



Support a cohort of FETP (PHEP-PEO) in Afghanistan

Project Information

- ◆ Department: Center of Excellence for Applied Epidemiology
- ◆ Unit: Workforce capacity

OBJECTIVES

The project goal is to strengthen epidemiologic capacity at the national and sub-national level of the EPI and EOC staff in Afghanistan by improving the staff's ability to detect, investigate, and response to vaccine preventable diseases and events of public health importance or international concern.

REGIONS OF WORK

The project will be implemented in Afghanistan

BENEFICIARIES

The targeted beneficiaries are the EOCs and the EPI staff with the focus on low performing provinces an.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

GHD has extensive experience of introducing FETP in the region, including successful completion of several cohorts of intermediate FETPs in Afghanistan. Considering the changing epidemiological situation in Afghanistan, particularly the detections of several WPV1 cases, GHD will support Afghanistan Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) in introducing a cohort of PHEP training, targeting the central and provincial EOC polio team at the national and provincial level. Following the finalization of the curriculum during the second quarter, GHD will conduct 6-day mentorship training for 20 mentors in close coordination with MOPH. A total of 33 residents will be trained through 5 workshops and 4 fieldwork sessions. The Public Health Empowerment Program – Provincial EOC (PHEP-PEO) aims to equip MoPH staff working at the provincial level in immunization (including routine immunization and polio eradication) with additional skills, expertise, and tools to expand their responsibilities to overall event surveillance, outbreak detection, investigation, and response. The existing FETP program in Afghanistan will contribute to PHEP-PEO by providing mentorship and supervision of the training activities, particularly the field work.

PROJECT PHASES

This project will have two phases as follows:

Phase 1- Planning: The project will start by renewed the technical advisor and the technical officer to support Afghanistan FETP cohort. They will be adapting the PHEP-PEO curriculum and training materials based on need and country context. The streamlined curriculum will be translated in local languages.

Phase 2- Implementation: GHD along with the technical advisor following the finalization of the curriculum during the second quarter will start the implementation, GHD will conduct mentorship training followed by the three workshops and two fieldwork sessions.

Project Start and End Date	08/1/2023 – 07/31/2024
Funded by	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Collaborators	Afghanistan Ministry of Public Health

Currently . . .

The political transition in mid-August 2021 and the temporary pause of funding to Afghanistan's health system by donors have jeopardized the gains made in the past two decades. Furthermore, the evacuation of numerous healthcare providers, including EPI and polio program staff at the national and sub-national levels, has further hampered healthcare service provision in the country.

Political instability, prolonged conflict, and the resulting humanitarian crisis have exacerbated challenges such as high population movement, under development, poor livelihoods, and weakened health systems. These factors have further constrained vaccination efforts, leaving children vulnerable to debilitating diseases. The departure of immunization frontline workers, whose are left untraced, has negatively affected their performance, and has led to an increase in VPD outbreaks, resulting in a changing epidemiological situation for polio in Afghanistan. with The East region of the country has recently reported several cases of WPV1.

What's next . . .

Through this 5-month in-service training program GHD will make sure to improve the capacity of the MoPH to prevent, detect and respond to public health priority issues and in turn can contribute to the polio eradication.

OUTCOMES BY NUMBERS

A total of 32 Presidents PHEP-POE from Afghanistan will be graduated.

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AFETP curriculum was developed

1

Technical committee was established

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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