

Continue Enhancing the Accessibility of Immunizations for Children under Five Years of Age and Livestock

Project Information

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

Objectives

Continue and expand outreach immunization sessions for children under five in nomadic populations.

Increase vaccination uptake and reduce the number of zero-dose children across targeted districts.

Strengthen routine immunization infrastructure and community-based data collection.

Conduct mothers' and elderly group sessions to raise awareness about vaccination and livestock health.

Integrate existing and new vaccination and livestock data into a centralized monitoring system.

Strengthen community engagement by maintaining collaboration with nomadic leaders.

BENEFICIARIES

Primary beneficiaries:

- Children under five in nomadic populations across 10 targeted districts.
- Zero-dose and defaulter children who were previously missed by routine immunization.

Secondary beneficiaries:

- Caregivers and families, through group education sessions.
- Community mobilizers, health workers, and project staff through training and supervision.
- Nomadic leaders and local authorities, through engagement and collaboration

REGIONS OF WORK

- Dollow, Bardheere, Luuq, Beledhaawa, Elwak (Gedo region, Jubaland)

Newly added districts (Year 5 expansion):

- Garbaharey (Gedo), Baledweyne (Hiraan), Baidoa (Bay), El-Barde (Bakool), Badhadhe (Lower Juba)

PROJECT PHASES

Phase 1- Human Resource Planning: EMPHNET will continue hiring a third party in Somalia (VCI) to implement the project activities along with consultant with experience in nomadic and cross-border population movement to coordinate and implement the following activities in the selected geographic scope.

Phase 2- Coordination: The implementing partner along with the consultant will conduct coordination meetings, with staff from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Livestock, WHO, UNICEF, IOM, FAO as well as other partners and local NGOs working in the targeted region.

Phase 3- Implementation: GHD will hire third party to conduct the project implementation activities under monitoring from EMPHNET and CDC.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

EMPHNET will continue supporting conducting a nomadic project in the Gedo region and for this year will expand to new 5 districts with the goal of improving public health interventions, specifically immunizations, among nomadic populations. GHD will hire implementing partner (IP) and hire a consultant to coordinate project activities with the IP. Key activities include documenting nomadic movements, validating nomadic sites, and preparing routine immunization training materials for community health volunteers, mobilizers, vaccinators, and health facility staff. The project will conduct continuous field data collection and vaccinations for children (polio and routine immunization) across five districts, integrating data into a centralized system. Other efforts include strengthening immunization through outreach sessions, mother-to-mother support groups, community dialogue sessions, IEC material distribution, elder orientation on disease surveillance, and on-the-job training for healthcare workers. This project aims to enhance the accessibility of immunizations for children under five years of age and support livestock surveillance in nomadic populations across selected districts of Somalia. Building on Years 1 and 2, the project addresses the challenges of low vaccination uptake, zero-dose children, and limited routine immunization infrastructure in nomadic communities, while integrating community engagement and data-driven monitoring.

Project Start and End Date	03/1/2024 – 07/31/2026
Funded by	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Collaborators	Ministry of Health and Human Services at the Federal Republic of Somalia and Visioning Corps Initiative VCI

Currently . . .

- 2023–2025 Achievements:
- 611 outreach sessions conducted across nine governorates.
- 9,694 children vaccinated (9,157 Egyptian, 537 non-Egyptian).
- Zero-dose children detected: 142; defaulters: 445.
- Health education sessions delivered: 528; attendees: 7,953.
- AFP and fever/rash surveillance improved in Cairo and Giza.
- Three districts transitioned to regular PHC coverage, reflecting behavior change.

What is next . . .

This project will contribute to enhancing the accessibility of public health interventions, particularly immunizations, to effectively reach and provide coverage for children under 5 years old and livestock belonging to nomadic populations. Additionally, this project will ensure a comprehensive coverage of all nomadic settlements in targeted districts by incorporating them into microplans, and documentation of nomadic movement routes to inform deployment of vaccination posts at key strategic points.

OUTCOMES BY NUMBERS



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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