



Global Health
Development

Improve Immunization Frontline Workers' Capabilities in Limiting the Risk of SARS-CoV-2 Transmission During Vaccination Sessions in Priority Countries

Project Information

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

OBJECTIVE

The main objective of this project is to Invest in vaccinators' capacity to implement different measures to prevent transmission of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Covid-2 (SARS-CoV-2) not only to contribute to the global effort to control the pandemic but also to enhance the adherence of both providers and clients to immunization schedule and maintain the immunization program performance.

BENEFICIARIES

The project's main beneficiaries are Vaccinators, Caregivers, Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) teams.

REGION OF WORK

This project was implemented in Afghanistan in three priority provinces (Nangarhar, Laghman, and Parwan)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Supported Afghanistan MoPH to adopt national guidelines to limit the risk of (SARS-CoV-2) transmission during vaccination sessions. The selection of priority provinces was based on low EPI coverage and high rates of COVID-19 cases.

Vaccinators were empowered to inform caregivers attending the immunization clinic on the regular messages concerning Vaccine Preventable Diseases VPDs', in addition to, COVID-19 prevention measures, including use of hand hygiene, and the use of face masks and the importance of social distancing. Vaccinators will play a role model by ensuring procedures on hand hygiene, use of personal protective equipment, waste management, cleaning and disinfection of equipment and the environment.

Project Start and End Date	October 1st, 2020 – July 30th, 2021
Partner Organizations	-
Funded by	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
Collaborators	Afghanistan Ministry of Public Health (MoPH)



PROJECT PHASES

The project involves two main phases:

Phase I: Materials and Tools Development: Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Covid-2 (SARS-Cov-2) training curriculum, training materials, and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials developed and approved. Monitoring tools for the implementation developed based on GHD Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) curriculum.

Phase II: Capacity Building: EPI focal points at the national level trained as master trainers on the (SARS-Cov-2) training to train EPI teams at provincial level.

Monitoring tools will support assessment of Infection Control and Prevention (IPC) practices in immunization services to identify and address barriers of applying best (IPC) practices and empower them to conduct supervisory visits to ensure EPI health staff compliance in applying IPC best practices. As well as, developing and disseminating health education and communication materials on the IPC best practices during immunization sessions.

Currently . . .

Fear from getting the infection of SARS-CoV-2 during immunization session is a recognized concern for both caregivers and vaccination providers, specially if they are not following the best infection prevention and control (IPC) practices. The disruption of immunization including polio campaigns due to the pandemic led to reporting polio cases in the country, exposing the children to another health emergency.

What is next . . .

Under this project, Afghanistan MoPH will be supported to adopt national guidelines to limit the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission during the vaccination session. Also, the conducted training will raise the awareness and the knowledge about the different measures on the infection prevention and control to minimize the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission among health care providers and the vaccinators during the vaccination sessions. This initiative will not only contribute to the global effort to control the pandemic, but it will enhance the adherence of both providers and clients to immunization schedule and will maintain the vaccination to resume safely.

OUTCOMES BY NUMBERS

+20 Regional EPI trainers trained on SARS-CoV-2 transmission during vaccination ToT training at the national level.

300 Vaccinators from 3 Provinces trained on limiting the risk of SARS-Cov-2 transmission during vaccination at provincial level.

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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