



Global Health
Development

Increase Demand for Immunization Services in Afghanistan

Project Information

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

SCOPE OF WORK

The main objective of this project is to train the vaccinators and Community Health Workers (CHWs) in five low performance provinces with high dropout rates, on Interpersonal Communication (IPC) and effectiveness of vaccine to complete the package of demand creation for immunization.

BENEFICIARIES

The project's main beneficiaries are the vaccinators and CHWs in the five low performance provinces with high dropout rates in Afghanistan (Laghman, Nangarhar, Kunar, Paktya and Nooristan).

REGIONS OF WORK

This project was implemented in five low performance provinces with high dropout rates in Afghanistan (Laghman, Nangarhar, Kunar, Paktya and Nooristan).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

GHD through this project conducted formal training on Inter-Personal Communication (IPC), effectiveness of vaccine to the vaccinators and CHWs (volunteers) in five low performance provinces with high dropout rates in order to raise their knowledge of the benefits of vaccines to communicate to people and to improve their skills to involve the community, and the political leadership commitment to complete the package of demand creation for immunization.

The project started by conducting Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop at the national level to all NEPI team and then they started conducting the IPC trainings workshops to vaccinators and CHWs in the five selected provinces.

Project Start and End Date	October 1, 2019 – January 31, 2021
Partner Organizations	-
Funded by	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
Collaborators	National Expanded Program on Immunization (NEPI), Ministry of Public Health (MoPH)



PROJECT PHASES

The project involves two main phases:

Phase I: Preparation: contract the consultant and establish the project taskforce.

Phase II: Implementation: conduct the TOT workshop and the roll out IPC trainings in the five targeted provinces.

Currently . . .

The Demand Creation Project (DCP) was first implemented in five targeted provinces in Afghanistan. The project mainly involved community-based intervention and broadcasting of mobile health messages to increase demand. Considering that there is no National Communication Strategy for EPI in Afghanistan, the Multiyear Strategic Plans (cMYP) and the draft of Expanded Program on Immunization's (EPI) communication strategy highlighted the main channels of awareness and demand creation for routine immunization which are printing materials and mass media. Additionally, vaccinators and CHWs are also considered an effective channel to raise awareness even though none of them have received any formal training on effective communication. They also have limited knowledge of the benefits of vaccines to communicate to people. They do not have the mechanisms, skills, political leadership commitment or resources to involve the community.

What is next . . .

As a continuation of the previous projects and as stated by cMYP and the draft of EPI's communication strategy, this project will enhance the demand creation for routine immunization by improving the knowledge of the vaccinators and CHWs on the benefits of vaccines and will develop their IPC to involve the community of five low performance provinces with high dropout rates. This in return will strengthen routine immunization and polio eradication services in the country.

OUTCOMES BY NUMBERS

5 low performance provinces with high dropout rates are targeted in Afghanistan.

250 Vaccinators from the targeted provinces will be trained on IPC and vaccine effectiveness.

250 CHWs from the targeted provinces will be trained on IPC and vaccine effectiveness.

GHD|EMPHNET Information: Global Health Development (GHD) 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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