



Global Health  
Development

# Improve equity through minimizing vaccine hesitancy among nomad and underserved population in Afghanistan

## Project Information

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

## OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this project is to improve immunization coverage, address inequity, and support polio eradication through generate demand for vaccination among nomad populations and underserved areas of Farah province by engaging religious leaders and community elders in building trust in immunization services and create demand for immunization services

## BENEFICIARIES

The project's main beneficiaries are the religious leaders and community elders in Farah province.

## REGIONS OF WORK

This project will be implemented in Afghanistan, particularly in nomad populations and underserved areas of Farah province

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

GHD through this project will support the MoPH to generate demand for vaccination among nomad populations and underserved areas of Farah province by engaging religious leaders and community elders in building trust in immunization services and create demand for immunization services. GHD in collaboration with the MoPH will assign religious leader. The leader will be oriented with the program objectives and will be provided with the effective immunization messages. This religious leader will regularly visit other targeted religious leaders to convince them to send these messages to the community during the Friday prayer.

A total of 20 sessions with the religious leaders and a total of 20 community dialogue sessions with the community elders will be conducted. GHD will also provide logistical support to the MoPH to print and distribute health messages.

<b>Project Start and End Date</b>	<b>August 1, 2021 – July 31, 2022</b>
<b>Partner Organizations</b>	-
<b>Funded by</b>	<b>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).</b>
<b>Collaborators</b>	<b>Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), National EPI program.</b>



## PROJECT PHASES

The project involves two main phases:

**Phase I: Preparation:** contract the consultant and assign influential religious leader.

**Phase II: Implementation:** Conduct orientation workshops for religious leaders in underserved communities to support immunization agenda. Develop, print and distribute health messages.

### Currently . . .

Only 2.5% of children in Farah Province are fully vaccinated and not more than 22% coverage of Penta 3 has been reached among the Kuchi nomads. A significant gap in vaccine coverage between poor and wealthy households exists. Moreover, 18.3% of children were never vaccinated with any antigen. The EPI coverage data reveal that a huge gap in vaccine coverage among provinces, nomads and between poor and wealthy households exists. Current strategies used to raise awareness include printed materials, such as brochures, leaflets, banners, billboards, and messages communicated through media outlet i.e TV channels, radio stations and health educations through health facilities. These interventions are often ineffective because approximately 75% of the Afghanistan population lives in rural areas, and a majority of them does not have access to TVs and radios or are illiterate and cannot read printed messages

### What is next . . .

GHD through this project will use innovative and culturally acceptable interventions that generate demand for immunization. To improve immunization coverage, address inequity, and support polio eradication, GHD is committed to generate demand for vaccination among nomad populations and underserved areas of Farah province by engaging religious leaders and community elders in building trust in immunization services and create demand for immunization services.

## OUTCOMES BY NUMBERS

**200** religious leaders will be oriented to support immunization agenda and raise community awareness.

**20** Community dialogue sessions with community elders will be conducted.

**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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