

SEARO ERC Approval

Unique Proposal ID: 2025.12. Ind

Protocol Title: Estimation of Pentavalent-1 Coverage among Children 12-23 months of age in 143 Zero Dose Implementation Plan (ZIP) Districts in 11 States of India

Version: Dated 30 July 2025

WHO responsible office: World Health Organization, India Country Office

WHO responsible unit/department: National Polio Surveillance Project

Principal investigators: Dr Manoj Murhekar, ICMR, NIE Chennai

WHO responsible technical officer: Dr Samiuddin Mohammad, Monitoring & Evaluation Focal Person

WHO role in Research: Technical assistance

Dear: Dr Samiuddin Mohammad

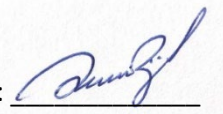
Thank you for submitting the above-referenced protocol to SEARO-ERC. The proposal went through an expedited review process. The title of the originally submitted proposal "Estimation of proportion of zero dose children and Full Immunization Coverage in the *routine immunization program in 143 GAVI Identified Zero Dose Implementation Plan (ZIP) districts of India*" changed to the current title listed above. Another study looking at behavioral and social predictors of zero-dose children was earlier approved for the same geographical area.

Decision on expedited review: The proposal is **approved** on expedited review by SEARO-ERC¹ with the following recommendations:

Although independent surveys are currently being conducted in 2024 to measure the social and behavior predictors of zero dose children and to assess the prevalence of zero-dose children in the same geographical areas, future rounds should consider integrating BSD indicators into the coverage surveys as this will not only reduce the costs but will lead to better research outcomes and more robust indicators.

This approval is valid for the entire duration of the study. The responsible technical officer for the research project shall submit the following documents to the Secretariat of SEARO-ERC on health research portal (<https://researchportal.searo.who.int>):

- Annual progress report (if the duration of the research is more than 1 year)
- Final scientific Report
- Any adverse reports
- Patient/participant feedback (if any).

Chairperson: 

Name: Dr Suman Rijal

Date: 01.08.2025

¹ Please note that SEARO-ERC approval does not constitute budget approval or approval for procurement matters which should be approved as per Delegation of Authority.