



Global Health
Development

Elimination of Onchocerciasis in Yemen

Project Information

- ◆ Program: Public Health Programs
- ◆ Department: Public Health Programs

OBJECTIVES

To contribute to the elimination of onchocerciasis in Taiz governorate, Yemen, by conducting a targeted Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign in six districts, supported by training community health workers and assessing impact through a Coverage Evaluation Survey (CES).

REGIONS OF WORK

The project is implemented in 6 districts across Taiz Governorate in Yemen, focusing on areas near seasonal watercourses where onchocerciasis is endemic.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

GHD|EMPHNET will support and collaborate with Yemen Ministry of Public Health and Population (MoPHP) and the END Fund to conduct a series of activities to support the elimination of onchocerciasis in Yemen. The activities will cover the following areas:

- Onchocerciasis Elimination Planning and Training to plan for the MDA, including securing security approvals and logistical planning. This phase will also include comprehensive training for drug distributors on the administration of ivermectin.
- Onchocerciasis MDA Campaign in the six targeted districts of Taiz Governorate to distribute ivermectin to all eligible individuals.
- Coverage Evaluation Survey within 1 month of the MDA completion to evaluate its coverage and identify areas of improvement.

BENEFICIARIES

All eligible individuals above the age of 5 in the 6 targeted districts, aiming to reach at least 80% coverage while excluding pregnant women.

PROJECT PHASES

The project involves three phases:

Phase I – Preparation & Planning: Plan for MDA campaign and train drug distributors on administering ivermectin (IVM) and coordinate logistics and delivery of drugs to treatment points.

Phase II – Implementation: Conduct MDA campaign, and train entomologists on conducting breeding site mapping.

Phase III – Monitoring and Evaluation: Supervise teams to follow up daily on the campaign activities, produce frequent reports on the campaign progress, and conduct a coverage survey for the campaign.

Project Start and End Date	October 01, 2024 – December 31, 2025
Partner Organizations	END Fund and the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MoPHP)

Currently . . .

Yemen is the only country in Asia endemic for onchocerciasis, where the disease prevails in the rural communities near the main seasonal watercourses. Besides, its transmission has been recently reported from districts with unknown disease endemicity, indicating that the disease is probably more widespread than historically. Thus, GHD|EMPHNET will support MoPHP in conducting a TOT for breeding site mapping, which will be followed by on the ground training for breeding site mappers, in addition, to supporting and facilitating the implementation of the one round of mass drug administration (MDA) campaign for the 6 districts across Taiz governorates in Yemen.

What's next . . .

The project will be implemented in six endemic districts of Taiz Governorate in Yemen, contributing to the national elimination of onchocerciasis. This effort aligns with the World Health Organization's international roadmap for neglected tropical diseases for 2021-2030, which targets the elimination of onchocerciasis among its priorities.

GHD|EMPHNET Information: Global Health Development (GHD) 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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