



Implementation Research Services for the Integrated Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)- Humanitarian Response Project

Project Information

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

SCOPE OF WORK

The overall goal of the project is to determine how evidence-based interventions and tools (Healthy School Program, Healthcare Community Clinics (HCC), community outreach) should be adapted to achieve the expected health impacts in a real-world setting, ensuring long-term sustainability. The specific objectives include 1) advancing the implementation of NCD awareness in schools and advising on sustainability, including the integration of services within the humanitarian setting; 2) advancing the implementation of NCD awareness sessions/counseling through HCC and advising on its sustainability and integration into the humanitarian setting; and 3) advocating and communicating the IR findings.

REGIONS OF WORK

This project was implemented across multiple governorates in Jordan.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The implementation research (IR) for the “Jordan Integrated NCD–Humanitarian Response” project continued the IR work of Year One. This aimed to supplement Year One outcomes with qualitative insights to identify implementation challenges and barriers, advancing the knowledge of implementation and the generalizability and integration of the project beyond its proposed setting. The research focused on several implementation outcomes, including acceptability, adoption, appropriateness, feasibility, fidelity, penetration, and sustainability of the interventions. The IR was dedicated to answering relevant questions about the project’s activities and functions, including its integration within the humanitarian setting, with the aim of providing recommendations for the way forward. This included both process and outcome assessments of the Healthy School program and HCC program. The assessment involved implementers, including teachers, healthcare workers, and managers, as well as beneficiaries, with a focus on the refugee community. Moreover, this phase ensured the advocacy and communication of the IR findings through the continual dissemination of interim data and results. Additionally, research abstracts, a whitepaper, and a scientific manuscript for publication were developed.

BENEFICIARIES

Both Jordanians and refugee children attending public schools, adults attending Ministry of Health primary healthcare centers (PHC), adults attending Caritas clinics, Syrian refugees attending Save the Children Clinics in Al-Zaatari camp.

PROJECT PHASES

The Implementation Research involved two phases:

Phase I – involved developing tools for qualitative assessments, including focus group discussion guides (FGDs) and interview guides. Additionally, tools for quantitative assessments were developed in the form of pre/post-intervention knowledge, attitudes, and practice questionnaires.

Phase II – FGDs and interviews were conducted with project implementers and beneficiaries, including healthcare professionals, teachers and beneficiaries. Quantitative data was also collected and analyzed.

Phase III - Advocating and communicating the IR findings through the continual dissemination of interim data and results with stakeholders and project steering committee. Additionally, research abstracts, a whitepaper, and a scientific manuscript for publication were developed.

Project Start and End Date	September 1, 2023- June 30, 2024
Partner Organizations	Jordan Ministry of Health (MoH) and Ministry of Education (MoE)
Funded by	Royal Health Awareness Society (RHAS)
Collaborators	Caritas Jordan, Save the Children and other key stakeholders serving the refugee communities in Jordan

Currently . . .

NCDs remain the leading cause of death and morbidity in Jordan, accounting for 78% of all deaths as of 2016. The most recent national survey on NCD risk factors was conducted in 2019. In Jordan, fruit and vegetable consumption is notably low, with 84% of the population consuming less than the WHO-recommended five portions per day. Additionally, one-third of Jordanians frequently add salt to their food, 25% engage in insufficient physical activity, and 60% are classified as overweight. Given these statistics, raising awareness about NCD risk factors and promoting healthy behaviors is critically important for improving public health outcomes in Jordan.

What's next . . .

To ensure the continued success and effective implementation of the interventions in the "Jordan Integrated NCDs–Humanitarian Response" project, EMPHNET will collaborate with RHAS to distribute the recommendations and insights obtained through implementation research. This will involve publishing a manuscript that will serve as a blueprint for an effective model for preventing NCDs and raising awareness at the community level and within the humanitarian sector.

OUTCOMES BY NUMBERS

Advance the implementation of NCD awareness sessions through

- **Schools:** 18 in-depth interviews with teachers and school principals
- **The humanitarian setting:**
 - o 2 FGDs with Caritas HCP
 - o 4 Interviews with Save the Children HCPs conducted
 - o Pre/Post KAP assessment of 289 Save the Children beneficiaries
 - o Assessment of change in clinical indicators of 330 Save the Children beneficiaries

Advance the implementation of NCD awareness sessions through HCC and advise on its sustainability, and its integration into the humanitarian setting.

- Assessment of HCP training: Pre/post KAP assessment of 181 Ministry of Health HCPs trained
- Assessment of session impact on beneficiaries:
 - o Pre/post KAP assessment of 156 Model B Ministry of Health HCC beneficiaries
 - o Assessment of change in clinical indicators of 21,197 patients registered in Model A and 15,999 patients registered in Model B HCC

Advocate and communicate the IR findings

- Interim results presented during 2 steering committee meetings
- 5 abstracts summarizing the IR findings.
- 1 whitepaper on all IR findings
- 1 manuscript for publication on all IR findings

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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