

# *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.

## 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.

## 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 DESCRIPTION

EMPHNET, in collaboration with Gavi, supported the Yemen Ministry of Public Health and Population (MoPHP) to enhance immunization coverage in underserved and hard-to-reach areas by scaling up Periodic Vaccination Visits (PVVs) and integrating zero-dose child identification into routine immunization strategies. The project also strengthened the capacity of the National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (NITAG) and supported the review and updating of national HPV vaccination guidelines.

The initiative began with baseline assessments and comprehensive stakeholder engagement to identify gaps, priorities, and implementation modalities. During the implementation phase, the project supported capacity building through training of health workers, rollout of pilot interventions, and implementation of targeted community engagement and awareness campaigns to improve demand for immunization services.

The final phase focused on monitoring and evaluation to assess impact, document lessons learned, and inform scale-up, while promoting sustainability through strengthened governance, institutional capacity, and policy alignment—contributing to the long-term resilience of Yemen's 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.

Increased immunization coverage in the Southern governorates in Yemen

Strengthened NITAG capacity

## Outcomes

Identification and reduction of zero-dose children

Updated HPV guidelines

Improved Stakeholder Engagement and