

Provide logistical support to assess population immunity to poliovirus in high-risk, historically endemic regions (Sero-survey) in Afghanistan

Project Information

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

Objectives

The project goal is to assess population immunity to poliovirus and investigate factors contributing to ongoing WPV1 transmission among children under 15 in Afghanistan's East Region.

REGIONS OF WORK

The serosurvey will be conducted in Afghanistan's East Region, specifically targeting eight districts across the provinces of Laghman, Nangarhar, Kunar, and Nuristan.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

GHD will provide logistical support Agha Khan University (AKU) in Pakistan to conduct a serosurvey in Afghanistan's Eastern Region to evaluate immunity levels against poliovirus among children under 15. Persistent wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) cases in the area suggest potential immunity gaps despite regular vaccination campaigns. By analyzing blood samples from three age groups across eight key districts, the study will identify immunity coverage and gaps related to poliovirus types 1, 2, and 3, as well as other vaccine-preventable diseases. The results will help refine immunization strategies, address areas of low immunity, and support the region's efforts to achieve polio eradication.

BENEFICIARIES

The project's main beneficiaries are the children under 15 in Afghanistan east region, health authorities and policy makers, global health community and local communities.

PROJECT PHASES

This project involves two phases as the following:

Phase I – Preparation Phase:

- Develop the study design, determine sample size, and create data collection tools.
- Obtain ethical approvals and engage local authorities.
- Conduct a pilot test to refine survey methodology and tools.

Phase II - Implementation Phase:

- Conduct field data collection, including blood sample collection and administering questionnaires.
- Perform laboratory analysis to assess immunity levels.
- Analyze data to identify immunity gaps and understand WPV1 persistence.
- Share findings with Afghan health authorities and global health partners for actionable insights.

Project Start and End Date	08/1/2024 – 07/31/2025  Global Health
Funded by	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Collaborators	Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and Agha Khan University (AKU)

Currently . . .

What is next . . .

OUTCOMES BY NUMBERS



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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