



SUCCESS STORY

USAID/PHCPI Supports MOH during Autumn Polio Campaign



USAID/PHCPI Mass Media Campaign Public Service Announcement for Child Vaccinations



Vaccinators go out to the local souk in Thi-Qar to vaccinate children under 5 for the Autumn Polio Campaign



Application of EVP as a pilot study during the campaign.

In March 2014, Iraq confirmed its first case of polio in more than a decade and in October, the Iraqi Ministry of Health (MOH) hosted the second round of its 2014 autumn National Polio Vaccination Campaign. It was held in all provinces across Iraq, including the Kurdistan Region. The campaign lasted for 5 days and was carried out by primary health care clinics (PHCCs) and field teams. The MOH and all Directorates of Health (DOHs) harnessed all of their capacities to implement the second round of the campaign. The MOH announced the campaign covered more than 5 million children under-five, including 450,000 children in Ninawa Province despite the difficult security situation.

USAID/PHCPI contributed greatly to the MOH's polio vaccination campaign efforts through the development and distribution of IEC materials, an Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) field manual, and through funding MOH TV polio awareness spots aired across Iraq. AFP is the most common sign of polio and is used as a surveillance indicator during polio outbreaks. PHCPI's manual is used by communicable disease surveillance staff, including the vaccinators and supervisors who were trained by the project, to assist primary health care workers to better diagnose, manage and report cases of AFP.

Additionally, PHCPI implemented an electronic vaccination record system (EVP), which is a paper-free method to collect child and vaccination team data during immunization campaigns that allows real time monitoring by the campaign leader, accurate collection of data, and geo tracking. Two sectors in Baghdad/Al Karkh, used the application as a pilot study during the campaign. PHCPI's pilot study in Al Karkh and during October's polio vaccination campaign contributed needed feedback that allowed for the improvement of the EVP System PHCPI developed for the MOH. As PHCPI further refines the system, it is assuring sustainability as well as successful implementation once the MOH conducts nation-wide rollout. Nationwide rollout will allow Iraq to utilize the tablet system for collection of real time data and geo tracking for efficient and streamlined immunizations as well as improved surveillance strategies available down to the clinic and community level.

The MOH called upon everyone to have their children vaccinated as soon as possible. Eleven thousand static and mobile teams implemented the campaign across Iraq and were supervised by 1,000 vaccinators and supervisors from the MOH.

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