

Health Sector Working Group Meeting, Sept 2024

Minutes of Meeting

Date: 3rd October 2024

Place: UNHCR Amman Branch Office

Chaired by: Dr. Adam Khalifa-UNHCR

Attendees: UNHCR, WHO, USAID, UNFPA, UNICEF, RHAS, CVT, SAMS, Caritas Jordan, QC, IOM, IRC, IOCC, HI, Medair, IRJ, SCJ, HA, IOM, and AMR.

Agenda:

- Introduction and review of action points from the last HSWG meeting.
- WHO update.
- Operational update by UNHCR
- Sub-Working Groups update.
- Updates by the members of the HSWG
- A.O.B

1- **Introduction and review of action points**

- Introduction of attendance completed at the beginning of the meeting and previous action points reviewed as the following:
- **Action point:** Some of member still not submitting Q3 report on Activity info platform. The dead time till 20th of October. Jordan financial tracking system quarterly, and the Activity info reporting system on monthly basis.
- Welcoming to RHAS as a new co-chair for HSWG

2- **Operational Updates:**

WHO

- Jordan joins the Global Platform for Access to Childhood Cancer Medicines

The Global Platform for Access to Childhood Cancer Medicines was launched in 2021. The Government of Jordan, represented by the Ministry of Health (MoH), and World Health Organization (WHO) announced that Jordan has become the first Member State in the Eastern Mediterranean Region to join the Global Platform for Access to Childhood Cancer Medicines.

Jordan's membership will ensure an uninterrupted supply of quality-assured medicines for children with cancer, including refugees, free of cost for the next 5 years.

- Under the patronage of HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal, the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), launched Prevention and management of mental health conditions in Jordan: the case for investment, marking the start of a new phase in supporting mental health.

The investment case study, which was led by the Ministry of Health in close collaboration with WHO, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Jordan and the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (UNIATF), highlights the urgent need for increased investment in mental health.

Jordan is one of nine countries implementing the Special Initiative, the goal of which is to expand the coverage of mental health services and facilitate access to them.

- Jordan becomes first country to receive WHO verification for eliminating leprosy. The World Health Organization (WHO) congratulates the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for becoming the first country in the world to be officially verified as having eliminated leprosy. This significant milestone marks a new era in global public health efforts. Jordan has not reported any autochthonous cases of leprosy for over two decades.

- Mpox in Jordan and Around the World.
Current Situation. On 2nd September 2024, MOH Jordan notified WHO of the new Mpox Case reported in Jordan. Non-Jordanian resident, 33-year-old male, and currently in isolation in Al-Bashir hospitals and his condition was stable.
Contact tracing: Tested negative for all the contacts.
Diagnosis: The case diagnosed by PCR test in the laboratories of the MOH.
MOH requested WHO support with genomic sequencing and clade identification for this case.

- Polio campaign in Gaza.
First round of an emergency vaccination campaign conducted in three phases from 1-12 September 2024 in the Gaza Strip. Around 560 000 children under ten years old were vaccinated against polio during the 12-day campaign provided novel oral polio vaccine type 2 (nOPV2), A second round of the campaign will follow, ideally within four weeks, to provide a second dose of nOPV2 to children in Gaza.

UNHCR

- Lebanese situation overview, due to Israel air strike, Lebanese MOH announced that from 23rd of September nearly 600 people have been killed, and over 1850 people have been injured. Almost over 1 million displaced people, internally and cross borders displacement around 130,000 people. Syria and Iraq opened the borders for Lebanese displaced people, UNHCR Syria office following the situation but still no registration for the displaced people.
- Still the Lebanese situation discussion on low profile, JOSH will conduct urgent meeting to discuss the contingency plan preparedness. And the situation will be under the Jordanian government lead and follow-up. The decision will be left to the head of agencies.

- Public Health Unit is working closely with the insurance department of MOH to issue the second version of the Policy Manual for frontline staff of ministry of health on how to deal with refugees. The first series of workshops were focusing more on hospitals, however, HAUS survey

showed that the per cent of refugees possessing white card is low. Therefore, we decided to conduct field visits to Primary health care centers. we visited 7 primary health care centers (with Hakeem and without Hakeem), in order to understand how refugees are treated at primary health care level. We found out there are barriers for access on the prerequisites to issue the white card and the required documentation. so, we decided to include a section on the administrative and financial procedure on dealing with refugees. The aim is to issue the second version by the end of Oct and to conduct training workshops for frontline staff in primary health care centers in areas highly populated with refugees.

- PHU working with Protection unit to updates the SOPs for response to the suicidal threats and referral pathway and working to creating key messages about legal aspects of suicide then to be spread between refugees.

Zaatari & Azraq camp:

- Business as usual, no pressing updates

UNFPA:

- On 23rd of September, MOH launched the annual report on maternal deaths for 2022, the report accessible on the MOH website. (it's involved all maternal deaths Jordanian and non-Jordanian).
- SRH-SWG conducted a designated workshop on family planning, supported by UNFPA & HPC, the Dead Sea, discussed the family planning uptake, and unmet needs. For Jordanian women and Syrian refugees' women. And the methods to increase the uptake and prevent the unintended pregnancies special between Syrian refugees.
- The Referral protocol supposed to be ready by the end of the year.
- UNFPA & JHASi still working with MOH for the licensing the SRH clinic in the Zaatari camp and will check for all available options.
- SRH meeting decided to be on a thematic context, the next meeting will launch the results of the woman friendly accreditation system, to support the quality of women and child health services. till today around 70 accredited centers, and will continue working to reach 150 centers, involve MOH centers, IFH, JHASi, and Caritas

AMR:

- **The Maternal and Child Health Center and Radiology** services continue to provide dental and radiological services until the end of October 2024. AMR is in discussion currently with protentional donor to reoperate the center in full services as like it was in past work.
- **Hope Center for Health Promotion:** The center remains committed to offering full-time services in physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, and psychological support. To enhance efficiency and better serve refugees, the center is working on expediting patient discharges while maintaining high service standards. Additionally, a therapeutic garden is being developed to expand treatment options, which includes land preparation and the installation of an irrigation system by greywater treatment system that was put it in function now. The trees for

this garden are being provided by the FAO Nursery Project. In collaboration with Oxfam, a gray water irrigation system is installed to recycle wastewater for garden use, promoting sustainability and reducing water waste.

- **QC/AMR Center:** The center continues to offer comprehensive healthcare services, including primary care and specialized medical consultations. It features a range of specialty clinics, ensuring refugees have access to specialized care in fields such as ophthalmology, orthopedics, internal medicine, cardiology, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, general medicine, vaccination services, dental care, laboratory services, pharmacy, and emergency medical services.
- **AMR Services in Azraq Camp:** AMR remains the sole provider of Primary Health Care (PHC) services in Azraq camp through various facilities including the Comprehensive Open Area Center serving V3 and V6, the V5 PHC, and the Jassim Medical Center serving V2 with PHC.
- AMR raised concerns about the lack of family planning tools in all of its primary health care facilities operating in the camps and requested that UNFPA include them as partners to receive these tools for integration into our SRH services, while the issue with the delay in obtaining these tools through the MOH is being addressed. In the meantime, AMR will refer beneficiaries to other partners who have these tools available through UNFPA, fully aware of the risk that some beneficiaries may not follow up on these referrals instead of having the tools readily available at their usual appointments.
- **Medical Services in urban Areas:** AMR continues to deliver medical services in Urban areas via its medical center in Irbid and a mobile clinic. Additional 5 PHCs expected starting to provide their service within 2 weeks after finishing their license.
 - o The 5 PHCs are: 1, in Balqa governorate Ein Albasha, 2, in Zarqa Wadi El Hajar, 1, in Amman Elasemah, 1, in Irbid.

Action point:

- Follow-up for the family planning supply from MOH to the AMR clinic in Zaatari camp.

USAID:

- USAID have a new project (not clear)
- Management and leadership training with collaboration with WHO second module, targeting the primary health care centers manager.
- The telehealth initiative, RMNCH services, finalized the protocol for the PNC & ANC with MOH, and going to initiate a training targeting 30 staff in Zarqa hospitals, planned to start mild of October.
- Azraq health center under renovation now, the maternal and child health services under renovation they are working from a caravan outside. It can be finalized during October.

Qatar Charity

- The update for the planned project for hemodialysis cases, still we have some administrative pending issue, expected to start by the end of October.

IOM:

- Middle east response working on the HIV and TB, the last cycle end by 2024, and starting the planning face for the next period from 2025 to 2027.
- The activities will continue in the same way.

IRC:

- IRC with MOH working to provide medical equipment's and supplies, for 10 PHC centers 6 in Mafraq and 4 in Ramtha, and coordinate with MOH in those centers if their ant gaps in heart backage, especially between doctors and nurses, trained 19 staff, and trained 6 staff in Zaatari camp for the partners working on NCD programs.
- We provide 10313 consultations to 1100 NCD patients, through private and governmental hospitals, through CFH project for NCD.
- A new Cash for NCD project in Irbid, the NCD patients will be referred to the PHC centers and will collect feedback from the beneficiaries who benefits from the service. NCD cohort revised every three months.
- A study conducted for the patients experience and intermediate health outcome, and the impact of the services on the health status of NCD beneficiaries.

HI:

- will support MoH in facilitation the National Rehabilitation Platform on 16th Oct
- Hi supports establishing rehab departments on PHC kofor Asad, Madaba, and Al badeh al shmalieh
- Support MoH in creating Assistive Technology provision protocol

CVT:

- We have just discussed the suicide and the criminalization in Jordan.
- Multiple activities planned from IMC, TDH and MSF for the World mental health day, and recently they disseminated a survey to assess the adolescent and children mental health societies in Jordan, the survey link will be shared.
- Started to report for the Government in the platform called (TAKAMUL), but still there are some limitations for Jordanian banks.
- CVT called for consultation from some NGOs to know the gaps and needs for the planning processes.

SAMS:

- Rehabilitation services started to be provided in Al Hashmi Shamali, and Wadi-Essair
- At 19th of October will conduct a medical mission will involve 43 doctors, 53 surgeries include Dental, Ophthalmic, Cardiology, ENT, Endoscopy, Gynecology and Neurology.
- Glucocheck distribution will be started at next period during October.
- They started the new clinic in Zaatari camp for Ophthalmology.

Medair:

- Starting planning for 2025 activities, will continue the same activities, CFH and community health activities.
- Social behavioral change activities will be through implementing partner (Islamic charity, RHAS, and IFH)
- Research conducted with EMPHNET titled (Digital land scape of NCD management in Jordan exploring the accessibility, availability, resources, barriers, challenges, and advantages)

HI:

- Working closely with MOH initiated a platform for rehabilitation for the people with disability, through national rehabilitation platform, with the partners working with disability persons, to provide assistive devices or counselling.
- Training for the MHPSS services providers in the MOH to provide counselling psychosocial support for the people with disabilities through first center in Al Basheer hospital.

HA:

- A new center will provide physiotherapy During October in Zaatari camp. There will be 2 specialists and physiotherapy technicians.

UNICEF:

- Regarding school health program, UNICEF Still working on the immunization program inside the camp with coordination with MOE. But no guarantee on the school health-nutrition program.

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