

WHO JORDAN



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Organization

Jordan



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Welcome to our quarter two 2025 newsletter. As the newly appointed WHO Representative to Jordan, it is a privilege to join this important country office at a time of both opportunity and responsibility.

This new chapter for WHO Jordan comes with renewed energy to build on the progress achieved over the years and to strengthen our collaboration with the Government of Jordan, the Ministry of Health, and our national and international partners. Together, we aim to support the country's public health priorities and contribute to a healthier, more resilient future for all.

Jordan continues to play a vital role in the region's health landscape, and WHO stands ready to accompany and support national efforts—through evidence-based guidance, technical expertise, and strong partnership. Whether advancing universal health coverage, promoting health equity, or responding to emerging challenges, our commitment is firm, and our approach is rooted in collaboration and trust.

I look forward to working closely with all of you as we pave the way forward—guided by shared goals, informed by local context, and driven by the belief that health is a right, not a privilege.

With gratitude and best wishes,

Iman Shankiti



Dr Iman Shankiti
WHO Representative to Jordan



New Chapter Begins: Dr Iman Shankiti Appointed WHO Representative to Jordan

Amongst other topics, Dr Shankiti discussed with Mr Ali AlBassoul, Director of the International Organizations Directorate at Foreign Ministry, enhancing cooperation on health security, UHC, digital health, & support for Syrian refugees in line with Jordan's Economic Modernisation Vision.



Stronger together: WHO and Ministry of Health set joint health agenda

Dr Iman Shankiti, WHO Representative to Jordan, met with HE Prof Feras Hawari, Minister of Health to align on key health priorities. The discussion covered strengthening primary health care as the pathway to universal health coverage, driving digital transformation in health, boosting emergency preparedness, and reinforcing health supply chain systems. Together, we're committed to supporting a stronger, more equitable health system for all.





WHO Jordan Country team welcomes Dr Iman Shankiti

A warm welcome to Dr Iman Shankiti, the new WHO Representative to Jordan! We're excited to have her leadership as we continue working together to advance health and well-being for all!



Driving unified action: WHO and UN Resident Coordinator align on priorities



Shankiti and RC Sheri Ritsema-Anderson's discussion covered the current context in Jordan, priority areas for WHO support, and opportunities to enhance coordination within the UN Country Team.





Advancing shared goals for a healthier future in Jordan!

WHO Representative to Jordan, Dr Iman Shankiti, met with UNFPA Representative to Jordan, Mr Himyar AbdulMoghni, to discuss key areas of collaboration — including the integration of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) into the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) package, maternal mortality surveillance, health information systems, and school health.

The two addressed national priorities, identified gaps, and explored opportunities for joint programming to advance health and well-being for all in Jordan.

A shared commitment to refugee health in Jordan

WHO Representative to Jordan, Dr Iman Shankiti, met with UNHCR Representative to Jordan Maria Stavropoulou to discuss the current refugee situation, access to health services, and ways to strengthen collaboration.

Dr Shankiti reiterated that WHO remains committed to supporting health for all including refugees and all communities in Jordan, leaving no one behind!



Longstanding partnership, fresh momentum

Dr Iman Shankiti, WHO Representative to Jordan, met with Prof Nizar Mhaidat, Director General of the Jordan Food and Drug Administration (JFDA), to explore ways to further strengthen collaboration between WHO and the Jordan Food and Drug Administration.

The discussion focused on key areas of mutual interest, including advancing the WHO Benchmarking Programme to help the Jordan Food and Drug Administration reach Maturity Level 3.



Celebrating success: Strengthening health data for better care in Jordan



In the presence of HE Miguel de Lucas, Spanish Ambassador to Jordan, WHO Representative to Jordan Dr Iman Shankiti, and the Director of Hospital Administration at the Ministry of Health, Dr Imad Abu AlYaqeen, the Ministry of Health, in partnership with the World Health Organization and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), marks the successful completion of the “Strengthening Routine Health Information Systems” project. The result? Improved data quality. Enhanced decision-making capabilities. Better care.



Promoting equity and inclusion

WHO Jordan proudly joined the annual celebration at Bayt Illiqa in Madaba, standing in solidarity with children with disabilities and their families in a day filled with joy, dignity, and belonging. The event was honored by the presence of H.E. Luciano Pezzotti, Italian Ambassador to Jordan, who met with WHO Representative Dr Iman Shankiti to reaffirm their shared commitment to supporting the most vulnerable.



Taking care of children's mental health

WHO and Ministry of Health trained 150 primary care workers to spot early signs of psychological issues in children especially those just starting school.

With a new screening tool & local data to guide them, frontline workers are now better equipped.



Grandparents in parenting!

WHO Jordan in collaboration with Greater Amman Municipality, rolled out a series of trainings on the Role of Grandparents in Parenting.

Designed to be practical and accessible, the training equips elderly caregivers with the knowledge to support child development at every stage.

Migrant and refugee health

As part of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund initiative, WHO, IOM, and UNDRR joined forces to deliver a joint training demonstrating strong interagency collaboration in action.

While access to care is a well-known challenge for migrants, the quality of care often receives less attention. This training focused on enhancing the skills and behaviors of the health workforce to improve the quality of service delivery—an essential factor in health outcomes, system efficiency, and reducing the burden on individuals. In this way, the training also contributes to broader health system strengthening efforts.



Jordan's new drink-driving law will save lives!



With technical support from WHO, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan introduced legislation that lowers the legal blood alcohol concentration (BAC) limit for drivers to 0.05 grams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood for the general population, bringing the country closer to global standards that save lives.



“Jordan’s landmark drink-driving law is a major step forward in efforts to reduce road deaths,” said Dr Iman Shankiti, WHO Representative to Jordan. “This builds on the commendable progress in reducing preventable road fatalities in recent years. Looking forward, WHO is here to help implement the new law and advance road safety however we can.”





Jordan Launches National Health Accounts and COVID-19 expenditure report

Under the patronage of HE Minister of Health Prof. Dr. Feras Hawari, and in collaboration with WHO Jordan and the EUTF Jordan Health Programme, Jordan launched the National Health Accounts (NHA) and COVID-19 Expenditure Report (2020–2022).

The NHA is a standardized framework that tracks health spending across three key dimensions: consumption, provision, and financing. It offers critical insights into health financing, including financial protection indicators and out-of-pocket spending supporting evidence-based policy and planning for a more equitable and efficient health system.



Bridging academia and public health practice: Nursing students visit WHO Jordan



WHO Jordan was pleased to welcome Master's in Nursing students from Amman Al-Ahliyya University to the Country Office. The visit aimed to strengthen the connection between academia and WHO's work in the field.

During their time at the office, students learned about WHO's mandate and its approach to achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) through Primary Health Care (PHC) a cornerstone for building equitable and resilient health systems.

This continued collaboration reflects WHO's strong belief that the nursing and midwifery workforce is the backbone of the health system and plays a vital role in advancing health outcomes.

Strengthening Jordan's public health response to substance use

As part of the WHO Regional Director's Flagship Initiative, "Strengthening a Public Health Response to the Substance Use Problem," WHO supported a preliminary stakeholder meeting on 25 June 2025 at the Ministry of Health's National Centre for Rehabilitation of Addicts (NCRA). Held in advance of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the meeting introduced the Flagship Initiative and explored the scope of a future national policy dialogue on substance use.

Key stakeholders including the Ministry of Health, Tamkeen, Forearm for Change NGO, service providers, people who use drugs, families, and recovered patients emphasized the importance of integrating substance use services into primary health care through WHO's mhGAP approach. To further support recovery and well-being, WHO also announced plans to equip the NCRA with a physical rehabilitation gym, including a dedicated space for women.



Palliative care in Focus: National stakeholders convene



WHO Jordan and WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office convened a consultative meeting for key stakeholders in Jordan including MoH, RMS, KHCC, academia & the Ministry of Higher Education to assess the state of palliative care.

Guided by WHO's regional framework, outcome will be presented in the upcoming RC72.

Feeling stressed?



You are not alone.

Many people are struggling with stress right now.

Feeling stressed?

It's important to acknowledge stress and take simple, healthy steps to manage it. Your mental well-being is just as vital as your physical health.

Check out our stress management guide for more.



WHO Jordan celebrates World Blood Donor Day



**BE A
LIFESAVER!**

**GIVE
BLOOD
AND
SAVE
LIVES!**



CAN SAVE A MOTHER. A BABY. A FUTURE.



This World Blood Donor Day, we honor voluntary blood donors whose life-saving contributions bring hope and health. One donation can save up to three lives let's give blood, give hope, and strengthen our communities.

One Donation. Countless Lives.

Voluntary blood donation is a vital act that saves lives and strengthens health systems.

On World Blood Donor Day, we highlight the urgent need for safe blood especially in emergencies and thank all who give blood and give hope.





NO!

The term “organic” is not a guarantee of food safety. Use good hygiene practices no matter how your food is labelled.



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

Celebrating World food Safety Day (WFSD)

WFSD marked on 7 June 2025, highlights the critical role of science in ensuring safe food for all. This year’s theme emphasizes how applying scientific knowledge can reduce the burden of foodborne illnesses, lower healthcare costs, and ultimately save lives. By investing in food safety systems grounded in evidence, we can protect public health and build more resilient communities.



Eid AL Aldha

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful, healthy, and peaceful Eid Al-Adha. Warmest greetings from the WHO Jordan team.



Protecting health during Hajj season



**May your Hajj be safe,
healthy and blessed.**

Ahead of Hajj 2025, WHO is working closely with health authorities to support a safe and healthy pilgrimage. By providing evidence-based guidance and raising awareness among pilgrims, WHO helps promote public health, prevent disease, and ensure readiness during one of the world’s largest mass gatherings.



Towards a Smoke-Free generation



As part of WHO's ongoing efforts to combat tobacco use, the Tobacco Thematic Week highlighted the urgent need to protect communities—especially youth—from the harms of tobacco and nicotine products. Through awareness activities, social media engagement, and educational outreach, the campaign emphasized the importance of tobacco control policies, smoke-free environments, and empowering individuals to make healthier choices. The week reinforced WHO's commitment to reducing tobacco-related illness and advancing public health for all.

FLAVOURS HIDE THE TRUTH.

Don't be fooled by the lies.

Unmask the appeal [#TobaccoExposed](#)



World No Tobacco Day: Exposing Industry Tactics

World No Tobacco Day 2025, highlighting how the tobacco industry targets youth and women with flavored products. The Eastern Mediterranean Region faces some of the highest youth smoking rates, with rising use of e-cigarettes and heated tobacco products.



★ Independence Day
79 عيد الاستقلال



Celebrating Independence Day

The WHO Jordan office proudly joined in celebrating Jordan's Independence Day 2025, honoring the nation's journey of resilience, unity, and progress. We extend our warmest wishes to the people of Jordan on this special occasion.



With gratitude to midwives everywhere!

On the International Day of the Midwife, we celebrated the dedication and care of midwives who have played a vital role in ensuring safe childbirth and improving maternal and newborn health.



Women must be actively involved in decisions about pregnancy, childbirth and their health.

They deserve high quality care from midwives.

Respectful maternity care is every woman's right

EVERY WOMAN HAS THE RIGHT TO A SAFE AND RESPECTFUL BIRTH.

Every woman has the right to a safe, dignified, and respectful birth. Respect is not optional, and dignity is not a luxury it is a fundamental part of quality maternal care.

WHO is committed to promoting respectful maternity care worldwide by developing guidelines, supporting health systems, and training healthcare providers to uphold women's rights and improve the quality of maternal health services.



Supporting parents, shaping futures



Parenting is a lifelong journey that begins in the early years from birth to age 8. These years shape a child's health, learning, and emotional well-being.

On this Global Day of Parents, we celebrate the essential role of parents in building brighter futures. Whether it's sleepless nights or first steps, you're not alone.

WHO Jordan encourages all parents to connect with their healthcare providers for support and guidance. Together, we can give every child a healthy, nurturing start.



Jordan Health Advisory

Yellow Fever Travel Advisory Update

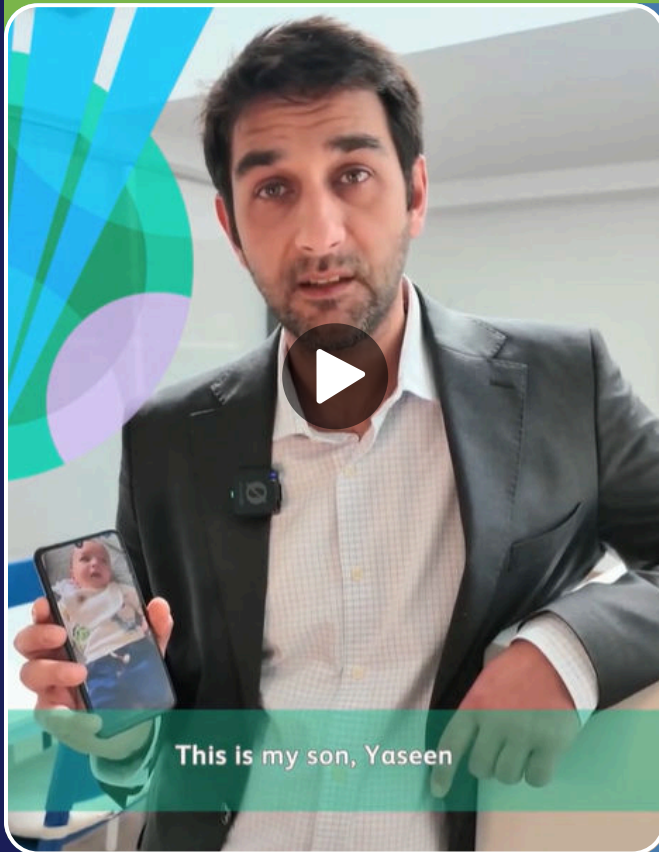


Yellow Fever vaccination required!

Jordan's Ministry of Health now requires all travelers aged 9 months and above arriving from WHO high-risk areas to present a valid Yellow Fever vaccination certificate upon entry.

This measure helps protect public health and prevent the spread of Yellow Fever in Jordan.

Vaccines work!



WHO Jordan continues to support the National Immunization Programme by improving vaccine access and coverage across the country. Through close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and partners, WHO has helped enhance cold chain systems, conduct outreach to hard-to-reach communities, and raise public awareness on the importance of vaccination. These efforts contribute to protecting communities from vaccine-preventable diseases and strengthening overall health security in Jordan.

WHO Jordan celebrates World Health Day!



On World Health Day 2025, WHO launched the campaign Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures, highlighting the urgent need to prioritize maternal and newborn health. With hundreds of thousands of women and millions of babies lost each year to preventable causes, the campaign calls for collective action to ensure every mother and child has access to quality care. WHO continues to work with partners to make maternal and newborn health a global priority—because every life matters from the very beginning.

Meet our staff



"Promoting healthy lifestyles is central to our mission of achieving health for all. At WHO Jordan, I am proud to contribute to efforts that encourage people to adopt healthier behaviors, reduce risk factors, and create supportive environments for well-being. By addressing the determinants of health, we're helping individuals and communities make informed choices, paving the way for a healthier, more resilient Jordan."

Dr Ala'a AlShaikh
Public Health Officer

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"A competent, motivated, and supported workforce is essential to achieving WHO's mission of promoting health, keeping the world safe, and serving the vulnerable. As an HR Officer at WHO Jordan, I am committed to promoting an enabling work environment that upholds integrity, inclusivity, and collaboration. By investing in people and organizational effectiveness, we empower our teams to deliver results and drive impact, strengthening our collective capacity to achieve health for all."

Rasha Al-Husseini
Human Resources Officer





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