

# global youth tobacco survey

## Country reports

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Atlanta, developed the Global Youth Tobacco Survey to track tobacco use among youth across countries using a common methodology and core questionnaire. Information from the Survey is compiled within the participating country by a Research Coordinator nominated by the Ministry of Health, and technically reviewed by WHO and CDC. The content has not otherwise been edited by WHO or CDC.

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**World Health  
Organization**

Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean



UNRWA HQA (AMMAN)  
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
& HEALTH DEPARTMENT



**UNRWA**

**GLOBAL YOUTH TOBACCO SURVEY**

**(GYTS)**

**AND**

**GLOBAL SCHOOL PERSONNEL SURVEY**

**(GSPS)**

**2008**

**SUMMARY PROGRESS REPORT**



Department of Health  
and Human Services/ USA



Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention (CDC)



World Health Organization  
EMRO

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**UNRWA GLOBAL YOUTH TOBACCO SURVEY (GYTS) AND GLOBAL SCHOOL  
PERSONNEL SURVEY (GSPS)  
2008**

**INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

WHO Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic, released in February 2008, states that although tobacco deaths rarely make headlines, tobacco kills one person every six seconds. Tobacco kills a third to half of all people who use it, on average 15 years prematurely. Today, tobacco use causes 1 in 10 deaths among adults worldwide – more than five million people a year. By 2030, unless urgent action is taken, tobacco’s annual death toll will rise to more than eight million. If current trends continue unchecked, it is estimated that around 500 million people alive today will be killed by tobacco. During this twenty-first century, tobacco could kill up to one billion people. Most tobacco users will want to quit but will be unable to because of their dependence on a highly addictive substance, nicotine.

The Tobacco Free Initiative (TFI) was established by WHO in July 1998 to focus international attention, resources and action on the global tobacco epidemic. In December 1998, the TFI convened a meeting in Geneva with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the World Bank and representatives from countries in each of the 6 WHO regions to discuss the need for standardized mechanisms to collect youth tobacco use information on a global basis. The outcome of this meeting was the development by WHO and CDC of a Global Tobacco Surveillance System (GTSS), which uses the Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS), Global School Personnel Survey (GSPS), and Global Health Professionals Survey (GHPS) as its data collection mechanisms. The GYTS is intended to enhance the capacity of countries to design, implement, and evaluate tobacco control and prevention programs directed to youth (13-15 years). The GSPS was also adopted globally to collect information from school personnel concerning their use of tobacco and their tobacco related school policies and programs.

The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control was developed in response to the current globalization of the tobacco epidemic. It entered into force on 27 February 2005. Up-to-date, 152 countries have signed it. It stresses on the fact that the spread of the tobacco epidemic is facilitated by a variety of complex factors with cross-border effects, including trade liberalization, foreign direct investment, and other activities such as global marketing, transnational tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship, and the international movement of contraband and counterfeit cigarettes. The WHO FCTC is an evidence-based treaty that reaffirms the right of all people to the highest standard of health.

**UNRWA ADOPTS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BOTH GYTS AND GSPS SURVEYS  
IN ITS SCHOOLS FOR THE YEAR 2008**

Consistent with UNRWA’s anti-smoking strategy, it was decided to adopt the GYTS and GSPS to collect data on the use of tobacco among students and personnel in UNRWA schools in all Fields. The outcomes of these studies will enable concerned parties at both the Education

Department and the Health Department to compare results between UNRWA schools in the five Fields, with host countries' data, and with results at the global level. This will enable the design of appropriate interventions. Because of the fruitful cooperation between the two departments at the HQ (A), namely the Health and the Education Departments, two staff members were nominated to work together on the process of implementing the GYTS and GSPS in the UNRWA schools in all Fields of UNRWA operations. They were Dr. Ali Khader, C/ Health Protection and Promotion (CHPP), HD/ HQ (A) and Dr. Yassir Turki, General Education Specialist (GES), ED/ HQ (A). The WHO/ Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO) suggested that they would support the visit of the two staff members mentioned above to the USA, Atlanta (Georgia), Centers for Disease Control (CDC)/ Office on Smoking and Health (OSH). The visit took place during the period from October 28 to November 2, 2007.

Over the days of the workshop at CDC, fruitful discussions were made with the GYTS team (Dr. Wick Warren and Dr. Nathan Jones) regarding the procedures for the implementation of both the GYTS and the GSPS. The major activities and outcomes were as follows:

- The final form of the questionnaire to be used in the study was formulated with minor modifications to make it suit the UNRWA schools' student and school personnel population.
- The mechanism for the process of implementation was discussed, with examples and exercises, in detail.
- The sample of schools to be involved in the study from the five Fields was drawn using software at the CDC/ OSH.
- A draft proposal for the project was discussed and modified. The financial support is to be provided indirectly by the CDC/ OSH and directly by the EMRO/ Tobacco Free Initiative Office (TFI).

#### PREPARATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION IN THE FIVE FIELDS

Following the allocation of \$ 10 000 as the budget for the implementation of both studies at the selected schools in all Fields, an action plan was agreed on between the ED and HD. It included the preparation of all required forms, guides and documents for the use by Field Survey Administrating Teams (FSAT). It was agreed that a member from the ED, the School Supervisor for Health Education (SS (H. Ed) at the Education Development Center (EDC) in each Field, and a member from the HD, namely the Field Family Health Officers (FFHO) from the five Fields, head the FSAT.

Two workshops were held at HQ (A) for the training on implementing GYTS and GSPS:

- Over two days, 27 and 28 February 2008, the FFHOs from the five Fields and the SSs (H. Ed.) from all Fields except Gaza joined the workshop and they were trained thoroughly, by the CHPP and GES (H. Ed.), on the GYTS and GSPS concept and implementation procedures. In addition, this valuable occasion was dedicated for exchanging experiences among all participants and for tightening the cooperation between members of the two departments, the HD and the ED. OiC/ ED and OiC/ HD joined the opening address and stressed on the importance of the solidifying the cooperation between the two departments.



All participants agreed on a Plan of Action for the implementation process of the GYTS and GSPS. The following issues included in that plan were agreed on:

1. The SSs (H. Ed.) and FFHO will compose Field Teams to help in the surveying process. The teams are to include staff members as suitable, and wherever possible, they are to include SSs of different specialties.
  2. The SS (H. Ed.) and the FFHO in each Field will conduct training workshops for these teams before starting the activity
  3. Transportation to and from the schools selected as samples for the survey is to be arranged for the implementation team.
  4. It is expected that each Field Team will complete data collection by April 15, 2008.
  5. For SAR Field, TSA for two nights will be granted to SS (H. Ed.) to conduct the surveys in selected schools located in Hama and Aleppo.
  6. The two surveys will be conducted according to the detailed instructions agreed upon by all participants during the meeting. All relevant instructions and information were handed to each participant as hard copies and on CDs.
  7. Interoffice memoranda will be sent to CFEPs and CFHPs to facilitate the work of the Fields' Teams.
  8. It was also agreed on sending the packages of materials required for the implementation of the two surveys to the Fields via UNRWA courier. Sufficient supplies will be forwarded to EDC/ SS (H. Ed.) in each Field as from 3/3/2008.
- On March 12, 2008, a similar mini-workshop was held at HQ (A), the HD Conference Room, for the Central Health Committee (seven members) and the Medical Officers (four

members) of the School Medical Teams in the four Education Areas at the Jordan Field. It was held.

In both workshops, participants expressed their full understanding of the two studies and their implementation process, and they had enough time and flexibility to express their ideas and suggestions.



#### OFFICIAL LAUNCHING OF THE ACTIVITY IN THE JORDAN FIELD

Both the Director of Education and the Director of Health (HQ (Amman) patronized the Launching Ceremony of the Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) and the Global School Professionals Tobacco Survey (GSPS) in Jordan Field. The activity took place in the Rusaifa Prep. Girls School/ 2.

It included a short celebration that took place in the activities room at the school. The attendance saw an exhibition about students' anti-tobacco activities (drawings, brochures, models, etc.) and some PowerPoint presentations on the bad effects of smoking on health. The two patronizers launched the activity by cutting a ribbon at the entrance to one of the classes included in the study sample and they discussed some issues with the students and listened to their opinions and suggestions.





IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GYTS AND GSPS STUDIES IN THE FIVE FIELDS AND THE SHIPMENT OF STUDY DOCUMENTS TO CDC

The action plan that was agreed upon during the main training session and the training sessions held in the Fields for the Survey Teams by the SSs (H. Ed.) and the FFHOs was put into action with a high level of precision and commitment from all participants. Communications with the Fields were open all the time and were followed up was continuous by the Central Surveys Team at HQ (A).

The documents to be sent to CDC including the answer sheets and other standard forms were received from the Fields on time, around April 15 as agreed upon. They were checked thoroughly at the HQ (A) to make sure that they fully comply with the instructions and requirements of the CDC. They were also unified in order and appearance. The five packages from the five Fields were shipped to CDC/ USA via FEDEX on May 8, 2008.

