



Global Health
Development

AFP Surveillance in Morocco

Project Information

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

SCOPE OF WORK

The main objective of this project is to maintain the country's Polio Free status and preventing the importation of wild polio virus from high risk neighboring countries and strengthening the quality of the Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) surveillance as a key component within the national integrated Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (VPDs) surveillance systems in Morocco.

BENEFICIARIES

The project's main beneficiaries are Surveillance officers, Central Surveillance Unit, FETP graduates

REGIONS OF WORK

This project is being implemented in Morocco.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Although, AFP surveillance dramatically deteriorated in Morocco after the COVID-19 pandemic, the MoH does not consider AFP surveillance as a priority now. Therefore, and due to the high engagement of the MoH in the COVID-19 emergency response and COVID-19 vaccine roll-out, an annual national AFP review meeting will be conducted across the country. These meetings will include sensitization sessions for surveillance officers to bring AFP surveillance back on their priority list.

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| Project Start and End Date | October 1st, 2018 – December 31st, 2021 |
| Partner Organizations | - |
| Funded by | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). |
| Collaborators | Morocco Ministry of Health (MOH). |



PROJECT Phases

The project involves two main phases:

Phase I: Planning and Coordination: Coordination with the Morocco MoH to arrange for the project activities and identify the key gaps and translate them into an action plan during AFP Surveillance System Internal Review Dissemination Meeting.

Phase II: Implementation: Annual national AFP review meetings to be conducted across the country.

Currently . . .

Morocco is at risk of wild polio importation from neighboring countries as it is a corridor for migrants from Africa to Europe.

AFP surveillance indicators are still below the regional and national targets, despite the notable improvement that was achieved in 2017.

The key challenges facing Morocco are high and rapid turnover of trained staff, weak coordination between AFP and Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) at provincial and district level, limited data management, and monitoring and evaluation capacities at the peripheral level.

These challenges still need to be addressed in a more systematic approach of continuous training, mentoring and staff replacement plans.

What is next . . .

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OUTCOMES BY NUMBERS

Annual national AFP review meetings will be conducted across the country.

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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