

Strengthen laboratory capacity for poliovirus surveillance and transmission dynamics in Jordan to accelerate poliovirus detection and drive emergency response efforts (Jordan)

Project Information

- ◆ **Department: Public Health Programs**
- ◆ **Unit: Polio and Immunization**

Objectives

The objectives of this activity are to enhance laboratory infrastructure, provide advanced equipment such as a sequencer, supply essential reagents, consumables, and renewable materials, and build the technical skills of laboratory personnel. By doing so, the activity strengthens the ability of polio referral labs to accelerate emergency response efforts, curbing outbreaks before they escalate, and supporting evidence-based decision-making for public health interventions in the EMR and beyond.

REGIONS OF WORK

Jordan National Polio Lab.

BENEFICIARIES

The beneficiaries of this activity include laboratory personnel, polio program managers, and public health stakeholders in Jordan and the broader EMR. Strengthened laboratory capacity benefits national and regional health authorities by enabling timely detection, confirmation, and reporting of poliovirus cases, which in turn improves outbreak containment and program effectiveness.

PROJECT PHASES

The project phases include the procurement and installation of laboratory equipment and consumables, training and mentoring of laboratory staff, and ongoing technical support and quality assurance. EMPHNET, in close coordination with CDC, will define the specific support needed and monitor implementation to ensure the activity achieves its intended objectives.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

EMPHNET, in collaboration with CDC and WHO, supported the Jordan Ministry of Health (MoH) in strengthening laboratory capacity to enhance rapid poliovirus detection and monitoring of transmission patterns and dynamics. The activity focused on strengthening the capacity of the Jordanian polio referral laboratory to generate timely and high-quality laboratory data to inform outbreak response and disease prevention strategies.

The planned laboratory capacity-strengthening activities have been completed, including the required technical and operational support. The remaining component is the WHO-led training, which is planned to take place in September 2026. Upon completion of the training, the activity will be fully completed and will further contribute to strengthening Jordan's capacity for timely poliovirus detection and surveillance, supporting global polio eradication efforts and regional and international health security by reducing the risk of cross-border transmission.

Project Start and End Date	08/1/2025 – 10/31/2026
Funded by	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Collaborators	Ministry of Health and World Health Organization WHO

Currently . . .

EMPHNET and WHO are assessing the laboratory's infrastructure, finalizing the list of required equipment, consumables, and reagents, and identifying the capacity-building needs of laboratory personnel. Planning is underway to schedule training sessions and technical support visits once the equipment is in place.

What is next . . .

include the procurement and installation of the sequencer and essential materials, delivery of capacity-building sessions for laboratory staff, and ongoing mentorship to ensure quality and efficiency in testing. Monitoring and evaluation will be conducted to assess improvements in lab turnaround time, detection accuracy, and overall contribution to regional poliovirus surveillance and outbreak response. This structured approach ensures that laboratory strengthening contributes directly to accelerated poliovirus detection and effective public health interventions in the EMR.

OUTCOMES BY 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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