

**Dr. Salah Al Awaidy**

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Dr. Salah Al Awaidy is a medical doctor who holds a Master's in Epidemiology. His current position is Senior Consultant Epidemiologist and Communicable Disease Surveillance and Control Adviser at the Ministry of Health in Oman. He advises on the eradication, elimination, and control of communicable diseases of public health importance, in addition to the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI), vaccine supply chain system, and International Health Regulations.

At the national level in the MOH, Oman, he played a pivotal role in reducing national under-five mortality and morbidity. He contributed to preparedness, management, and control of infectious diseases such as SARS, avian influenza, pH1N1, and establishing national communicable disease surveillance, AEFI and Rotavirus surveillance, as well as eradicating Polio, Measles, Rubella, CRS, and leprosy in Oman. In addition, he played a fundamental role in reducing mortality and morbidity of vaccine-preventable diseases for pediatric, adolescent, and adult populations in Oman.

Under his leadership, Oman achieved Polio-free, Measles-free, Rubella-free, Dranculosis-free, and CRS-free status, neonatal tetanus elimination and control, and near-elimination of Hepatitis B and other VPDs like TB and Schistosomiasis. Oman received the first-ever certification that the Central Vaccine Store fulfilled all the criteria expected of WHO/UNICEF in 2003 and 2004. As a result, Oman has achieved and maintained almost 99% immunization coverage regionally and nationally. In June 2012, he was honored by the CDC as the highest-achieving person in Oman.