



Global Health  
Development

# Support operationalizing the implementation of Polio Village Volunteers PVVs project to strengthen VPDs reporting and reaching the zero dose children in hot zones in Yemen

## Project Information

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

## Objectives

The project goal is to maintain the momentum of the communities in improving the detection and reporting of VPDs and sustaining the gains made in year 2 of PVV project and addressing institutional barriers and vaccine hesitancy towards improving immunization coverage.

## REGIONS OF WORK

The project is being implemented in Yemen.

## BENEFICIARIES

The project's main beneficiaries are the PVV coordinators, AFP surveillance and EPI technical officers from the directorate of health, along with the community volunteers, community informants and influencers

## PROJECT PHASES

This project involves two phases as the following:

Phase I – Preparations: Support development and printing of a booklet that covers selected VPDs to be reported, importance of immunization and immunization schedule. The booklet to be distributed during the awareness sessions.

Phase II – Implementation: Support conducting 45 sensitization/ awareness meetings (one day each) for the potential informants and influencers in the targeted districts.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

GHD will support Yemen MOPHP to address the high risk of cVDPV2 expansion due to complex emergency settings, limited healthcare access, and vaccine misinformation. Its main goals are to maintain community momentum in detecting and reporting vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs), sustain progress from year 2 of the PVV project, and combat institutional barriers and vaccine hesitancy. Key activities include organizing 45 awareness meetings (30 meetings taking place in the northern governorates and 15 in southern governorates), engaging community influencers, and distributing informative booklets. Each meeting will be attended by around 21 participants including the identified community informants and influencers in the selected areas. The facilitators will be the PVV coordinators and AFP surveillance and EPI technical officers from the Directorate of Health. The project's success will be monitored based on the completion of these activities.

<b>Project Start and End Date</b>	<b>08/1/2023 – 07/31/2024</b>
<b>Funded by</b>	<b>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)</b>
<b>Collaborators</b>	<b>Ministry of Public Health (MoPH)</b>

### Currently . . .

To maintain the momentum of the community’s engagement in improving the detection and reporting of VPDs and sustaining the gains made in implementation of PVV project, GHD supported Yemen in implementation of 45 awareness meetings for the community influencers (one day each) in the selected high-risk districts. Thirty meetings in the north in one of the highest risk governorates (Al-Hodeida) and fifteen in the south in fourteen districts. The meetings were attended by the PVV coordinators, Community volunteers, community health care workers, schoolteachers & managers, local public figures, and influencers, religious leaders, and Imams . The main purpose of the sessions is to raise awareness about the importance of vaccination in preventing vaccine preventable diseases. Eventually the attendees to have a key role in improving community acceptance and demand for immunization as well as encouraging accountability for providing quality service in response to what communities’ demand,

### What is next . . .

The expected outcome is improving of community acceptance demand for immunization

## OUTCOMES BY NUMBERS

45 awareness meetings for the community informants and influencers were conducted in Yemen

Around 900 participants attended the awareness meetings.

**EMPHNET Information:** 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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