



*Enhance community engagement, assess and support zero-dose children identification, strengthen NITAG capacities, and develop national guidelines for HPV vaccination in Yemen Southern Governorates*

**Project Information**

- ◆ Department: Public Health Program
- ◆ Unit: Polio and RI

## **OBJECTIVES**

The main objective of this project is to improve immunization coverage and strengthen public health infrastructure in the Southern Governorates of Yemen. This will be achieved by enhancing community engagement, identifying and supporting zero-dose children, strengthening the National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (NITAG) and developing national guidelines for HPV vaccination. Through targeted community-based initiatives, capacity-building efforts, and policy development, the project aims to address barriers to vaccination, improve surveillance of vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs) and ultimately contribute to reducing health risks and promoting equitable access to essential immunization services in high-risk, underserved areas.

## **BENEFICIARIES**

The **primary beneficiaries** are underserved populations in southern Yemen, including **zero-dose children** lacking immunization and **women at risk of cervical cancer**. **Community health volunteers** benefit from updated guidelines, improving their efficiency. **NITAG members** gain enhanced capacity, enabling evidence-based recommendations for better national immunization strategies.

## **PROJECT PHASES**

This project involves three phases as follows:

**Phase 1- Assessment and Planning:** Conduct baseline assessments for PVV guidelines, NITAG capacity, and HPV burden. Develop resources, engage stakeholders, and plan logistics for zero-dose identification interventions.

**Phase 2- Implementation:** Implement PVV and zero-dose identification activities, update HPV guidelines, and develop NITAG workplan. Disseminate updated guidelines and conduct training for CHVs.

**Phase 3- Monitoring and Sustainability:** Track progress, evaluate impact and ensure long-term continuity.

## **REGIONS OF WORK**

The project will be implemented Yemen southern governorates.

# PROJECT DESCRIPTION

EMPHNET, in collaboration with GAVI will support Yemen MoPHP to enhance immunization coverage in underserved areas by scaling up PVV initiatives and integrating zero-dose child identification. The project will also strengthen NITAG capacity and update HPV vaccination guidelines. Initially, baseline assessments and stakeholder engagements will be conducted. During implementation, training for health workers, pilot interventions, and community awareness campaigns will be facilitated. The final phase focuses on monitoring, evaluating impact, and fostering sustainability through strengthened governance, ensuring long-term resilience in the immunization system.

<b>Project Start and End Date</b>	<b>11/2024 – 11/2025</b>
<b>Funded by</b>	<b>Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance</b>
<b>Collaborators</b>	<b>Yemen Ministry of Public Health and Population (MOPHP)</b>

## Currently . . .

The PVV guidelines and booklet and the zero-dose toolkit currently exist but are outdated and need revision. These materials are available but require updates to improve their effectiveness in supporting community-level demand for immunization and identifying zero-dose children more accurately.

## What's next . . .

The PVV guidelines will be updated, incorporating feedback to enhance community health volunteer effectiveness, followed by dissemination and training. The zero-dose toolkit will also be revised to strengthen its use in identifying zero-dose children, and a pilot intervention will be launched. For NITAG, a capacity assessment will be conducted to identify and address gaps, ensuring improved advisory capabilities. Lastly, the HPV vaccination guidelines will be updated through a burden assessment and collaboration with MoPHP, focusing on tailoring guidelines to the local context.

### Outcomes

Increased immunization coverage in the Southern governorates in Yemen

Identification and reduction of zero-dose children

Strengthened NITAG capacity

Updated HPV guidelines

Improved Stakeholder Engagement and

**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.