



# Polio Transition Plan

Dr Ubah Farah Ahmed  
Director of Family Health Department

# Polio transition program

Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) has funded the global polio eradication program over three decades.

Somalia has eradicated Wild Polio Virus (WPV) in August 2014, but is affected by cVDPV2

However, as the world approaches global polio eradication, GPEI resources are progressively declining and will eventually be phased out.

Therefore, Somalia and other countries need to identify and develop alternate sources of funding to prepare for their transition away from the global polio program support (“polio transition”).

- 
- Somalia began transitional planning in 2018 and finalized the first draft transition plan in 2019; however, funding and operationalization of the plan were significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and protracted cVDPV outbreaks.

# Asset Mapping Exercise

---

2018 was conducted a joint exercise by GPEI partners WHO, UNICEF, Core group and FMOH to map all assets; human resources, physical assets, intangible assets, and functions held by each of the partners, in order to ensure that the investments made in the course of polio eradication are built on to benefit other health goals.

The polio assets in Somalia are mainly humanan reources, knowledge, planning and inforamtion mangement tools and surveillance systems.

## Communication

- Communicate to the government of the GPEI fun ramp down and need of transition

## Coordination

- Establish government led Coordination body
- Planning timeline and Overseas

## Mapping

- Mapping all asset of Polio

## Priorities

- Country health priorities,
- Maintaining a polio-free status, Strengthening Routine immunization and surveillance

## Strategy

- Developed a costed strategies for the most feasible transition option

## Roadmap

- Develop final transition plan, agree among partners including resource mobilization

# Human Resource

---

- Regional and District Polio team : 244
- Village Polio Volunteer (VPV) was established in order to strengthen AFP surveillance and support polio vaccination campaigns at village level: 448
- Transit Point Vaccinators (TPV): 220

# Regional team

---

- The position of the Regional Polio Eradication Officer will be transitioned to Regional Public Health Officer (RPHO) who will work as member of regional health team, responsible for planning, overseeing implementation and monitoring of public health related activities (including essential polio functions, strengthening EPI and supporting outbreak detection, surveillance and response to public health emergencies) in the assigned region.

# District team

---

- The position of District Polio Eradication Officer (RPEO) will be transitioned to District Public Health Officer (DPHO), working as member of District Health Management Team (DHMT). Similarly, the position will be responsible for planning, overseeing implementation and monitoring of public health related activities (including essential polio functions, strengthening EPI and supporting outbreak detection, surveillance and response to public health emergencies) in the assigned district.

# Transitioning AFP and EWARN Surveillance Systems

---

- The two existing surveillance systems (AFP surveillance and the Early warning Alert and Response Network) are not linked, and they operate parallel and almost independent of each other. Both WHO and Federal MoH have agreed, on the need to introduce IDSRS for Somalia and subsequently, transition the existing surveillance systems into IDSRS.

# Transition Process and Timelines

---

- To coordinate the process of transition, a series of meetings between WHO and MOH were held and the teams agreed to.
- Engage a third party for recruitment process of district and regional public health officers under the new TORs. The DPHOs and RPHOs under the new ToRs will be supporting and reporting to the MoH and WHO. They will be jointly managed (by WHO and MoH) for supervision and monitoring by end of 2023.
- During the whole period of 2022 and 2023, WHO will be supporting the financial aspect by reimbursement of salaries to DPHOs and RPHOs.
- At the beginning of year 2024 MoH will take responsibility of management, over all function and associated procedures, of district and regional public health officer together with their salary payment component and hence the transition will be considered as complete.



# Conclusion



## Objectives of Transition

- Maintaining a polio-free status in the country including stopping the transmission of circulating vaccine-derived polio virus (cVDPV) and preventing future outbreaks.
- Strengthening essential immunization services and system for vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Strengthening emergency preparedness, surveillance and response for national health security.
- Improving primary health care for universal health coverage especially in underserved areas

Thanks