

A cross-sectional nationally representative survey of mental health and psychosocial problems among children and adolescents in Jordan

Project Information

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

OBJECTIVES

- 1) To examine the prevalence of common mental disorders for children and adolescents, such as depression, anxiety, developmental disorders and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and their associated factors
- 2) To explore help-seeking behaviors and potentially preferred mental health and psychosocial supports in this population
- 3) To describe a pathway beginning with socio-economic status and adverse childhood events through mental illness and ending in quality of life.

REGIONS OF WORK

The project will be implemented in the 12 governorates of Jordan.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This study is a large-scale school-based cross-sectional survey with nationally representative samples that aims to provide robust evidence regarding child and adolescent mental health situations to facilitate effective national policymaking in Jordan. The target population in this survey includes children and adolescents aged from eight to eighteen, Jordanian and all other ethnic minorities like Syrian refugee youth.

BENEFICIARIES

The beneficiary of this survey includes school children and adolescents aged from six to eighteen, Jordanian and all other ethnic minorities like Syrian refugee youth.

PROJECT PHASES

The project involves three phases:

Phase I – Preparations: Develop the study protocol and tools, obtain the needed approvals, and provide logistical support.

Phase II – Implementation: Conduct the study; collect data from the targeted schools and analyze the data.

Phase III – Closing: Generate evidence on the prevalence of common mental disorders, help seeking behavior, and pathway of mental health status and report the findings.

Project Start and End Date	September 2022 – August 2023
Partner Organizations	Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Education (MoE), United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA)
Funded by	Japan International Cooperation Agency - JICA

Currently . . .

Mental health and psychological problems are critical issues among children and adolescents. These problems hinder their healthy development which may extend to adulthood, limiting opportunities to lead fulfilling lives. In addition, COVID-19 pandemic increased the challenge and enormously impacted children's lives. Moreover, although the previous studies have reported a high prevalence of adolescent mental disorders, these studies were limited by small sample size and lack of generalizability.

What's next . . .

Under this project, through its different Phases, with the involvement of concerned sectors, the study will increase the understanding regarding child and adolescent mental health situations and will provide robust evidence which will facilitate effective national policymaking in 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.

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