Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Assessment among Palestine Refugee Students in UNRWA Schools in Jordan

Project Information

- **Department: CEAE**
- **Unit: Research and Policy**

OBJECTIVES

This project aims to generate robust, up-to-date, and disaggregated evidence on the mental health and psychosocial status of Palestine refugee students enrolled in UNRWA schools in Jordan to inform evidence-based planning, targeting of MHPSS interventions, resource allocation, advocacy, partnerships, and improved educational and well-being outcomes.

TARGET POPULATION

Palestine refugee students enrolled in UNRWA schools in Jordan (aged 6–16), as well as teachers, school counsellors, and caregivers.

REGIONS OF WORK

UNRWA schools in Jordan, with representative sample sizes across the 4 UNRWA Areas (South Amman, North Amman, Irbid, and Zarqa), covering both camp (urban) and non-camp settings.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION & PHASES

The assessment uses a sequential mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative data across four phases.

1. **Inception Phase:** This stage includes study design, protocols, sampling, ethics and safeguarding, data management, and implementation planning.

2. **Qualitative Assessment:** This stage includes approximately 48 focus group discussions across 16 selected schools with students of different age groups, caregivers, and teachers, complemented by four additional area-based focus groups with school counsellors. Findings will be analyzed and used to refine and pilot the quantitative study protocol and data-collection tools.

3. **Quantitative Assessment:** This stage includes a school-based survey targeting approximately 6,000 students aged 6–16 across 80 selected UNRWA school units, complemented by caregiver and teacher instruments, counsellor data, school-characteristics information, and approved administrative data.

4. **Integration, Analysis, Reporting & Dissemination:** This stage includes weighted analysis, triangulation, report drafting and revisions, presentation to DPA and UNRWA senior management, and final reporting.

Project Start and End Date	**September 2026 – February 2027**
Partner Organizations	**UNRWA, Department of Palestinian Affairs (DPA)**
Funded by	**UNRWA through the Government of Japan**

Currently . . .

The project is addressing a critical evidence gap on the current mental health and psychosocial needs of Palestine refugee students in Jordan. While previous evidence has identified important mental health and psychosoviocial needs, significant changes in the regional context—particularly following the Gaza war and subsequent insecurity—mean that earlier findings may no longer adequately reflect students' current needs and experiences. This is further compounded by growing demand, fluctuations in funding availability, and increasing pressure on limited MHPSS resources, underscoring the need for up-to-date evidence to guide effective prioritization and allocation of support. The project is therefore establishing an updated evidence base through a comprehensive mixed-methods assessment.

What's next . . .

The assessment will generate updated qualitative and quantitative evidence, triangulated across multiple data sources to capture students' current MHPSS needs, contextual factors, help-seeking behaviors, and support and referral pathways. The findings will be translated into practical recommendations to help UNRWA adapt and better target its MHPSS interventions, prioritize resources, strengthen support systems, and inform future programming and advocacy.

GHD|EMPHNET Information: Global Health Development (GHD) 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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