



EMPHNET
The Eastern Mediterranean
Public Health Network

WOMEN AND CHILD HEALTH

► GHD | EMPHNET: working
together for better health



OUR APPROACH



Adopting a Holistic Approach

Supporting health systems strengthening (HSS) to ensure **sustainable health services for all groups**, including women and children with a focus on workforce capacity building and provision of technical assistance



Maintaining a Focus on Needs

Supporting **needs-based approaches, projects, and interventions**, to enhance data management, service accessibility and uptake, and health promotion



Implementing Community Informed Interventions

Adopting **participatory approaches** to ensure integration of the gender perspective into planning and effective implementation



Fostering Innovation

Using **technology and other innovative approaches** to optimize resource utilization and ensure the delivery of services at the PHC level, while adapting new scientific approaches to interventions within local and national contexts



Utilizing Evidence and Data

Generating and utilizing **robust, relevant research evidence** to inform the development of effective policies, practices, and advocacy efforts focused on women's, children's, and adolescents' health



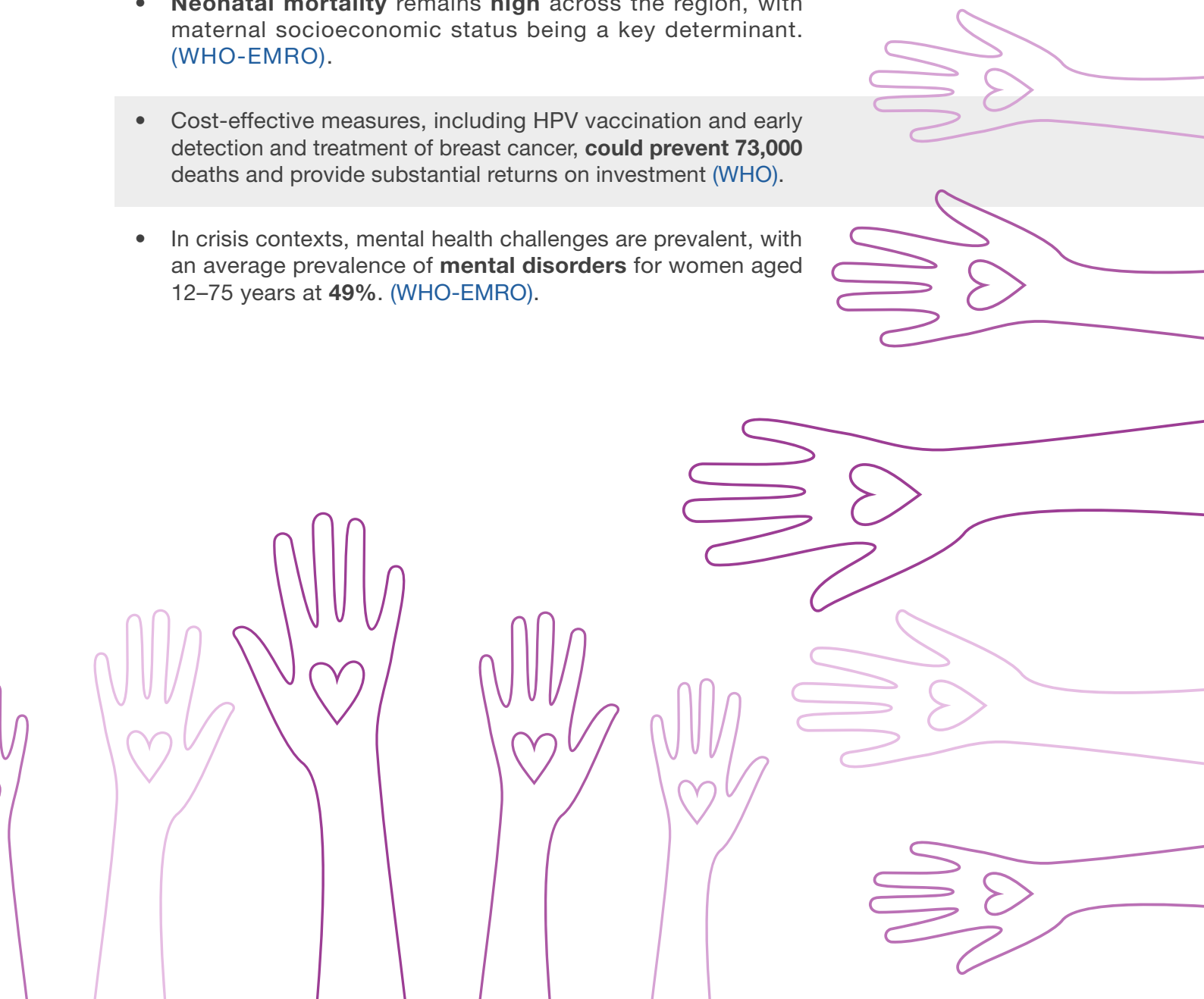
Considering Emergency Contexts

Ensuring accessibility and quality of health services for women and children in **fragile settings**



WHY EMPHNET IS INVOLVED

- **SDG 3** targets aim, by 2030, to reduce maternal mortality to under 70 per 100,000 live births and ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning, education, and integration into national strategies.
- **72%** of the 16 million people in need of healthcare in the Eastern Mediterranean Region are women and children ([WHO-EMRO](#)).
- As of March 15, 2024, **maternal mortality rates** were as **high** as 692, 638, and 140 per 100,000 live births in Somalia, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, respectively ([WHO-EMRO](#)).
- **Neonatal mortality** remains **high** across the region, with maternal socioeconomic status being a key determinant. ([WHO-EMRO](#)).
- Cost-effective measures, including HPV vaccination and early detection and treatment of breast cancer, **could prevent 73,000** deaths and provide substantial returns on investment ([WHO](#)).
- In crisis contexts, mental health challenges are prevalent, with an average prevalence of **mental disorders** for women aged 12–75 years at **49%**. ([WHO-EMRO](#)).





ENHANCING PRIMARY HEALTHCARE FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Developed a roadmap for modernizing Primary Healthcare Services (PHC) services by introducing the innovative Family Health Teams (FHT) approach to meet the evolving health needs of Jordanians as well as the refugee population in Jordan. The roadmap included the framework, strategies, tools, materials, and necessary arrangements to introduce the FHT approach and reach the standards of care suggested by the family health model.

Launched the **Restrengthening Primary Health Care-EMPHNET Roadmap** through the adoption of FHT as a team-based model of PHC care to offer community health services based on PHC modern values.

Partners: Ministry of Health

Country: Jordan

Year: 2021-2024

Supported the Family Community Medicine Teams (FCMT) project in Jordan by mapping and identifying gaps in the existing information and education and communication materials to better respond to the needs and expectations of patients in vulnerable and marginalized populations.

Developed training packages for all stakeholders and workers in FCMT and trained **30** trainers, **100** health professionals, and **200** community workers in Irbid and Mafrqa governorates.

Based on the FCMT project, the Jordan Ministry of Health UNICEF developed the **Primary Health Care Guidelines for Health Centers** to improve access to these services, enhance their quality, and encourage greater use by all citizens and residents of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, regardless of their nationality.

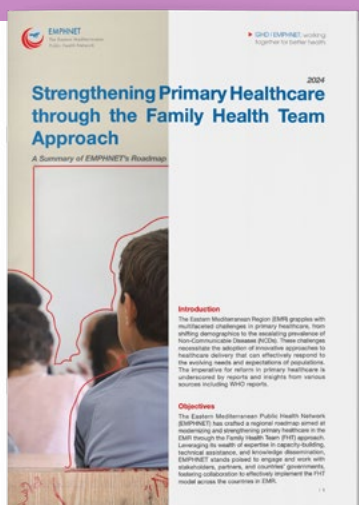
Partners: Ministry of Health, UNICEF

Country: Jordan

Year: 2018-2020

Read the Restrengthening Primary Health Care-EMPHNET Roadmap

<https://bit.ly/4cVNxXn>



- Define the burden of diseases
- Assessment of the service availability, readiness, quality and utilization



Development of the comprehensive service package



Establish FHT members and define their roles and responsibilities



Develop a competency framework



Develop a national training program

Figure 1: Preparatory Phases to Establish FHTs in line with EMPHNET's Roadmap

STRENGTHENING SURVEILLANCE AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Developed and rolled out a computerized harmonized, digital Reproductive Health Registry (hRHR) in 19 health facilities in Mafraq. The registry digitizes existing mother and child health-care files and is synchronized and interoperable with the Ministry of Health's information system. The system also includes a non-computerized hRHR to allow for broader reach.

The hRHR significantly improved continuity of care, confidentiality and easy retrieval of their health data, as shown in an independent evaluation which also noted that the hRHR system can be scalable to offer a transformative opportunity for nationwide implementation.

Partners: Ministry of Health, IDRC Canada, Electronic Health Solutions (EHS) - Hakeem

Country: Jordan

Location 18 health centers in Mafraq

Year: 2017-2021

Supported the **Jordan Maternal Mortality Surveillance and Response (JMMSR)**

System aims to eliminate preventable maternal deaths by using maternal death data to guide public health actions and improve access to quality care, with five annual reports released to identify areas for improvement and prevent future deaths.

Partners: Ministry of Health, USAID, Abt Associates

Country: Jordan

Year: 2016-2021

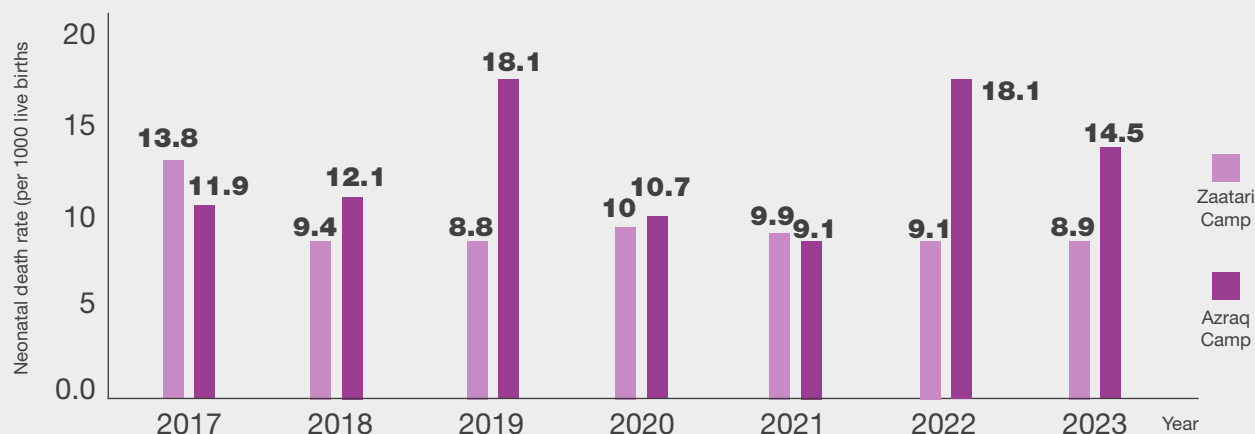
Auditing neonatal deaths among Syrian refugees to identify avoidable factors and providing actionable recommendations for improving neonatal care in refugee camps.

Partners: UNHCR, Ministry of Health, Bluemont International Inc.

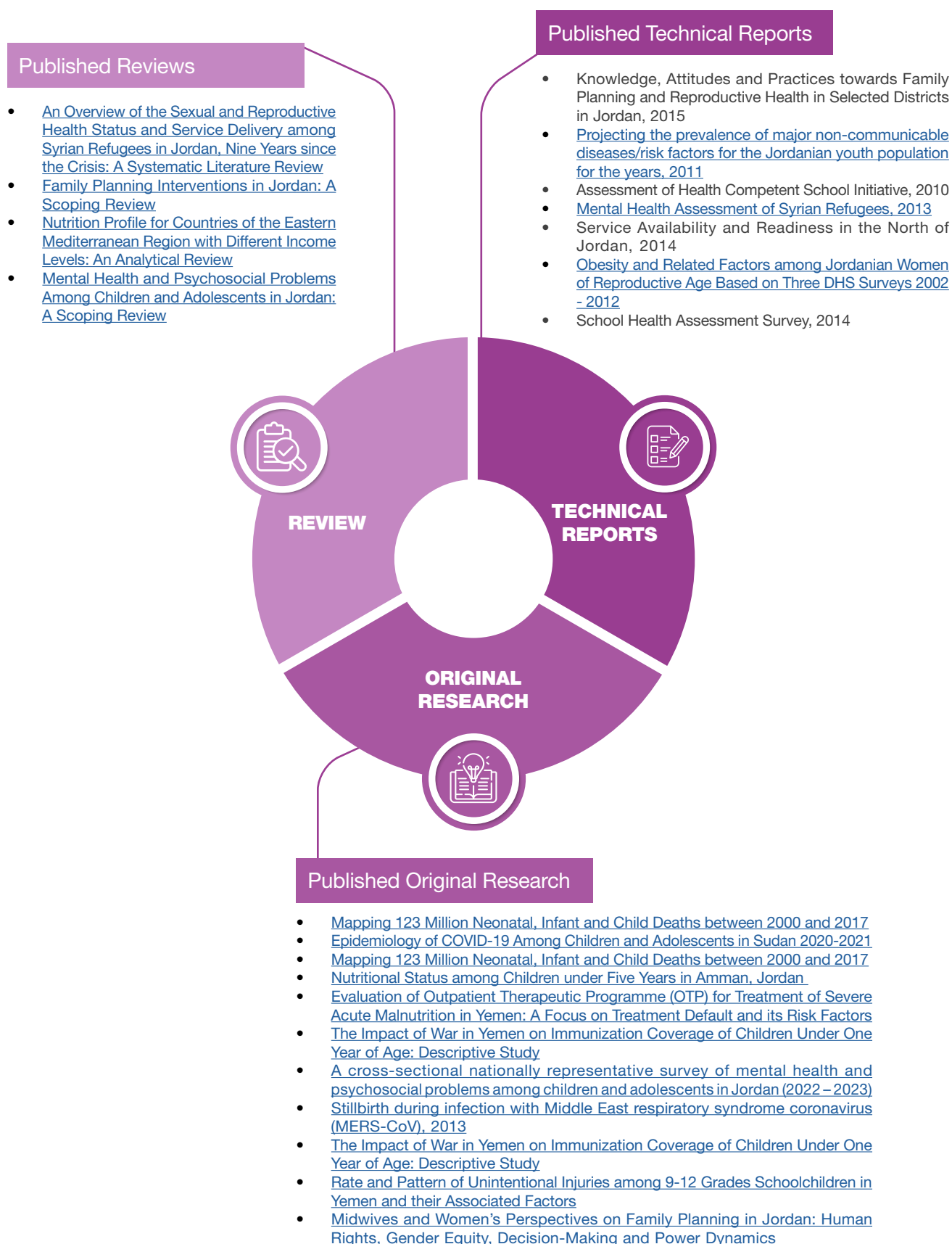
Country: Jordan

Year: 2017-Present

Figure 2: Neonatal Mortality Rate Per 1000 live births in Zaatari and Azraq Camps, 2017-2023



EMPHNET HAS GENERATED ROBUST EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION AND DECISION-MAKING THROUGH A VARIETY OF RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES.





EMPOWERING WOMEN'S ENGAGEMENT IN SERVICE DESIGN, DELIVERY, AND UTILIZATION



Developed, translated, and adapted a low-intensity psychosocial intervention to improve sexual and reproductive health services for adolescent girls and young women in refugee communities through the SEEK Trial, guided by community-based participatory research principles.

Partners: WHO, Ministry of Health, American University of Beirut, Ankara University

Country: Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey

Year: 2018-2020

Supported qualitative research on community views of family planning accessibility for Syrian refugees and vulnerable host communities, as detailed in the paper [Midwives and Women's Perspectives on Family Planning in Jordan: Human Rights, Gender Equity, Decision-Making, and Power Dynamics](#).

Partners: Ministry of Health, Jordan; American University of Beirut; and Jordan University of Science and Technology

Country: Lebanon and Jordan

Year: 2019-2022

INFORMING INTERVENTIONS

CO-IMPLEMENTING INTERVENTIONS

Launched the Public Health Empowerment Program for Nutrition Officers (PHEP-Nutrition) with the co-design and co-implementation of nutrition officers working at various levels of the health system in Sudan. This initiative aimed to enhance participants' skills and knowledge, thereby improving their contributions to nutrition and other maternal and child health (MCH) interventions in the country.

Partners: Federal Ministry of Health

Country: Sudan

Year: 2019-2020

Undertook a project to consolidate community engagement to enhance vaccination acceptance in high-risk districts in Pakistan. Efforts focused on addressing gender-based disparities by empowering women as advocates for vaccination (10).

Involving Lady Health Workers in **50** advocacy sessions with community leaders and influencers to address misinformation regarding vaccines and worked to build trust within the community.

Partners: (international party), Ministry of Health

Country: Pakistan

Year: 2018-2020

Trained vaccinators in interpersonal communication skills to address accessibility barriers and enhance community trust in Afghanistan where female vaccinators have been engaged.

Partners: USCDC, Ministry of Health

Country: Afghanistan

Year: 2018-2020

Introduced community engagement to distribute Ivermectin for onchocerciasis elimination in Yemen **1,000** trained female volunteers and who visited **193,586** households.

Partners: END Fund, Ministry of Health and Population

Country: Yemen

Year: 2018-2020

Engaged community members in awareness activities and disease reporting who facilitated the outreach to **10,344** individuals among the nomadic populations in the Gedo region of Somalia.

Partners: Ministry of Health and Human Services at the Federal Republic of Somalia, USCDC, and Visioning Corps Initiative VCI

Country: Somalia

Year:

ACCELERATING HEALTH PROMOTION

Engaged **70+** participants, including representatives from local NGOs, CSOs, and the local media, to develop evidence-based recommendations and strategies launched a comprehensive awareness and prevention campaign against cervical cancer.

Cervical Cancer Awareness Session Campaign



1000 medical students attended



Medical students engaged 5000+ viewers on social media

Partners: MSD Merck, Ministry of Health

Country: Jordan

Year: 2022-2024



EMPHNET established a network of about **300** volunteers who are/have been trained in various health-related fields, including health promotion, service delivery, and mental health counseling.



Support provided by these volunteers included health awareness, community mobilization, vaccination post campaign monitoring, malnutrition screening and treatment, and counseling on breastfeeding.

Partners: The Health Cluster in Gaza

Country: Palestine

Year: 2024-2025

Worked to scale up Integrated School Health (ISH) **scaling Up Integrated School Health (ISH)** in government schools and Makani informal education centers in Syrian Refugee Camps in Jordan.



Building the capacities of staff from the MoH and the MoE as well as outreach teams from NGOs and CBOs in the areas of providing quality school health services and managing the school health program.



32 health education training workshops for Makani facilitators and **50** for the school teachers on critical health messages to Syrian refugee children and youth. The workshops covered a range of health education topics.



80% of school teachers trained from **41** schools.



326 facilitators were trained, the majority of whom were Syrian volunteers.



~12,500 students received the health messages through health education awareness materials, communication with the parents, and health campaigns in its first phase.

Partners: Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, UNICEF, and civil society organizations active in Syrian refugee response in Jordan

Country: Jordan

Year: 2016-2017



USING INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO SCALE UP SERVICE DESIGN AND DELIVERY

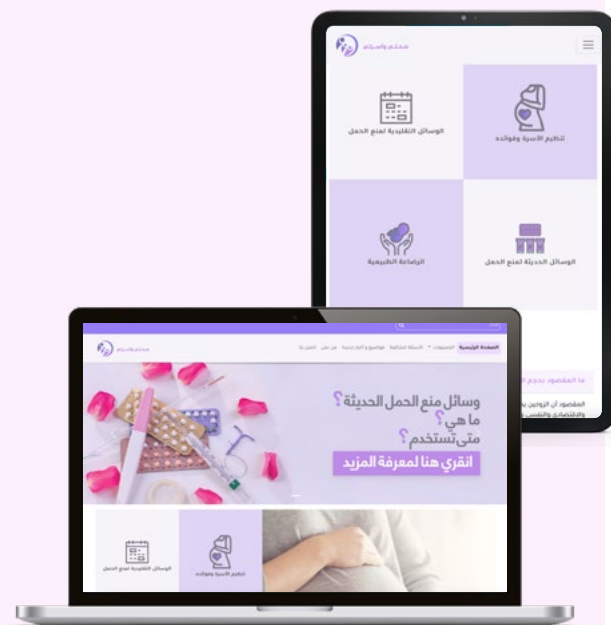
To support the Integrated School Health (ISH) Project in Jordan in service of Syrian Refugee communities, EMPHNET developed the **Digital ISH Data Management System** for the digitalization of student's health records for students of refugee communities in Zaatari, Azraq, and Cyber camps. The data management system centralizes the collection, storage, and analysis of student health data, supporting strategic planning and policy development. It features a web-based platform with an Android version for offline data entry, recording comprehensive student health information and service results, reflecting paper-based health card fields.

Partners: Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, UNICEF, and civil society organizations active in Syrian refugee response in Jordan

Country: Jordan

Year: 2016-2017

Using a participatory approach, EMPHNET supported the **digitalization process** to enhance the accessibility of family planning services for Syrian refugees and vulnerable host communities through a dedicated website and corresponding mobile application



Partners: Ministry of Health, Jordan, and Jordan University of Science and Technology

Country: Lebanon and Jordan

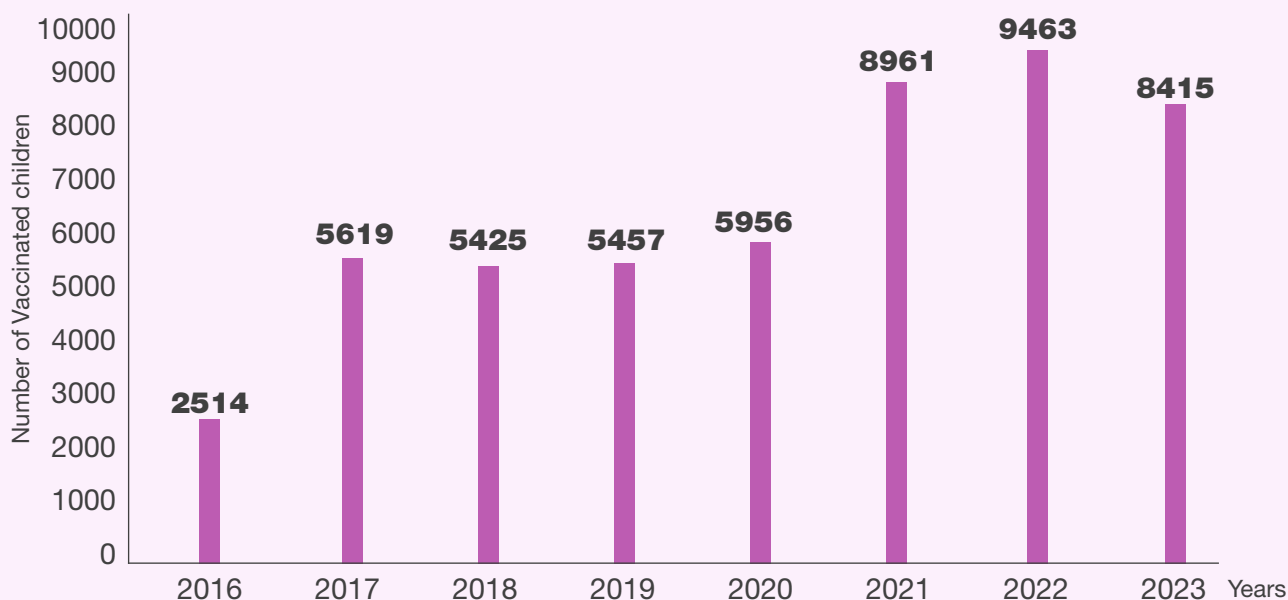
Year: 2019-2022



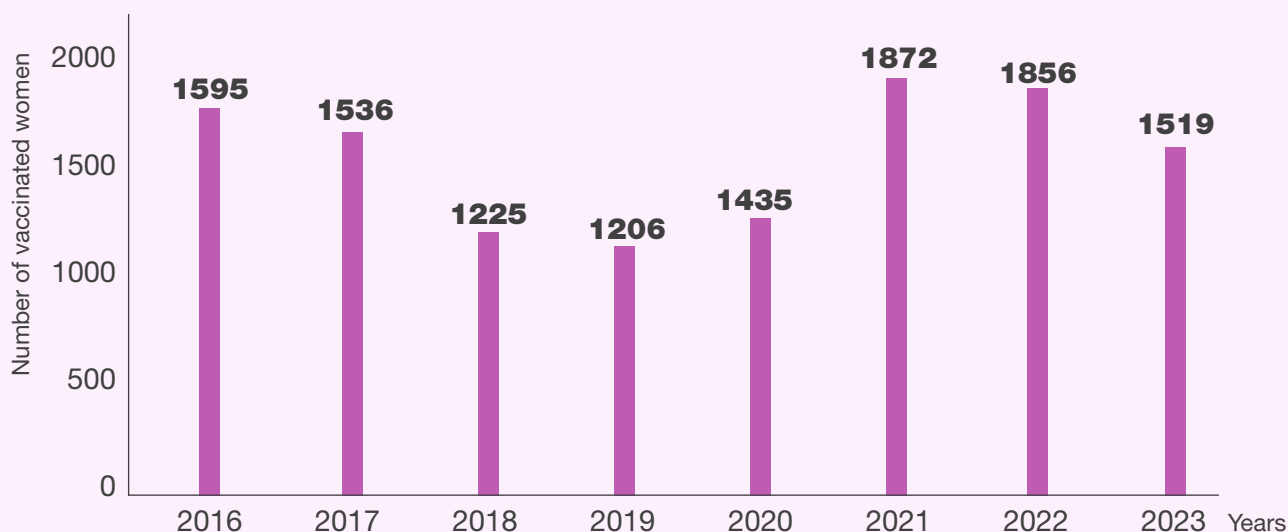


WOMEN AND CHILD HEALTH IN FRAGILE SITUATIONS

CHILDREN VACCINATED AT THE EMPHNET CENTER IN ZAATARI CAMP 2016-2023



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31,000 individuals reached through awareness sessions on Sexual, Reproductive, Maternal, and Newborn Health (SRMNH).



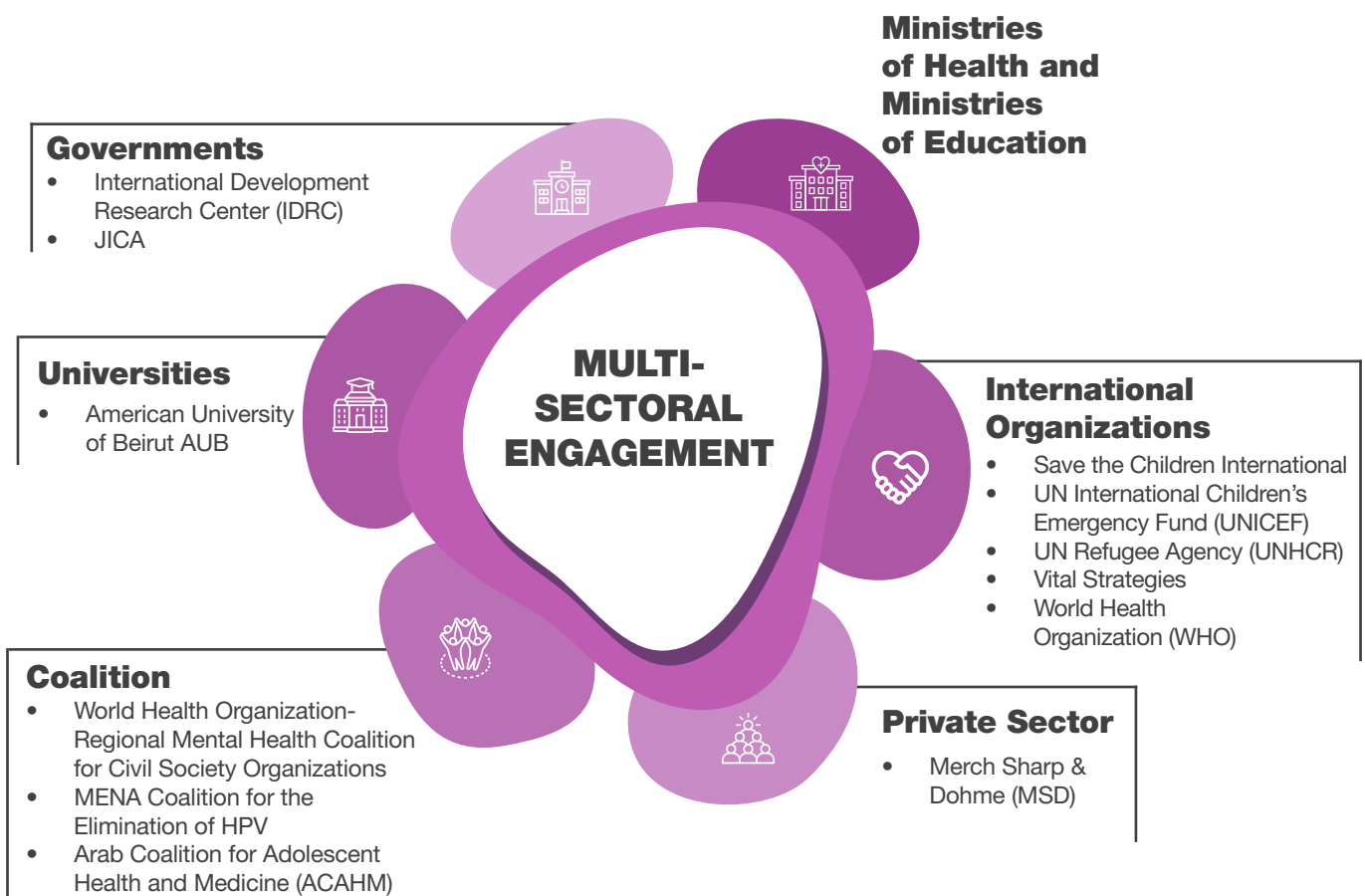
25,500 individuals reached through awareness sessions on Gender-Based Violence (GBV).



GENDER EQUITY AT THE WORKPLACE: EMPHNET LEADING BY EXAMPLE



Considering gender balance , with women comprising a significant 25:52 ratio of our total employees	Advancing women's leadership in programs and departments , particularly as senior management team members and leaders of the Board of Directors of the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP)	Providing free annual breast cancer screening for our female employees
Dedicated to the well-being of our female staff through tailored health promotion activities	Our Care Cancer Program provides specialized support for children of female employees and their husbands	Offering extensive health insurance coverage for mothers and their children



EMPHNET collaborates with multiple sectors, including the private sector, universities, relief organizations, UN agencies, and more, to deliver effective interventions in maternal and child health initiatives.