



World Health Organization

Jordan



WHO JORDAN

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER





Dr Iman Shankiti
WHO Representative to Jordan

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The first quarter of 2026 has unfolded against a backdrop of continued uncertainty across the region, with evolving humanitarian and public health challenges placing additional strain on health systems and communities alike. In this context, resilience is not only a priority—it is a necessity.

In Jordan, these challenges have further underscored the importance of sustained collaboration, national leadership, and collective action. Together with our partners, WHO Jordan has continued to support national health priorities, strengthen system readiness, and advance equitable access to essential health services and medical products. From enhancing emergency preparedness and response capacities to reinforcing medicine security and promoting public health interventions, our efforts remain grounded in a shared commitment to protect and improve lives.

These past months have reaffirmed that progress is built on strong partnerships, trust, and a unified vision. The achievements highlighted in this newsletter reflect not only technical expertise, but also the dedication, solidarity, and agility of all those working to ensure that health systems can withstand shocks while continuing to serve communities effectively.

I extend my sincere appreciation to our national counterparts, partners, and WHO teams for their unwavering collaboration and support. As we move forward, WHO Jordan remains committed to working hand in hand with all stakeholders to navigate challenges, strengthen resilience, and advance health and well-being for all in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Iman Shankiti



WHO Director General spotlights Jordan's refugee care, mental health services, and Gaza medical response

World Health Organization Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus conducted a two-day visit to Jordan, using meetings with the country's leadership, health officials, donors, and community organizations to highlight Jordan's role in caring for refugees, treating patients evacuated from Gaza, and expanding access to mental health and primary care services.

A key part of the visit was Tedros' meeting with King Abdullah II, where discussions focused on sustaining emergency health response efforts, widening access to care, and supporting refugees and Palestinian patients transferred from Gaza for treatment. The visit reinforced Jordan's role as an important regional hub for humanitarian health action at a time when neighboring conflicts continue to strain health systems.

Dr Tedros also met in Amman with donors, UN agencies, and national stakeholders to discuss support for Jordan's health sector in the presence of Prince Harry and Meghan, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex. Talks centered on universal health coverage, the integration of mental health and noncommunicable disease services into primary care, and the need to strengthen emergency preparedness.

The meeting also focused on improving coordination among partners and directing funding toward the country's most pressing health needs.



In meetings with Jordan's minister of health, Dr Tedros reiterated WHO's support for the country's primary health care strategy, particularly efforts to expand mental health services and respond to the health needs of refugees and other vulnerable groups.

During a visit to a WHO-supported hospital, Tedros met children evacuated from Gaza who are receiving specialized care, along with their families and the health workers treating them. The visit drew attention to Jordan's role in the medical evacuation pathway for patients from Gaza and to the continued need for international financial and political support to sustain that effort.





The visit also included meetings with community-based organizations. Hosted by Princess Basma bint Talal, the delegation visited the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development, where local initiatives aimed at improving health and well-being were on display. At King Hussein Cancer Center, hosted by Princess Ghida Talal, Tedros saw specialized cancer services, including care for children evacuated from Gaza.

Other stops during the trip pointed to the broader conditions shaping health outcomes. At the regional headquarters of World Central Kitchen, the delegation highlighted the role of food and nutrition in recovery, particularly in conflict settings. At Jordan's National Center for Rehabilitation of Addicts, Tedros viewed services that combine mental health care, addiction treatment, and social reintegration.



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The trip served as a reminder that Jordan's health role extends beyond national service delivery. The country has increasingly become a place where emergency response, refugee care, and specialized treatment come together, while also trying to strengthen its own health system under growing humanitarian and financial pressure.



Jordan marks International Childhood Cancer Day with three major national breakthroughs



Under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Ghida Talal, Chairperson of the King Hussein Cancer Foundation and King Hussein Cancer Center, Jordan commemorated International Childhood Cancer Day 2026 by unveiling three transformative national initiatives to strengthen the country's cancer response.

The high-level event, jointly organized by the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization (WHO), brought together partners from across the health sector, including the Jordanian Royal Medical Services, academia, the private sector and civil society. The gathering underscored a unified national commitment: no child with cancer should be left behind.

Central to the event was the launch of Jordan's National Cancer Control Strategy 2026–2030, a comprehensive roadmap designed to enhance prevention, early detection, diagnosis, treatment, palliative care, research, surveillance and governance.

Aligned with Jordan's Economic Modernization Vision, the strategy offers a structured, evidence-based framework to improve both the quality and sustainability of cancer services nationwide. Rather than implementing isolated interventions, it signals a shift towards a coordinated, system-wide response to deliver measurable improvements in patient outcomes.

In parallel, six national paediatric cancer clinical guidelines were introduced. Developed by a multidisciplinary national committee representing all relevant sectors, the guidelines are rooted in international best practices and tailored to Jordan's health care context.



On International Childhood Cancer Day 2026, Jordan went beyond commemoration. The country marked a decisive transition from planning to systematic action, strengthening its health system so that every child diagnosed with cancer has a fair chance at survival and a healthier future.



Jordan receives first shipment of life-saving childhood cancer medicines through the global platform



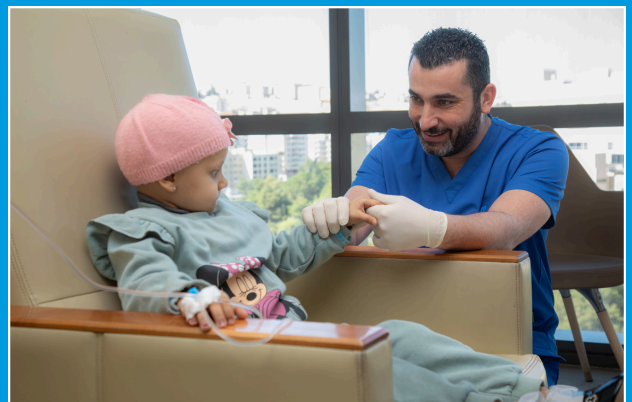
Co-founded by the World Health Organization (WHO) and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the Global Platform was designed to ensure an uninterrupted supply of quality-assured childhood cancer medicines for low- and middle-income countries.

In August 2024, the Government of Jordan signed a Letter of Agreement with WHO to launch the Global Platform in the country. Through this partnership, Jordan will receive 46 types of essential, quality-assured medicines, benefiting all children with cancer in the country, including refugees.

The initiative is led by the Ministry of Health, working closely with national partners including the King Hussein Cancer Center (KHCC), the Jordan Food and Drug Administration, Jordanian Royal Medical Services, and King Abdullah University Hospital. Together, these institutions developed a comprehensive plan to ensure safe delivery, quality control and the effective use of the medicines across Jordan's national health system.

The Global Platform provides end-to-end support, from consolidating global demand to guiding treatment protocols. With approximately 500 new childhood cancer cases diagnosed each year, the initiative is expected to significantly improve treatment access for more than 3000 children currently living with cancer in Jordan.

By placing life-saving medicines within reach, Jordan is turning global commitment into real cures, ensuring that no child with cancer is left behind.



Jordan opens advanced central medical warehouses in Amman to strengthen medicine security

Jordan has taken a major step forward in strengthening its medicine security with the inauguration of two ultramodern medical warehouses in Amman, under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Ghida Talal. The warehouses, known as the Central Region Medical Warehouses, were inaugurated by the Ministry of Health in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), with support and funding from the European Union.

This milestone reflects Jordan's continued commitment to strengthening and modernizing its health system. The new facilities are designed to enhance the efficiency and resilience of the national medical supply chain, ensuring that essential medicines and medical products reach communities across the Kingdom in a timely and equitable manner. The initiative aligns with Jordan's Economic Modernization Vision and contributes to advancing universal health coverage.

Covering a total area of 4,300 square meters, the warehouses significantly expand national storage capacity and are equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure. This includes advanced logistics and information systems, a 40-cubic-meter cold room for temperature-sensitive medicines, modern handling equipment, backup power systems, and renewable energy solutions that support environmental sustainability. The facilities also include built-in surge capacity to respond to emergencies and increased demand.



The warehouses will serve health directorates across five governorates—Amman, Irbid, Zarqa, Madaba, and Karak—supporting the continuous supply of medicines to primary health care centres and improving access for communities, particularly the most vulnerable.

With the completion of these facilities, Jordan moves closer to establishing a comprehensive, modern, and resilient national supply chain network that meets international standards. This achievement underscores the importance of sustained investment and strong partnerships in ensuring uninterrupted access to essential medicines and medical supplies for all.

By reinforcing its supply systems, Jordan is not only improving access to life-saving medicines today but also strengthening its preparedness for future health challenges—ensuring better health outcomes for all communities across the Kingdom.



Our work visualized



WHO Director General pushes the HealthForAll agenda in Jordan



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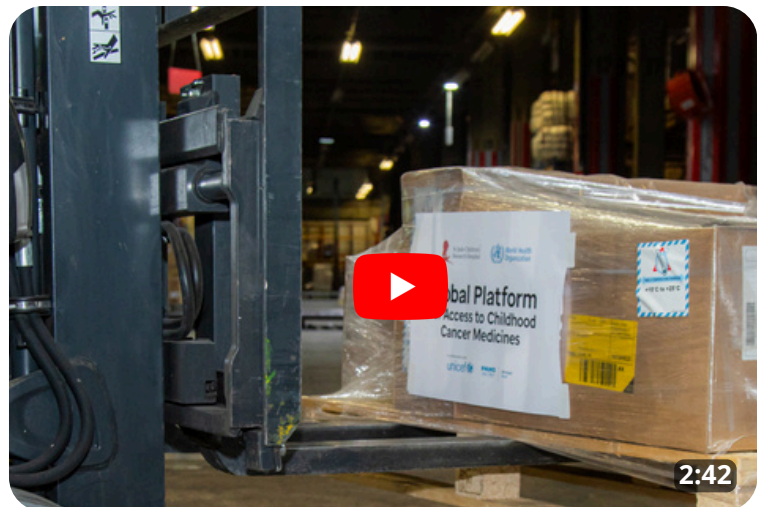
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Jordan inaugurates two central medical warehouses in Amman



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The Global Platform for Childhood Cancer Medicine sends it's first shipment to Jordan



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