

# WHO JORDAN



QUARTERLY  
NEWSLETTER

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World Health  
Organization

Jordan



# Dear Colleagues and Friends,

As we reflect on the past quarter, I am heartened by the strength of partnerships that continue to advance health in Jordan. Over the past months, I had the privilege of meeting with key partners, including members of the royal family, government officials, donor representatives, and colleagues from the UN system. These meetings have reinforced our shared commitment to strengthening collaboration and advancing the health agenda across the country.

Together, we are working to translate the vision of Health for All into concrete actions—building resilient health systems, promoting equity, and ensuring that every individual in Jordan has access to quality health services. The dedication and engagement of our partners remain essential as we push forward on critical public health priorities, from universal health coverage to the response to emerging health challenges.

I am grateful for the continued trust and collaboration of all our partners. As we move into the next quarter, WHO Jordan remains committed to supporting national efforts through technical expertise, evidence-based guidance, and strong partnerships, ensuring that health and well-being remain a top priority for everyone in the Kingdom.

With appreciation and best wishes,

*Iman Shankiti*



**Dr Iman Shankiti**  
WHO Representative to Jordan



## Advancing Health, Education, and Social Development in Jordan

WHO Representative Dr Iman Shankiti met HRH Prince El Hassan Bin Talal to discuss shared priorities in health, education, and humanitarian response. The meeting highlighted HRH's leadership in advancing mental health and learning platforms, while WHO reaffirmed its support for community-based services, emergency preparedness, and Universal Health Coverage in Jordan.



WHO Representative Dr Iman Shankiti met HRH Princess Muna Al Hussein to recognize her leadership in advancing health and social development. WHO highlighted her contributions to nursing, midwifery, and mental health, and thanked her for her continued partnership in strengthening Jordan's health system.





# WHO Director-General Dr Tedros and WHO EMRO Regional Director Dr Balkhy highlight Jordan's lifesaving support for medical evacuations from Gaza



Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus  
@DrTedros

Last week, @WHO supported the medical evacuations of critical patients from #Gaza to:

- \* the UK: 10 child patients and 50 companions
- \* Türkiye: 1 adult patient and 1 companion
- \* Jordan: 19 child patients and 47 companions

We are deeply grateful to the governments of and for their support and solidarity.

We call for more countries to offer specialised care to critical patients from Gaza, whose lives depend on medical care abroad, and to restore the medical evacuation route to the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

The best medicine is peace.



10:25 PM · Sep 16, 2025 · 36.7K Views



Hanan Balkhy حنان بلخي  
@HananBalkhy

Yesterday, @WHO coordinated the evacuation of 14 patients and 38 companions from #Gaza to Jordan.

This brings the total to 268 patients evacuated for treatment in #Jordan since the war in Gaza began.

I thank the Government of Jordan for its generosity — providing a lifeline for those whose survival depends on treatment abroad.

I urge more countries to step forward in solidarity and open access to Gazans in need of advanced medical care.

@mohgovjordan | @ForeignMinistry | @UnitedNationsJO | @RHCJO | @KingAbdullahII



United Nations and 5 others

7:17 PM · Sep 30, 2025 · 1,559 Views



## WHO Jordan advancing health through leadership dialogue

As part of her high-level engagements, the WHO Representative in Jordan met with cabinet members and senior health officials to reaffirm WHO's support for national health priorities. The discussions focused on strengthening collaboration across areas of shared interest—from system-wide resilience to community-centered care—underscoring WHO's commitment to partnering with national leadership to advance health for all.





## Advancing public health through strategic partnerships

As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen collaborations and explore potential partnerships, the WHO Representative to Jordan conducted a series of meetings with embassies and international donors. These engagements focused on advancing shared public health priorities and identifying ways to work together to enhance health outcomes across the country.









## Coordinating efforts to support Jordan's health sector

To strengthen collaboration, the WHO Representative to Jordan met with UN agencies to coordinate support for the country's health sector. The discussions highlighted the strengths of each agency and reinforced the UN system's joint response to national priorities and global health challenges.







## Strengthening Jordan's digital health systems through collaboration

WHO Representative Dr Iman Shankiti met Mr Omar Ibrahim Ayash, CEO of the Health Computing Company, to discuss Hakeem's roadmap and national digital health priorities, focusing on interoperability, data governance, and analytics to strengthen integrated health systems in Jordan.



## WHO discusses nursing leadership and mental health integration in primary care

As part of WHO's "Investing in a Resilient Health Workforce" initiative, Dr Iman Shankiti met Prof. Hani Al Nawafleh to discuss empowering nurses and midwives at the primary health care level and integrating mental health services, highlighting HRH Princess Muna Al-Hussein's support for these reforms.

## Promoting evidence-based health policies and workforce investment in Jordan

WHO Representative Dr Iman Shankiti met Dr Rowaida Al-Maaitah to discuss enhancing governance, advancing primary health care, integrating mental health, investing in the health workforce, and promoting evidence-based policies in Jordan.





## WHO and IFC explore joint action on climate and health resilience

WHO Representative Dr Iman Shankiti met Mr Khawaja Ahmed, IFC Regional Director, to explore collaboration on advancing Universal Health Coverage, climate-resilient health systems, regulatory frameworks, and public-private partnerships, supporting Jordan's national health strategies and WHO's commitment to Health for All.



## WHO engages with Jordan INGO Forum on health challenges and priorities

WHO Representative Dr Iman Shankiti met representatives of the Jordan INGO Forum to discuss challenges facing health NGOs, including funding cuts, and key public health issues such as mental health, emergency response, and non-communicable diseases affecting refugees and vulnerable populations.





## Tackling NCDs and climate-health through research collaboration

WHO Representative Dr Iman Shankiti met Prof. Mashhoor Al-Refai, Secretary General of HCST, to discuss advancing research, preventing noncommunicable diseases, strengthening the health workforce, and addressing mental health and climate-health issues, highlighting HCST's affiliated centers as key strategic partners.

## WHO and German Jordanian University join efforts for health system innovation

WHO Representative Dr Iman Shankiti met Prof. Ala'aldeen Al-Halhouli, President of the German Jordanian University, to discuss strategic collaboration in academia, research, and innovation, focusing on strengthening healthcare supply chain management and supporting a sustainable, equitable health system in line with Jordan's Economic Modernization Vision.





## Jordan boosts health supply chain with EU and WHO support

Jordan, with support from the EU and WHO, inaugurated four upgraded regional warehouses in Ma'an to strengthen storage and distribution of essential medicines and vaccines. The new facilities enhance emergency readiness, integrate advanced data systems, and support Universal Health Coverage.



## Inaugurating six advanced medical warehouses to strengthen health systems

With EU funding and WHO support, the Ministry of Health inaugurated six advanced medical warehouses in Ma'an boosting cold chain capacity, expanding regional coverage, and enhancing emergency preparedness. A key milestone toward Universal Health Coverage and a more resilient health system.





## RD's flagship initiative boosts holistic treatment at rehabilitation center

In line with WHO's holistic approach, a new gym was inaugurated at the National Center for the Rehabilitation of Addicts, offering a supportive space to enhance both mental and physical health as part of comprehensive treatment and recovery.



Ministry Of Health

### National Climate Change Health Adaptation Strategy of Jordan 2024-2033



## Jordan unveils first national strategy for health system climate adaptation

Jordan has unveiled the region's first 10-year National Strategy for Health System Adaptation to Climate Change. Led by the Ministry of Health, with support from WHO and the Ministry of Environment, the plan addresses seven climate-sensitive health areas — a milestone toward a resilient and sustainable health system.





## LEGO-supported training empowers grandparents to engage children

As a result of the LEGO-supported training with the Greater Amman Municipality, grandparents from Jubilee and Prince Hashim centers led a joyful reading session for children — highlighting their role in parenting, fostering intergenerational bonds, and advancing Amman's age-friendly vision. WHO Representative to Jordan, Dr Iman Shankiti, joined and warmly engaged with participants.



## Promoting nutritious choices with new food marketing regulations

Under the patronage of H.E. Minister of Health, a High-Level Advocacy Meeting was held to strengthen front-of-pack food labelling and restrict marketing of unhealthy foods, particularly to children — a key step toward creating a healthier environment and promoting accessible nutritious choices for all.



## Tackling childhood obesity and unhealthy food marketing in Jordan

The Ministry of Health, in collaboration with WHO and the Global Health Advocacy Incubator, held two high-level workshops in Amman to strengthen Jordan's nutrition policies and protect children's health. The first workshop focused on developing a Nutrient Profile Model and Front-of-Pack Labelling (FOPL) to empower healthier food choices and prevent obesity and related noncommunicable diseases. The second addressed the challenge of unhealthy food marketing targeting children, including digital platforms, by sharing global best practices and reinforcing national measures. Together, these efforts mark a significant step toward creating a healthier food environment and ensuring every child in Jordan grows up healthy and strong.







## Jordan strengthens national biosafety and biosecurity regulations

WHO has supported Jordan in adopting national laboratory biosafety and biosecurity regulations aligned with international standards. Jordan is one of only two Arab countries to establish a National Committee on Biosafety & Biosecurity under Regulation No. 29 (2019), demonstrating strong commitment, though enforcement gaps remain amid increasing laboratory and cross-border pathogen challenges.



## Technical mission advances JFDA's path toward Global Benchmarking Maturity Level 3

As part of WHO's support to Jordan's Food and Drug Administration, a technical mission was conducted to develop JFDA's Quality Management System. The mission included a comprehensive review and gap analysis to align with WHO guidelines, create an actionable improvement plan, and support the path toward Maturity Level 3 under the Global Benchmarking Programme.



## Enhancing digital health capacity through DHIS2 collaboration

In line with WHO's Global Strategy on Digital Health, WHO Jordan is partnering with HISP MENA to strengthen DHIS2 implementation — advancing data integration, capacity building, and evidence-based decision-making for a more resilient health system.





## Integrating parenting counseling into child health services in Jordan

WHO and the Ministry of Health trained healthcare providers nationwide to integrate parenting counseling into every child's health file ensuring nurturing care is documented, progress tracked, and well-care visits truly count.



## Training healthcare providers on care for child development in Jordan

With support from WHO Jordan, healthcare providers across the country are being trained on the Care for Child Development (CCD) approach. This evidence-based method equips providers to promote nurturing care and positive parenting — ensuring healthier growth, stronger bonds, and brighter futures for children.







## Strengthening PHC and advancing UHC through proven models

Building on the national success of Princess Basma Comprehensive Center, the meeting explored opportunities to replicate and scale up such models in partnership with WHO, with a shared commitment to strengthening Jordan's primary health care system and advancing universal health coverage.



## WHO and MoH discuss progress on mental health initiatives

As part of his visit to Jordan, WHO EMRO Regional Advisor Dr. Khalid Saeed met with the Ministry of Health's Mental Health Directorate to discuss the progress of the national mental health action plan.





## Ministry of Health launched the National Policy and Strategy for Quality and Patient Safety 2025–2030.



in collaboration with WHO Jordan, Ministry of Health launched the National Policy and Strategy for Quality and Patient Safety 2025–2030.

This milestone highlights Jordan's commitment to ensuring patient safety is a fundamental right for everyone, especially the most vulnerable.



## Families and providers at the heart of safer child care

On this quarter's spotlight, WHO Jordan highlights the vital role families and healthcare providers play in ensuring safer, better care for children. As our experts remind us, informed and engaged families are central to improving health outcomes, while safe and reliable care is every child's right. Together, we can build healthier futures for generations to come.



“Children deserve not only love, but care that is safe, reliable, and tailored to them. On World Patient Safety Day, let us embrace the theme 'Safe care for every newborn and every child' and ensure patient safety from the start, because their lives, and our collective future, depend on it.”

Dr Iman Shankiti  
WHO Representative to Jordan



“When families stay informed and actively engage in healthcare, they play a crucial role in the care process, leading to better health outcomes and a more positive experience for both the child and the family. Empowered families mean healthier futures. Don't wait. Get involved today!”

Dr Ghada AlKayyali  
Health Systems Strengthening Officer





## Jordan's progress on NCDs and mental health: UNGA spotlight



Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) account for nearly 78% of all deaths in Jordan, with cardiovascular diseases and cancer leading the toll. Rising risk factors—including tobacco use, poor diets, physical inactivity, and obesity—pose significant challenges, affecting adults and children alike.

In response, Jordan, with WHO support, has launched comprehensive strategies tackling NCDs and mental health. From expanding smoking cessation clinics to implementing national plans on obesity, nutrition, and mental health, these efforts strengthen governance, enhance prevention, and promote healthier lifestyles—marking a significant step toward safeguarding lives and advancing well-being for all.



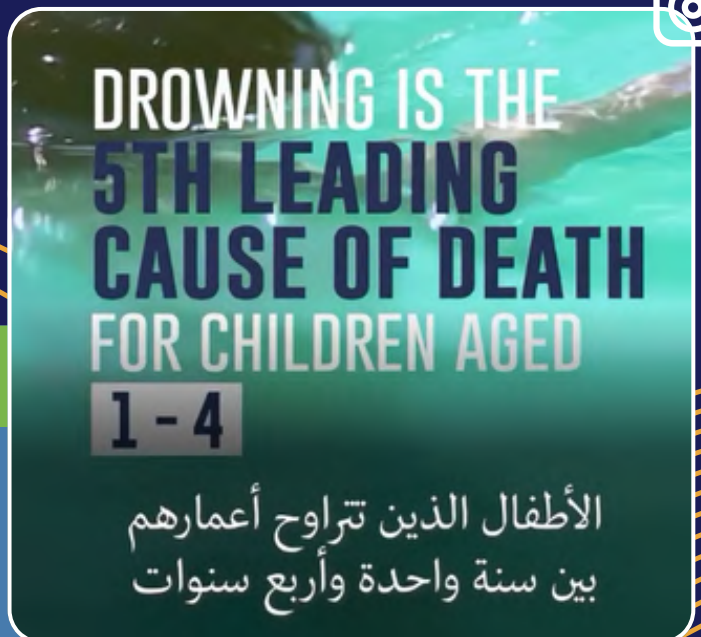




A **healthy diet** helps to protect against **malnutrition** in all its forms, as well as **noncommunicable diseases (NCDs)**, including diabetes, heart disease, stroke and cancer.

## Healthy Eating for Better Health

Eating a balanced diet helps prevent malnutrition and reduces the risk of diseases, supporting overall health and well-being.



## Every Hour We Lose a Life

Every hour, we lose a life to drowning — a preventable tragedy. On this Drowning Prevention Day, let's raise awareness, promote water safety, and take action to save lives.



## What's Health? and Tell me about PHC in Jordan?

### Did You Know?



Jordan has

**671**

primary health care centers



Q Health



A state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.







Message from

**Dr Hanan Balkhy**

WHO Regional Director for  
the Eastern Mediterranean  
on the occasion of



## World Hepatitis Day

28 July 2025

On World Hepatitis Day, we reaffirm our commitment to eliminating viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030.

This year's theme, "Hepatitis: Let's Break It Down," highlights the urgent need to dismantle barriers to prevention, diagnosis, and treatment across our Region.

Across the Eastern Mediterranean Region, 27 million people live with chronic hepatitis—15 million with hepatitis B and 12 million with hepatitis C. In 2022 alone, we saw 183,000 new hepatitis C cases, 86,000 hepatitis B infections, and 97,000 hepatitis-related deaths—each one a life that could have been saved.

Despite these challenges, we are leading global progress in hepatitis C elimination. Egypt has achieved WHO gold tier status, reducing hepatitis C deaths by 35% since 2018. In Pakistan, the government is building capacity to treat at least half of its hepatitis C infections.

## World Hepatitis Day Message

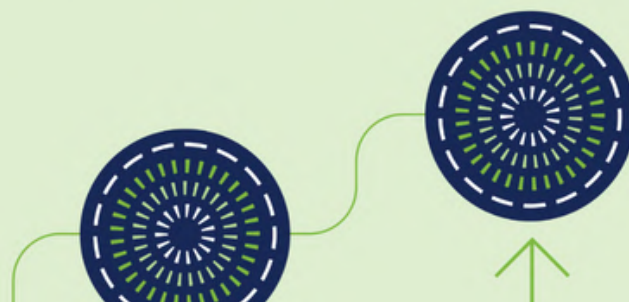
Dr Hanan Hassan Balkhy, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean, shares a message on World Hepatitis Day, highlighting the importance of prevention, testing, and treatment to eliminate hepatitis and protect lives across the region.



## Rising Deaths from Viral Hepatitis

Deaths from viral hepatitis are on the rise, highlighting the urgent need for prevention, testing, and treatment to save lives.

Deaths from viral  
hepatitis-related causes  
are **increasing**.



## Warm Wishes on Al-Mawlid Al-Nabawi

WHO Jordan extends heartfelt greetings on the occasion of Al-Mawlid Al-Nabawi Al-Sharif. Wishing you and your families health, peace, and prosperity.



المولد  
النبوي  
الشريف

Al Mawlid Al Nabawi  
1447





## What Does Air Pollution Impact?

### Climate action must include mental health

To protect people's physical and mental health from climate threats



### الصحة النفسية

ويمكن أن يؤدي إلى الإجهاد وقلة الحركة وأمراض الجهاز التنفسي وأمراض الصحة النفسية



Air pollution affects health, the environment, and the climate. It can cause respiratory and heart diseases, reduce air quality, harm ecosystems, and contribute to climate change.



## Breastfeeding is the foundation of a healthy start in life

### BREASTFEEDING IS STILL IMPORTANT AFTER YOUR BABY TURNS ONE.

Breastmilk continues to provide important nutrients for as long as your baby continues breastfeeding.

Babies who breastfeed into the second year and beyond are less likely to become overweight.

Breastfeeding helps your baby fight off infections and builds a stronger immune system.



BREASTFEEDING IS GOOD FOR MOTHERS TOO.

### BREASTFEEDING IS EASIER

WHEN EVERYONE STEPS UP TO SUPPORT MOTHERS.



Breastfeeding gives every child the healthiest start in life — protecting against disease, boosting growth, and strengthening the bond between mother and baby. This World Breastfeeding Day, let's support mothers everywhere.





## Human Health Depends on a Healthy Planet

### Risk

Climate change impacts mental health through various environmental, social, & economic factors



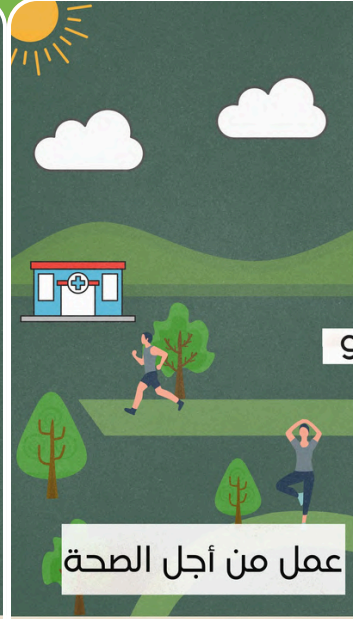
### Mitigation



Train healthcare workers on mental health illness related to climate change



Establishment of climate change & mental health clinics



العمل من أجل المناخ

هو

عمل من أجل الصحة



A healthy environment is essential for clean air, safe water, nutritious food, and overall well-being. Protecting the planet directly safeguards human health.

## How to Beat The Heatwave

### HEATWAVE

RECOGNIZE HEATSTROKE. SAVE A LIFE.



#### Warning Signs:

- Fainting / Dizziness
- No sweating
- Nausea / Confusion
- Loss of consciousness



#### What To Do:

- Call emergency services
- Move to shade or A/C
- Cool with wet cloths / ice packs
- Loosen clothing



#### Never Give:

- Aspirin or paracetamol

### موجة الحر

واجه الحر .. ابق آمنا

#### برّد جسمك

- استحم بماء بارد
- استخدم منشفة مبللة أو بخاخ ماء
- ابق في الظل



#### ارتد ملابس خفيفة وفضفاضة

- ملابس وأغطية سرير خفيفة
- بدون وسائد لتجنب تراكم الحرارة
- قبعة واسعة ونظارات شمسية عند الخروج



#### اشرب الماء بانتظام

- كوب ماء كل ساعة
- ٣-٢ لتر يومياً
- تجنّب الكافيين المفرط



Beat the heat this summer. Keep your body hydrated, wear loose clothing, and avoid direct sun during peak hours. Cool your skin often, and always carry water when outside.





## Substance Use: A Public Health Challenge



**Prevention,  
care, and dignity  
are the **path forward!****



**الأردن** يكثف جهوده  
بشأن تعاطي مواد  
الإدمان.



#تعاطي\_مواد\_الإدمان

Substance use is a public health challenge not a moral weakness. It impacts individuals, families, and entire communities, and requires care, support, and evidence-based solutions.



Drinking alcohol is associated with risks of developing diseases such as liver diseases, heart diseases, and different types of cancers.

### What are alcoholic beverages?

Alcoholic beverages are drinks containing ethanol, produced by fermenting sugars. Common types include beer, wine, and spirits. They can affect mood, behavior, and health, especially with long-term or excessive use.



## Meet our staff

“

I am very honored to be part of the WHO country office team in Jordan. It is a joy and a privilege to witness and contribute to significant accomplishments and visionary initiatives. Driven by a profound passion for addressing noncommunicable diseases, I am deeply committed to advancing the office's vital mission. It is inspiring to collaborate with such a devoted and impactful team, united in our pursuit to safeguard the health and well-being of everyone, ensuring that no one is left behind."

**Dr Dana Darwish**  
NCD Officer

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Working with the WHO Representative in Jordan has given me valuable insight into the important work we do to improve public health. I'm proud to be part of a supportive and dedicated team, and grateful for the opportunity to contribute to WHO's efforts in Jordan, helping ensure our work supports the country's health priorities and brings us closer to achieving our mission health for all.

**Mais Ghawi**  
Assistant to Head of WCO Jordan

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“

Having spent the majority of my career in the commercial sector, specializing in health economics and clinical research, joining the WHO Country Office in Jordan marked a meaningful shift. It offered me the opportunity to apply my expertise through a more community-centered lens. Few places allow you to witness the tangible impact of your work as it informs and shapes public policy. Beyond that, I've had the privilege of learning from colleagues with extensive experience in emergency response and humanitarian work, as well as engaging with other fascinating areas of the field. It is both an honor and a privilege to be part of the WHO country team and to contribute to such important and compelling topics.

**Dr Yousef Zawaneh**  
Health Economist

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**World Health  
Organization**

**Jordan**

