

Assess population immunity in EMR Country (TBD) using pseudovirus techniques

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.

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.

REGIONS OF WORK

TBD.

PROJECT PHASES

The project will include the following key phases:

1. **Country selection and assessment**
2. **Procurement and laboratory setup**
3. **Training and mentoring**
4. **Implementation and technical support**
5. **Quality assurance and knowledge sharing**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Building on the experience gained through the implementation of pseudovirus techniques in Jordan, EMPHNET, in close coordination with CDC and relevant national authorities, will support the implementation of a population immunity assessment in a selected EMR country.

The activity will adapt the approaches, tools, technical processes, and lessons learned from Jordan to the selected country context. Support will include assessment of existing capacity, procurement and installation of laboratory equipment and consumables, training and mentoring of laboratory personnel, and technical assistance throughout implementation.

The specific country, scope, and technical support requirements will be determined in consultation with CDC and relevant national stakeholders based on country needs and readiness.

Expected Outcomes

- Strengthened national laboratory capacity for pseudovirus-based testing.
- Trained laboratory and public health personnel able to implement and sustain the testing approach.
- Generation of population immunity data to inform polio and immunization programming.
- Strengthened quality assurance and laboratory systems.
- Lessons and best practices from Jordan adapted and applied in another EMR country.
- A scalable approach that can potentially be replicated in additional EMR countries.

Project Start and End Date	08/1/2026 – 07/31/2027
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.

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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