

The Family Health Team Approach for Modernizing Primary Health Care Services in Jordan

Project Information

- ◆ Department: Center of Excellence for Applied Epidemiology
- ◆ Unit: Research and Policy

SCOPE OF WORK

The Family Health Teams (FHTs) is an innovative approach that aims to improve access to quality Primary Health Care (PHC) services and reduce out-of-pocket expenditure on health for the vulnerable populations including refugees. This project aimed to develop the health reforms package that includes the framework, strategies, tools, materials, and necessary arrangements to introduce the FHT approach and improve and modernize the PHC services into a comprehensive, efficient, people-centered primary care system.

AREA OF WORK

This project has contextualized FHT Model for the PHC system in Jordan.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The “Family Health Team Approach for Modernizing Primary Health Care Services in Jordan” was implemented over two years that aimed to strengthen the health system's capacity to manage a comprehensive package of PHC. In collaboration with MoH, EMPHNET led this project to develop a roadmap for modernizing PHC services by introducing FHT approach to meet the evolving health needs of Jordanians as well as refugee population in Jordan. A comprehensive assessment was conducted to identify gaps, opportunities, and synergies with the ongoing programs and plans for expansion of FHT focusing on human resources, skills, and training needed to develop an enhanced and more comprehensive FHT approach. Based on the assessment, the health reforms package was developed and 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.

BENEFICIARIES

The Ministry of Health (MOH): Family Health Physicians (FHP) and other staff including nurses, nurse aids, nutritionists, therapists in Jordan.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The project included the following activities:

- Identify all relevant key stakeholders.
- Identify the gaps and opportunities
- Review and evaluate all existing human resources and FHT training initiatives and make recommendations.
- Evaluating the existing primary care model in Jordan to determine the scope of outreach and community engagement training needed for a true FHM.
- Provide evidence-based recommendations for improving existing protocols, guidelines, and roles of FHTs

Project Start and End Date	December 28, 2021 – December 31, 2023
Partner Organizations	Jordan Ministry of Health (MOH)
Funded by	Jordan Ministry of Health (MOH)

Currently . . .

The distribution of the health workforce is concentrated in the central region of Jordan, with geographical differences in the distribution of health staff among the governorates of the Kingdom, especially physicians. There are also imbalances in the distribution of health personnel between the various health sectors and between the levels of primary and secondary health care and between the different governorates. Continuing education programs are not offered on a regular and mandatory basis but offered on a voluntary basis by the educational institutions, hospitals, and professional associations or carried out by individuals themselves.

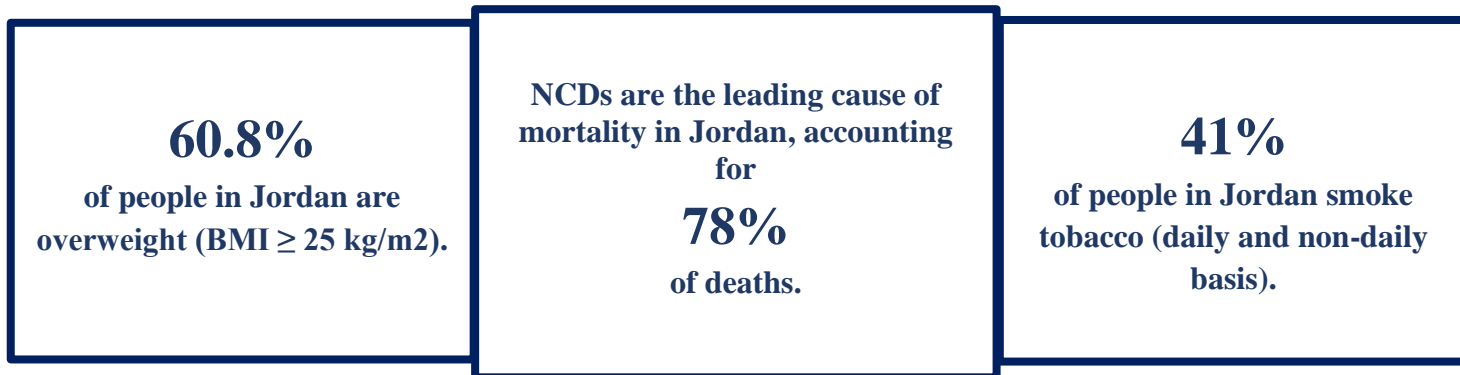
Moreover, the health system in Jordan is facing severe financial and service provision challenges, including the epidemiological transition in the health needs of the Jordanian population, high burden of non-communicable diseases and underutilization of the PHC centers. COVID-19 pandemic has further worsened the situation especially among vulnerable groups including households in extreme poverty, the elderly persons, those with chronic health conditions, persons with disabilities, and refugees.

What's next . . .

EMPHNET introduced the innovative approach of FHM that aims to improve access to quality PHC services and reduce out-of-pocket expenditure on health for the vulnerable populations including refugees. The idea built on what has been done before in Jordan and used national and international good practices (relevant to the Jordanian health sector) to identify key gaps and opportunities to strengthen necessary skills and expand number or coverage of FHTs including the FHP and other staff (nurses, nurse aids, nutritionists, therapists, etc.). This project provided key inputs for the MOH to achieve these objectives.

The project strategy was centered around country's need for a strong PHC system which is the key for improving the health of all community members and reducing health inequalities between different groups, using a multi-pronged approach.

BY THE NUMBERS



EMPHNET Information: Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET) works at achieving its mission by responding to public health needs with deliberate efforts that allow for health promotion and disease prevention.

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