



Project Information

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

Support EPI Programs in Reaching Defaulters and Unimmunized Children in Priority Countries

SCOPE OF WORK

The main objective of this project is to decrease the negative impact on immunization coverage due to COVID-19 emergency response. Also, to maximize reaching and vaccinating many unimmunized and dropout children in two high-risk provinces in Diyala and Diwaniya.

REGIONS OF WORK

This project was implemented in Iraq, 12 priority districts in 2 provinces: 7 districts in Diyala and 5 districts in Diwaniya.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

GHD supported the MOH in Iraq in the identification of the unimmunized children and track the Defaulter and approach the defaulters through various channels. As well as providing logistical support to reach the defaulters and unimmunized children through logistical support of outreach sessions in priority hard to reach areas.

BENEFICIARIES

The project's main beneficiaries were EPI focal points, Cold chain focal points, Children less than 5 years old, and Women of reproductive age

PROJECT PHASE

This project involves two phases as follow:

Phase I- Planning: updating and operationalizing micro-plans for routine immunization.

Phase II- Implementation: Support conducting outreach immunization sessions to vaccinate Children less than 5 years old and women of reproductive age.

Project Start and End Date	October 1st, 2020 – February 28th, 2021
Partner Organizations	-
Funded by	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Collaborators	Iraq Ministry of Health



Currently . . .

The COVID-19 emergency has a negative effect on the vulnerable healthcare system in Iraq. Children immunization was one of the main challenges faced by the Ministry of Health. The disruption of immunization in Iraq was due to both COVID-19-related burden on the health system and decreased demand for vaccination. Decreased vaccination coverage along with high reported dropout children will threaten the immunization program achievements through increasing the numbers of susceptible individuals and the possibility of the emergence of Vaccines Preventable Disease (VPDs) outbreak.

What is next . . .

Implementing the strategical approach will improve the utilization of immunization services leading to enhance reaching out the unimmunized children in the high-risk areas and track the defaulters to vaccinate them according to the national immunization schedule. This will provide protection and decrease the spread of preventable diseases to others.

OUTCOMES BY NUMBERS

2 Provinces and 12 Districts.

20 EPI focal point and cold chain focal points.

745 Immunization outreach sessions.

+32,360 vaccine doses given

EMPHNET Information: 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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