

# Accelerate Polio Integration within the Context of Newly Developed Polio End Game Strategy and Post-certification Strategy in Selected EMR Countries

## Project Information

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

## SCOPE OF WORK

The main objective of this project is to determine the functions that must be sustained in order to achieve Polio Eradication and maintain a world free of all polioviruses on a permanent basis and duplicate the polio experience and lesson learned towards control & elimination of other Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (VPDs).

## BENEFICIARIES

The project's main beneficiaries are Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) Managers, Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (VPDs) and Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) National Surveillance Officers.

## REGIONS OF WORK

This project is being implemented in EMR countries, Afghanistan, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project is about empowerment and sharing experiences, processes, and exploiting accumulated knowledge and expertise of the Polio Eradication Initiative worldwide.

The accepted knowledge could be used to accelerate Measles elimination and strengthen immunization coverage, the lessons learned include documenting best practices, encouraging innovations, critically reviewing processes, enhancing surveillance systems and ways of working, expanding social mobilization, and advancing vaccine delivery.

Through a four-day regional workshop, these lessons learned will be shared and countries will be encouraged to learn from the experience of the Polio Eradication Program by adopting or replicating these lessons to achieve broader health and development goals.

<b>Project Start and End Date</b>	<b>October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 – April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>
<b>Funded by</b>	<b>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)</b>
<b>Collaborators</b>	<b>Ministries of Health in targeted EMR countries, UNICEF, WHO, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), and Gavi</b>



## PROJECT PHASES

The project involves two main phases:

Phase I – Preparation and Organization: preparatory meeting with partners to review and approve concept note of the project implementation. Another virtual workshop was done to explore the impact of COVID-19 on Routine Immunization (RI)/ Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI) integration

Phase II – Implementation: conduct the regional workshop to share the knowledge, lessons learned, and experiences of Polio eradication to empower the countries adapt and build plans to control & elimination other VDPs

### Currently . . .

The Polio Endgame strategy 2019-2023 has been released by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI). It addresses ongoing risks, leverage best practices, and introduce improvements that will have a strong impact on the last mile of eradication with focus on endemic, outbreak, and high-risk countries and districts.

As GPEI moves closer to the goal of eradication, it requires closer collaboration between health programs and strong immunization programs achieved by integration.

### What's next . . .

Under this project, systemic collaboration and integration between health actors will be achieved. This collaboration and cooperation will contribute to building a sustainable polio free world mainly through capitalizing on knowledge and expertise. This will lead to strengthening immunization, health and disease surveillance systems, and emergency response capacity.

## OUTCOMES BY NUMBERS

**18** EPI managers and AFP surveillance national officers participated in the regional workshop

### **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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