



## Evaluation of Public Health Empowerment Program – Surveillance for Polio Surveillance Officers (PHEP- SPO) in Sudan

### Project Information

- ◆ Department: Polio and Immunization
- ◆ Unit: Polio & Routine Immunization

### OBJECTIVES

The PHEP-SPO main goal is supporting the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) in Sudan to empower public health and sustain polio eradication and strengthening routine immunization system. GHD|EMPHNET, in collaboration with CDC, will support independent evaluation of implemented PHEP SPO to assess the impact of the program on the national health system.

### REGIONS OF WORK

The project will be implemented in Sudan.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The PHEP- SPO program equips officers with skills needed to complement their current roles of supporting the FMOH and State Ministries of Health (SMOH) efforts in sustaining Polio Eradication, strengthening routine immunization, and contributing to strengthening the national health system. This initiative was mainly targeting Polio officers but, in the case of Sudan, it was offered to the surveillance officers because it is an integrated surveillance system.

Four cohorts of PHEP-SPO were trained during 2017 through 2019. The assessment of the first cohort, conducted in 2018, showed a significant impact of the training on the performance of the surveillance officers even though the assessment was only to the first cohort. GHD|EMPHNET is supporting an independent evaluation of the four cohorts using different indicators. The evaluation objectives are mainly to ensure training effectiveness, to determine the effect of “PHEP-SPO” training on the performance of EPI officers and the quality of the surveillance at the locality level.

### BENEFICIARIES

The Sudan Federal and State Ministry of Health. In specific, the ministry Expanded Program of Immunization (EPI) at central and district levels.

### PROJECT PHASES

Phase I – Contract an international consultant to conduct evaluation of the PHEP-SP

Phase II – Develop evaluation protocol using different indicators such as participants’ reactions, learning, performance indicators, service indicators, and outcome indicators.

Phase III – Data collection, analysis, and report writing followed by dissemination to key stakeholders.

<b>Project Start and End Date</b>	<b>October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 – September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021</b>
<b>Partner Organizations</b>	<b>Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH), Sudan</b>
<b>Funded by</b>	<b>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)</b>

## Currently . . .

The Sudan FMOH raised with GHD in 2016, the shortage in trained human resources responsible for public health surveillance and the need to empower the management and leadership skills for the workforce at the district levels to sustain polio eradication and strengthen capacities to control/eliminate vaccine preventable diseases.

The PHEP-SPO was developed and its components was agreed on with FMOH, WHO and national stakeholder. Four cohorts were implemented to build the capacity of Polio and EPI staff and equip them with competencies essential to public health surveillance and managerial skills. Hence fill the gap in trained workforce, that is usually encountered at the district level for various public health services.

## What's next . . .

The PHEP-SPO supported the implementation of polio transitional planning and assisted in expanding the technical capacity of Polio and EPI staff to fill gaps in manpower needed for public health priorities without compromising their original roles and functions to sustain polio eradication and support RI activities.

The evaluation aims to support the sustainability of the program by FMOH through an evidence base demonstrating the gains achieved by the PHEP-SPO. Namely, on addressing FMOH need to have a pool of trained EPI/polio officers equipped with the necessary skills to effectively work for public health surveillance, management of VPDs outbreak, perform assigned new roles to run the integrated VPDs surveillance system, which used to be carried out by the state level.

## By the Numbers

**4 PHEP-SPO cohorts** graduated **112 surveillance officers**, representing **50% of localities** in Sudan and serving in **16 out of 18** states in Sudan.

## GHD and EMPHNET: Working together for better health

Global Health Development (GHD) is a regional initiative created to support countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region strengthen their health systems in response to public health challenges and threats. GHD was initiated to advance the work of the Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET) by building coordination mechanisms with Ministries of Health, International Organizations, and other institutions to improve population health outcomes. As an implementing arm to EMPHNET, GHD aligns its strategies with national policies and directions, while serving as a collaborative platform dedicated to support national efforts in promoting public health policies, strategic planning, sustainable financing, resource mobilization, public health programs, and other related services.

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