

The Way Forward for Pertussis Control in the Middle East and North Africa: Focus on Maternal Immunization

Project Information

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

OBJECTIVES

- 1) Create a regional network of experts in Pertussis and maternal immunization policies in Middle East and North Africa (MENA).
- 2) Share successful international and local experiences in pertussis control.
- 3) Understand the drivers and barriers for Tdap introduction in Pregnancy in MENA countries.
- 4) Raise the value of Tdap use in pregnancy as a regional priority aligned with IA 2030, to reduce the burden of disease in younger infants.

REGIONS OF WORK

Several countries from the EMR region will be engaged in this project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

‘The Way Forward for Pertussis Control in the Middle East and North Africa: Focus on Maternal Immunization’ is a one-year project with the primary objective of establishing a regional collaboration and consultancy platform. The main aim is to enhance understanding regarding pertussis epidemiology, surveillance, available burden of disease data, and control measures, specifically focusing on maternal immunization for young infants in the MENA region. To attain this goal, the project will establish a technical committee and form a regional network of expert.

The experts within this network will collaborate during a four-day regional meeting, addressing key topics such as the epidemiology of pertussis at both global and EMR levels, international and local experiences in pertussis control, the principles of Tdap vaccine use in pregnancy, and the experiences and challenges associated with introducing and delivering pertussis maternal immunization in various countries. The meeting will also outline the role of the regional network in advocating for the value of Tdap use in pregnancy. Following the meeting, the project will focus on drafting region-specific recommendations and developing a roadmap outlining the future direction and the way forward.

BENEFICIARIES

The beneficiaries of this project are countries of the EMR region who will benefit from developing guidelines to help accelerate issuance of policies targeting the control of pertussis.

PROJECT PHASES

The project is a single-phase project with the goal of formulating region-specific recommendations and creating a roadmap that outlines the future direction and the path forward for Pertussis and maternal immunization policies in Middle East and North Africa.

Project Start and End Date	December 2023 - December 2024
Partner Organizations	Sanofi Pasteur, Baylor College, WHO/EMRO and regional and country-specific experts.
Funded by	Sanofi Pasteur

Currently . . .

Pertussis control in the EMR region is precarious, facing challenges from the healthcare sector and providers, including low awareness and a lack of recommendations for maternal immunization and maternal care services for infectious disease prevention, particularly pertussis.

What's next . . .

Implementing this project will help in developing guidelines to expedite the issuance of policies focusing on pertussis control in infancy by launching a regional multi-country collaboration platform in the EMR region.

GHD|EMPHNET Information: Global Health Development (GHD) 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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