveillance system performance among provinces as the review process will help in identifying the progress that has been made in implementing the province-specific recommendations in each province, assess the current situation and the actions needed to be taken to enhance AFP surveillance in each province.

### By the Numbers

10 teams for the field review, 2 technical independent reviewers in every team  
80 health sites (hospitals, health centers, districts & DoHs) will be visited by the reviewers

**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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