

Enhance EMR Countries Evidence-based Decision-making Processes for EPI Through Supporting Operational Research in Priority Areas

Project Information

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

SCOPE OF WORK

The main objective of this project is to address immunity gaps and build a knowledge base aimed at improving the national health system in general and the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) in particular while taking into consideration the current COVID-19 pandemic as well as the post pandemic phase.

BENEFICIARIES

The project's main beneficiaries are Researchers, Public Health Empowerment Program (PHEP), Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) graduates, and other public health professionals.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

GHD in collaboration with country Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) focal points, Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) country advisors and graduates, reviewed the EPI situation and use the EPI reports, reviewer findings, recommendations of different EPI meetings to plan for operational studies.

GHD will provide technical and logistical support to implement the selected operational studies in priority countries to map the gaps and coordinate recommended follow-up activities.

Project Start and End Date	October 1st, 2019 – April 30th, 2021
Funded by	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Collaborators	Ministries of health, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and national institutes in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR)

PROJECT PHASES

The project involves two main phases:

Phase I – Application: A call for proposal/application for EMR Operational Research Studies mini-grants opportunity was opened

Phase II – Selection: GHD and CDC technical review committee reviewed the received operational studies proposals scored them and hence, approved the support

Phase III – Providing technical and logistical support: Through contractual agreements with Principal Investigators of each study, GHD and CDC provided technical and logistical support to work closely together on the methodology as well as follow-up during implementation of the work and finally ensure dissemination of results

REGIONS OF WORK

This project is being implemented in targeted priority countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR): ended up with Pakistan, Somalia, and Sudan.



Currently . . .

Immunity gaps are one of the major challenges that are faced by the priority EMR countries' national health systems in general and the EPI in particular. Additionally, the implications of the current COVID-19 pandemic as well as the post pandemic phase on the immunity gaps.

These challenges need to be addressed in a more systematic approach of continuous training, mentoring and staff replacement plans.

What's next . . .

Under this project, technical and logistical support will be provided to implement the operational studies in priority countries. The studies will play a key role in identifying immunization gaps and needs towards achieving high coverage rates and coordinating recommended follow-up activities for improving routine immunization within the framework of globally identified priorities achieving the equitable immunization coverage.

OUTCOMES BY NUMBERS

2 calls for proposals for EMR Operational Research Studies mini-grants opportunity were opened

Total of **75** proposals were received from the EMR region

Total of **6** proposals were accepted

A total of **4** mini-grants/ studies supported

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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