

Support poliovirus immunity assessment in EMR priority countries

Project Information

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

Objectives

The activity aims to strengthen the capacity of EPI, surveillance, and polio outbreak response teams across the Eastern Mediterranean Region by improving coordination, data sharing, and response to polio, cVDPV, and other vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks. It focuses on building sustainable systems, developing country-specific plans and SOPs, and reinforcing regional collaboration to enhance preparedness, resilience, and alignment with global health strategies.

REGIONS OF WORK

EMR.

BENEFICIARIES

The beneficiaries of this activity include EPI and surveillance teams, outbreak response officers, and other public health stakeholders at central and peripheral levels in the priority countries. Strengthening coordination, data sharing, and response capacity among these stakeholders is expected to lead to more effective detection and control of polio, cVDPV, and other VPD outbreaks.

PROJECT PHASES

The project phases include the procurement and installation of laboratory equipment and consumables, training and mentoring of laboratory staff, and ongoing technical support and quality assurance. EMPHNET, in close coordination with CDC, will define the specific support needed and monitor implementation to ensure the activity achieves its intended objectives.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

EMPHNET in collaboration with CDC aims to capitalize on previous achievements and successful initiatives by providing technical and logistical support to priorities within the EMR. The primary objective of this activity is to enhance and sustain the capacity of EPI, surveillance, and polio outbreak response teams at both central and peripheral levels. A key focus of this activity is strengthening data sharing between stakeholders within priority countries, thereby improving the detection and response to polio, cVDPV, and other vaccine-preventable disease (VPD) outbreaks. These efforts will be supported by the regional network of FETP graduates to ensure sustainability and local ownership.

The activity will be implemented through the formation of a technical working group in Q1-Q3, which will prepare the training curriculum and develop case studies specifically addressing the gaps and needs of priority countries. In Q4, GHD plans to conduct a 5-day workshop targeting 30 participants from both priority and other countries. During the workshop, participants will develop or update country-specific plans or SOPs for improving information sharing among EPI, surveillance, and response stakeholders. The project will be monitored by tracking the number of participants trained and the number of plans or SOPs developed or revised in the targeted countries.

Project Start and End Date	08/1/2025 – 07/31/2026
Funded by	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Collaborators	Ministries of Health

Currently . . .

EMPHNET is coordinating with CDC to finalize the list of proposed activities, identify the priority countries, and agree on the approach for the technical working group. Preliminary planning for curriculum development and case study preparation is also underway.

What is next . . .

Include forming the technical working group, completing the curriculum and case studies, and conducting the 5-day workshop. Post-workshop activities will focus on the implementation of the country-specific plans and SOPs developed by participants, monitoring improvements in data sharing, and evaluating the impact on outbreak detection and response. This activity is designed to consolidate regional efforts, reinforce national ownership, and strengthen collaboration across EMR countries, contributing to global health initiatives such as the Global Health Security Agenda, CDC's Global Health Strategy, and Immunization Agenda 2030.

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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