



Global Health
Development

Provide Technical and Logistical Support for the Implementation of Polio/RI Communications' Training Needs Assessment in Iraq

Project Information

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

SCOPE OF WORK

The main objective of this project was to determine the training needs for public health managers and staff at central, provincial and district levels who are involved in the delivery of primary care services. As a strategic objective of the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) communications strategy.

BENEFICIARIES

The project's main beneficiaries are Healthcare Workers (HCWs), EPI Managers and Deputy Managers, Primary Healthcare Centers, and Districts Focal Points.

REGIONS OF WORK

This project was implemented in 19 provinces in Iraq.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project is a capacity building program on mass media and social media, with prioritization and focus on immunization. The core competencies of the human resources involved in the provision of primary health services in relation to health communication will be assessed. Additionally, competency prioritization was performed based on a stratified assessment methodology including high and middle-level managers, primary health care first responders, Primary Health Care (PHC) programs' health facilities' and field teams' staff.

The overall training needs of the target audiences were based on a combined analysis of both core competencies and stratified assessment to best serve the Polio/RI programmatic objectives in Iraq. The implementation of this project was under the leadership of MoH in coordination with relevant stakeholders, mainly the MOH provinces health offices and country offices of WHO and UNICEF. Both UN organizations have been involved in the EPI communication strategy development and MoH's consequent planning. Therefore, a series of COVID-19 vaccine training workshops were conducted. These training workshops were conducted to improve knowledge and skills of the vaccinators and supervisors and improve the quality of vaccination delivery at vaccination sites and standardize vaccination procedure and prevent programmatic error and adverse event following immunization (AEFI).

Project Start and End Date	October 1st, 2019 – April 30th, 2021
Partner Organizations	World Health Organization -Iraq, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)-Iraq
Funded by	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Collaborators	Iraq Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF

PROJECT PHASES

This project main phases are:

- **Phase one- Preparatory**: GHD, MoH Iraq officials and in-country partners (WHO and UNICEF) met to agree on the methodology of the training needs assessment. Hence, the Communications' Training Needs Assessment protocol was developed and approved to start the field work.
- **Phase two- Data Collection**: Conducting the needs assessment through data collection using qualitative and quantitative data collection tools including a small-scale survey in six selected provinces representing different parts of Iraq. A questionnaire was sent to a sample of healthcare workers working in the vaccination area and representing all levels of the health system in the provinces: the DOH, district and PHC levels. In addition to Focus Group Discussion (FGD) as well as desk review of available relevant documents to capture the training needs of the health staff.
- **Phase three- Dissemination**: Presenting the assessment findings and develop the training workplan.
- **Phase four- Curriculum Update and Dissemination**: GHD reviewed and updated the Interpersonal Communication for Immunization training curriculum and other training materials.
- **Phase five- Implementation**: It was anticipated to conduct a Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop on Interpersonal Communication for Immunization for provincial and central level representatives followed by sub-national training for the district's focal points. However, the emerging need entailed contribution in smooth introduction of COVID-19 vaccine in Iraq instead, therefore, a series of COVID-19 vaccine training workshops were conducted.



Currently . . .

In 2018, Iraqi MOH with the support of GHD issued the third strategic objective of the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) communications strategy. The training needs' assessment responds to a corresponding specific objective of this strategy. Accordingly, a capacity building program on mass media and social media, with more focus on immunization, is to be prioritized.

What is next . . .

This project was implemented to determine the training needs for public health managers and staff at central, provincial and district levels who are involved in the delivery of primary care services. Identifying the needs to assist in designing training materials and contribute to building their capacities, accordingly. As a result, a series of COVID-19 vaccine training workshops were conducted to improve knowledge and skills of the vaccinators and supervisors and improve the quality of vaccination delivery at vaccination sites and standardize vaccination procedure and prevent programmatic error and adverse event following immunization (AEFI).

OUTCOMES BY NUMBERS

321 Healthcare Workers participated in Small-scale survey on Training Needs Assessment (TNA) in six provinces

30 Healthcare workers participated in three Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)

659 EPI, cold chain, and promotion focal points and vaccinators participated in the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out training from two provinces and one vaccination site in Baghdad.

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.

- ◆ Abdallah Ben Abbas St, Building No. 42, Amman, Jordan
- ◆ Email: comm@emphnet.net

- ◆ Tel: +962-6-5519962
- ◆ Fax: +962-6-5519963
- ◆ www.emphnet.net