COVID-19 Vaccine Capacity Building in Tunisia & Rapid Response to Public Health emergencies globally

OBJECTIVES

The project aims at strengthening immunization services to contribute to reducing mortality and morbidity of COVID-19 in Tunisia and supporting the rapid response to public health emergencies globally.

REGIONS OF WORK

The project will be implemented in Tunisia.

BENEFICIARIES

The targeted beneficiaries are the state and regional EPI staff.

PROJECT PHASES

This project involves two phases as follows:

Phase 1- Planning: Tunisia Ministry of Health, the National Observatory of New and Emerging Diseases (ONMNE) will plan the COVID-19 International Vaccine Implementation and Evaluation (CIVIE) and the integrated respiratory disease surveillance (IDS) activities with CDC.

Phase 2- Implementation: GHD will logistically support Tunisia MOH in conducting the agreed upon activities in collaboration with CDC.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Tunisia Ministry of Health, the National Observatory of New and Emerging Diseases (ONMNE) will be provided by logistic support from GHD and technical support and oversight by CDC to implement a set of COVID-19 International Vaccine Implementation and Evaluation (CIVIE) activities that have been planned and agreed upon between CDC and Tunisia MOH. The planned activities include supporting vaccine related event (VRE) response plan creation in Tunisia, evaluating the existing AEFI surveillance system implemented in Tunisia, conducting national training for HCWs on AEFI reporting and investigation in Tunisia, conducting COVID-19 vaccine post-introduction evaluation (cPIE) implementation, implementing of rapid community assessment, implementation media campaign in Tunisia and conducting a study on vaccine effectiveness in Tunisia. Alongside supporting CIVIE activities, GHD will provide technical and logistical support to work with the CDC and the Ministry of Health to strengthen public health surveillance by improving integrated respiratory disease surveillance capacities to detect and monitor outbreaks and novel respiratory pathogens with epidemic potential and enhance and integrate sentinel surveillance to increase understanding of COVID-19 and other respiratory pathogens. GHD will support activities to strengthen country's Respiratory Disease Surveillance such as EBS system. The supported activities will include and are not limited to guidelines development, training development, training facilitation, consultant, supervisory visits, monitoring and evaluation.

Project Start and End Date	08/1/2022 – 07/27/2023
Funded by	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Collaborators	Tunisia MoH

Currently . . .

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown the need for a strong integrated respiratory disease surveillance system (IDS) which can enable the early detection, surveillance, and response for COVID-19 and other emerging respiratory diseases of concern. IDS aims to develop the knowledge base to understand transmission and epidemiology of SARS-CoV-2 and other respiratory pathogens, improve preparedness to detect and respond to respiratory threats of epidemic and outbreak potential, and strengthen targeted laboratory systems to detect respiratory pathogens.

What's next . . .

Through this project GHD aims to strengthen respiratory disease surveillance in Tunisia and other EMR countries and contribute to strengthening the global health security. GHD will sustain communication and collaboration with CDC, WHO, and in-country focal points in the implementation of the activities.