

# *Enhance community engagement, assess and support zero-dose children identification, strengthen NITAG capacities, and develop national guidelines for HPV vaccination in Yemen Southern Governorates*

## Project Information

- ◆ Department: Public Health Program
- ◆ Unit: Polio and RI

## OBJECTIVES

This project strengthens immunization systems in Southern Yemen by improving community engagement to reach zero-dose children, enhancing NITAG capacity, and supporting the development of national HPV vaccination policy and guidelines to improve equitable vaccine access and public health outcomes.

## REGIONS OF WORK

Southern Governorates of Yemen (including Aden and prioritized high-risk districts identified through mapping)

## BENEFICIARIES

The primary beneficiaries are underserved populations in southern Yemen, including zero-dose children lacking immunization and women at risk of cervical cancer. Community health volunteers benefit from updated guidelines, improving their efficiency. NITAG members gain enhanced capacity, enabling evidence-based recommendations for better national immunization strategies.

## PROJECT PHASES

### Phase 1 – Assessment and Planning:

kick-off meeting with Yemen MoPHP to introduce the project.

Validate existing evidence and mapping results, assess NITAG capacity and operational gaps, and review the HPV policy landscape. Engage key stakeholders, establish technical working groups, prioritize high-risk districts, and finalize implementation plans and logistics for community engagement and zero-dose identification activities.

### Phase 2 – Implementation:

Implement community engagement and zero-dose identification interventions, expand and train Community Health Volunteers, strengthen NITAG operations through SOPs and capacity-building activities, and develop, finalize, and endorse national HPV policy and guidelines. Disseminate approved documents and conduct targeted trainings and sensitization activities.

### Phase 3 – Monitoring and Sustainability:

Monitor implementation progress, conduct supportive supervision and performance reviews, document NITAG operations and community-level outcomes, evaluate results, and develop final reports and recommendations to support sustainability and future scale-up.

# PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project supports the strengthening of immunization systems in Southern Yemen through integrated policy, institutional, and community-level interventions. It focuses on enhancing community engagement mechanisms to identify and refer zero-dose and under-immunized children in high-risk areas, strengthening the technical and operational capacity of the National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (NITAG), and supporting the development, validation, and endorsement of national HPV vaccination policy and guidelines.

The project will work closely with the Ministry of Public Health and Population and key stakeholders to expand community health volunteer networks, improve evidence-based decision-making for immunization policies, and create an enabling environment for future HPV vaccine introduction. By addressing gaps in governance, capacity, and service delivery, the project contributes to improved immunization coverage, reduced inequities, and strengthened public health outcomes in Southern Yemen.

<b>Project Start and End Date</b>	<b>1/1/2026 – 31/12/2026</b>
<b>Funded by</b>	<b>Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance</b>
<b>Collaborators</b>	<b>Yemen Ministry of Public Health and Population (MoPHP)</b>

## Currently . . .

the PVV guidelines, community volunteer guidebook, and zero-dose identification tools exist and have been piloted in selected districts. However, these materials are based on early implementation experiences and are limited in scope. They require updating to incorporate lessons learned, strengthen community-based surveillance, and improve the accurate identification and referral of zero-dose and under-immunized children to support scale-up in high-risk areas.

## What's next . . .

The PVV guidelines and community volunteer materials will be updated based on implementation feedback, followed by dissemination and targeted training to enhance community health volunteer performance. The zero-dose toolkit will be revised and piloted to strengthen identification, referral, and follow-up of zero-dose and under-immunized children. A NITAG capacity assessment will be conducted to identify gaps and guide tailored technical and operational support. In parallel, HPV vaccination guidelines will be updated in collaboration with the MoPHP, informed by burden and readiness assessments to ensure alignment with the national context.

<b>Outcomes</b>		
Increased immunization coverage in the Southern governorates in Yemen		Identification and reduction of zero-dose children
Strengthened NITAG capacity	New HPV National Policy	Improved Stakeholder Engagement and Community Involvement

**GHD|EMPHNET Information:** Global Health Development (GHD) and 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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