



## *Continue enhancing immunization of nomadic populations in Somalia (Gedo-region)*

### Project Information

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

## OBJECTIVES

The project goal is to integrate available information on movements of nomadic populations and enhance the accessibility of public health interventions, particularly immunizations, in Gedo region within the microplanning and delivery of routine immunization and campaigns, especially in cross border areas to prevent international transmission of polio.

## REGIONS OF WORK

The project will be implemented in Somalia – Gedo region.

## BENEFICIARIES

The targeted beneficiaries are the state and regional EPI staff, Vaccinators, Health facilities staff, Community Mobilizers, Community Health Volunteers, in addition to nomadic population at cross-border areas of Gedo region.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

GHD will continue supporting conducting a nomadic project in the Gedo region with the goal of improving public health interventions, specifically immunizations, among nomadic populations. GHD will hire implementing partner (IP) and hire a consultant to coordinate project activities with the IP. Key activities include documenting nomadic movements, validating nomadic sites, and preparing routine immunization training materials for community health volunteers, mobilizers, vaccinators, and health facility staff. The project will conduct continuous field data collection and vaccinations for children (polio and routine immunization) across five districts, integrating data into a centralized system. Other efforts include strengthening immunization through outreach sessions, mother-to-mother support groups, community dialogue sessions, IEC material distribution, elder orientation on disease surveillance, and on-the-job training for healthcare workers.

## PROJECT PHASES

This project involves three phases as follows:

**Phase 1-** Human Resource Planning: GHD will hire a third party in Somalia to implement the project activities along with consultant with experience in nomadic and cross-border population movement to coordinate and implement the following activities in the selected geographic scope.

**Phase 2-** Coordination: The implementing partner along with the consultant will conduct coordination meetings, with staff from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Livestock, WHO, UNICEF, IOM, FAO as well as other partners and local NGOs working in the targeted region.

**Phase 3-** Implementation: GHD will hire third party to conduct the project implementation activities under monitoring from GHD and CDC.



<b>Project Start and End Date</b>	<b>08/1/2023 – 07/31/2025</b>
<b>Funded by</b>	<b>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)</b>
<b>Collaborators</b>	<b>Ministry of Health and Human Services at the Federal Republic of Somalia and Visioning Corps Initiative VCI</b>

## Currently . . .

Somalia is globally recognized for its persistent transmission of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2), making it one of the most challenging polio epidemiological situations. Close to 60% of the population are nomadic and many these children under 5, remain inaccessible in conflict ridden areas, depriving large populations of vaccination opportunities. This has resulted in low routine immunization (RI) coverage with OPV/IPV and other RI antigens in general. Nomadic pastoralist groups, often face challenges in accessing healthcare that is mostly tailored for settled populations, also nomadic children have lower vaccination coverage compared to the wider society. Therefore, these mobile populations face an elevated risk of contracting vaccine-preventable diseases compared to non-nomadic populations.

## What's next . . .

This project will contribute to enhancing the accessibility of public health interventions, particularly immunizations, to effectively reach and provide coverage for children under 5 years old and livestock belonging to nomadic populations. Additionally, this project will ensure a comprehensive coverage of all nomadic camps in Gedo by incorporating them into microplans, and documentation of nomadic movement routes to inform deployment of vaccination posts at key strategic points.

## Outcomes

**Polio surveillance data generated during data collection phase**

**Frequented nomadic routes to inform placements of vaccination teams**