



Global Health  
Development

# 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-based aimed at improving the national health system in general and Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) in particular and 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.

## 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.

<b>Project Start and End Date</b>	<b>October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 – August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021</b>
<b>Partner Organizations</b>	-
<b>Funded by</b>	<b>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).</b>
<b>Collaborators</b>	<b>Ministries of health, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and national institutes in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR).</b>



## 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 ensured dissemination of results.

## 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 is next . . .

Under this project, technical and logistical support was provided to implement the operational studies in priority countries. Studies played 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

Two Calls for Proposals for EMR Operational Research Studies mini-grants opportunity were opened.

- A total of 75 proposals were received from the EMR region.

- A total of 6 proposals were accepted.

A total of 4 mini-grants/ studies supported.

**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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