



Support immunization outreach activities in Egypt

Project Information

- ◆ Department: Public Health Program
- ◆ Unit: Polio & Immunization Department

OBJECTIVES

The project goal is to strengthen routine immunization (RI) Coverage and Fortify Children's Immunity by increasing access to routine vaccination services in hard-to-reach areas.

REGIONS OF WORK

The project will be implemented in the targeted Provinces, Districts, and HCUs including Aswan, Red Sea, Matrouh, New Valley, North Sinai, South Sinai, Sharkia, Ismailia, and Behira.

BENEFICIARIES

The targeted beneficiaries are childrens in hard-to-reach areas.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Egypt is at risk of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2), with the recent outbreak linked to Sudan highlighting vulnerabilities in population immunity. Despite no wild poliovirus cases since 2004, environmental samples indicate the presence of cVDPV2. The arrival of over 500,000 Sudanese refugees further elevates the risk of vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs). GHD will support Egypt MoHP technically and logistically to conduct 75 monthly outreach vaccination sessions across 48 districts in nine governorates (Aswan, Red Sea, Matrouh, New Valley, North Sinai, South Sinai, Sharkia, Ismailia, and Behira). Each session will involve a team of two vaccinators and one sanitarian, supervised by a health unit physician, to ensure comprehensive service delivery. To ensure effective implementation and quality control, nine central supervisors from the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) will carry out one three-day supervisory visit each month, while four supervisors in each governorate will perform monthly visits. Additionally, two district supervisors will conduct two supervisory visits per month in each district. To improve early detection and reporting of vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs) among non-Egyptians, particularly in Cairo and Giza, the project will organize two one-day workshops for 70 surveillance officers. Awareness campaigns will also be a critical component, with the production and distribution of printed materials to increase community acceptance and utilization of vaccination services. The campaigns will focus on raising awareness and addressing vaccine hesitancy, especially among non-Egyptian residents. These activities aim to strengthen routine immunization coverage, enhance disease surveillance, and promote vaccine awareness in hard-to-reach areas and among vulnerable populations, including displaced Sudanese persons and nomads.

PROJECT PHASES

This project involves two phases as follows:

Phase 1- Develop the concept note and conduct meetings with the relevant stakeholders.

Phase 3- Provide technical and logistical support for Egypt MoHP to implement the outreach activities.

Project Start and End Date	08/1/2023 – 07/31/2024
Funded by	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Collaborators	Ministries of Health and Population and World Health Organization

Currently . . .

Egypt faces a persistent threat of poliovirus resurgence despite having eradicated wild poliovirus in 2004. Recently, circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) linked to an outbreak in Sudan has been detected in environmental samples across the country, indicating potential transmission risks, especially among children. Although Egypt's routine immunization programs are generally robust, certain frontier governorates remain vulnerable due to security and demographic factors.

The ongoing conflict in Sudan has displaced 8.5 million people since April 2023, with over 500,000 seeking refuge in Egypt. These displaced populations, particularly children, are highly vulnerable to vaccine-preventable diseases due to disrupted health services in their home country. Additionally, the constant movement of nomadic groups complicates the maintenance of high immunization coverage and effective disease surveillance. Consequently, there are significant gaps in routine immunization in these high-risk areas, highlighting the urgent need for targeted outreach activities to prevent outbreaks and strengthen population immunity.

What's next . . .

The next steps which include Outreach Vaccination Services, Supervision and Monitoring and community awareness aim to enhance immunization coverage, improve disease surveillance, and promote vaccine awareness, reducing the incidence of vaccine-preventable diseases in Egypt.

By the Numbers

One 3-day supervisory visit each month

Vaccinate at least 90% of the targeted population in hard-to-reach areas.

75 monthly outreach vaccination sessions across 48 districts in nine governorates

GHD|EMPHNET Information: Global Health Development (GHD) and 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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