



Enhancing the Mental Well-being of Children and Adolescents in Jordan through Empowering Schools and Health Centers

Project Information

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

OBJECTIVES

To strengthen early identification of common mental-health conditions among children and adolescents, including refugees, and to enhance community-level response through by empowering staff at schools and primary health-care centers. This is planned to be achieved through the development, validation, and institutionalization planning of culturally adapted screening tools, an ultra-brief intervention mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) manual, and a standardized training module for non-specialist providers in health and education sectors.

REGIONS OF WORK

The project will be implemented across selected sites in Jordan, covering the North, Central, and South regions, and will include both schools and primary healthcare centers. Pilot sites will be selected based on the presence of refugee populations, linkage between schools and primary healthcare centers, and geographic representation.

BENEFICIARIES

Children and adolescents aged 6–18 years in Jordan, including refugees, will be the primary beneficiaries of this project through improved early identification of common mental health conditions and enhanced access to tailored MHPSS services. Primary healthcare providers and school counselors will benefit from strengthened capacities, gaining practical tools, training, and resources to effectively identify and manage common mental health needs.

PROJECT PHASES

The project involves three phases:

Phase I – Review existing MHPSS materials, conduct stakeholder consultations, and develop culturally adapted screening tools, an ultra-brief intervention manual, and a competency-based training curriculum.

Phase II – Validation and Pilot Implementation: Validate the screening tools using psychometric methods and implement pilot training sessions across selected sites using a training-of-trainers approach, with iterative feedback and refinement.

Phase III – Evaluation and Institutionalization: Evaluate the effectiveness of the ultra-brief intervention, finalize the training module, and initiate accreditation and institutional adoption processes with the Ministry of Health and relevant councils.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

EMPHNET, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), will implement output 2 of the project “*Enhancing Community-Level Intervention in Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) for Children and Adolescents, Including Refugees.*” The project builds on previous findings indicating a high prevalence of symptoms of specific mental health conditions among children and adolescents in Jordan, including depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and behavioral difficulties. These findings are coupled with identified gaps and limitations in the availability, accessibility, and delivery of MHPSS services, particularly within school settings. The project is guided by four core pillars: equity and refugee inclusion, evidence-based approaches, inclusive stakeholder engagement, and system integration and institutionalization. Together, these pillars ensure that interventions are responsive to the needs of younger generation, embedded within existing health and education systems, aligned with national priorities, and informed by existing research, lessons learned, and contextual realities.

Project Start and End Date	August 2025 – August 2027
Partner Organizations	Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education

Currently . . .

Mental health challenges among children and adolescents in Jordan remain prevalent, while early identification and response capacity at the community, school, and primary healthcare levels is limited. Existing tools and training resources are fragmented, and non-specialist providers represent a significant opportunity to expand access to timely MHPSS. Through this project, EMPHNET is actively developing and testing practical, evidence-based MHPSS tools in close coordination with national stakeholders to address these gaps and strengthen frontline capacity.

What’s next . . .

The project will move toward validating the MHPSS screening tools and intervention package, scaling up pilot training implementation, and initiating formal accreditation processes with the Ministry of Health and relevant professional councils. These steps will support long-term institutionalization and enable integration of the MHPSS module into routine primary healthcare and school health practices across Jordan.

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.

- ◆ Abdallah Ben Abbas St, Building No. 42, Amman, Jordan
- ◆ Email: comm@emphnet.net

- ◆ Tel: +962-6-5519962
- ◆ Fax: +962-6-5519963
- ◆ www.emphnet.net