



# Reinforce the components of AFP Surveillance in Morocco

## Project Information

- ◆ Department: Public Health Program
- ◆ Unit: Polio & Immunization Department

## OBJECTIVES

This project aims to re-elevate and sustain the AFP surveillance indicators to their pre-COVID-19 pandemic status. GHD will conduct refresher training for regional and central AFP surveillance staff, followed by a cascade training conducted in 12 regions of the country.

## REGIONS OF WORK

The project will be implemented in Morocco.

## BENEFICIARIES

The targeted beneficiaries are regional and central AFP surveillance staff.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A robust AFP surveillance system is crucial in preventing the importation of wild Polio virus (WPV). In Morocco, before 2017, despite considerable advances, the AFP surveillance metrics were still below the regional and national targets. For instance, in 2017, the rate of non-polio AFP (NPAFP) was 1.3 per 100,000, up from 0.73 in 2015. However, this rate is still below than the regional target of >2 per 100,000. Moreover, despite a decline from 71% in 2014 to 57% in 2015, 62% in 2016, and 66.4% in 2017, the stool adequacy indicator was still below the 80% target in 2017. As a result of GHD's efforts to improve AFP surveillance in Morocco, the NPAFP rate increased to 2.28 per 100,000 in 2018 and stool adequacy improved to 78%. However, during the pandemic, the enhanced indicators of AFP surveillance were nullified due to the focus of COVID-19 surveillance over AFP surveillance. In 2020, the NPAFP rate fell to reach 0.93 and 0.84 per 100,000 in 2020 and 2021<sup>14</sup>. GHD proposes retraining regional and central AFP surveillance staff, followed by cascade training at the 12 regions, in order to reestablish and maintain the prior successes. Performance in this endeavor will be gauged by the number of trainings delivered, whereas the improvement in NPAFP rate will be the outcome indicator.

## PROJECT PHASES

This project involves two phases as follows:

**Phase I:** Conduct refresher training for regional and central AFP surveillance staff.

**Phase II:** Conduct cascade training at 12 regions.

<b>Project Start and End Date</b>	<b>08/1/2022 – 07/31/2023</b>
<b>Funded by</b>	<b>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)</b>
<b>Collaborators</b>	<b>GHD team, regional and central AFP surveillance staff.</b>

## Currently . . .

In 2018, GHD implemented activities to support the AFP surveillance in Morocco. The NPAFP rate reached 2.28 per 100,000 and the stool adequacy reached 78%. Nevertheless, during the pandemic, the prioritization of COVID-19 surveillance over the AFP surveillance had reversed the gains in the improved AFP surveillance indicators. In 2020, the NPAFP rate decreased to reach 0.93 and 0.84 per 100,000 in 2020 and 2021. To re-evaluate and sustain the previous achievements, GHD will conduct refresher training for regional and central AFP surveillance staff, followed by cascade training conducted at the 12 regions.

## What's next . . .

Through delivering training to the regional and central AFP staff in Morocco, AFP surveillance will be reinforced, and the performance of this activity will be measured by the proportion of conducted trainings, whereas the improvement in NPAFP rate will be the outcome indicator.

## By the Numbers

**Around 36**

From regional and central levels will get a refresher training on AFP surveillance

**Around 400**

Surveillance focal points will be trained on AFP surveillance

**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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