WHO JORDAN

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Welcome to our quarterly newsletter.
This quarter is a momentous one as we celebrate remarkable milestones and significant health achievements in Jordan. We are immensely proud to recognize Jordan as the first country in the world to eliminate leprosy, a testament to our collective dedication and hard work in advancing public health.

This quarter also witnessed an increased presence of our staff in the field, allowing us to connect directly with the communities we serve. Witnessing the impact of our day-to-day efforts has been both inspiring and motivating, reminding us of the vital role we play in improving health outcomes for all.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to our partners for their dedication and unwavering commitment. Your support has been instrumental in reaching these milestones, it is your passion that drives our mission forward.
My special appreciation goes to the team of WCO Jordan, thank you for all your hard work which pays off and directly serves the people of Jordan.

As we celebrate these achievements, let us continue to work together, drawing strength from our shared vision for a healthier Jordan.

Thank you for your dedication and continued support.

Jamela Al-Raiby

Dr Jamela Al-Raiby
WHO Representative to Jordan

Marking the start of a new phase in supporting mental health in Jordan: Mental Health Investment Case Launch event

Prince El Hassan explained that during crises, whether related to wars or disasters, mental health must be given high priority in order to preserve human dignity.

"

The need to invest in human resource development is more urgent than ever to transform citizens from followers to participants in decision-making

HRH Prince El Hassan Bin Talal

Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan bin Talal, Ministry of Health, in collaboration with WHO and UNDP has launched a report on the prevention and management of mental health conditions in Jordan: the case for investment

The investment case study, which was led by the Ministry of Health in close collaboration with WHO, UNDP in Jordan and the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (UNIATF), highlights the urgent need for increased investment in mental health.

The study reveals the economic burden of mental health disorders: in 2023 alone, it was estimated at 251.8 million Jordanian dinars (JOD), equivalent to 0.75% of Jordan's GDP. This includes JOD 53.1 million in direct health care spending and JOD 198.7 million in indirect costs, including lost productivity due to premature death and disability. Furthermore, the study proposed set of strategic actions to translate the projected benefits of scaled-up mental health investment into policy and practice

Jordan recording history becoming first country in the world verified by WHO for eliminating leprosy

WHO proudly congratulates Jordan on its remarkable achievement in receiving verification of elimination of leprosy. This significant milestone is a testament to the dedication and collaborative efforts of healthcare professionals and communities across Jordan.

Message from Minister of Health and WHO Representative to Jordan

Join us in celebrating a monumental achievement! Watch this special message, marking Jordan as the first country in the world to verify the elimination of leprosy. A proud moment for global health and a brighter future for all!

WHO on all its levels congratulates Jordan

The World Health Organization (WHO) congratulates the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for becoming the first country in the world to be officially verified as having eliminated leprosy. This significant milestone marks a new era in global public health efforts.
Jordan's success sets a worldwide precedent, showcasing what can be achieved with strong political commitment, dedication, collaboration and strategic planning.

> WHO congratulates Jordan on this impressive milestone, Leprosy has afflicted humanity for millennia, but country-by-country we are stopping transmission and freeing individuals, families and communities from its suffering and stigma.

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
WHO Director-General

World Health Organization

> Jordan's elimination of leprosy is an achievement that will transform the discourse around this age-old, stigmatizing disease, As the first country to achieve this target globally, Jordan stands as an inspiration to other countries, encouraging them to enhance their efforts and overcome barriers to achieve this remarkable feat.

Dr Hanan Balkhy
WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean

Following up on the Ministry of Health's interest in verifying the elimination of leprosy, WHO commissioned an independent team to assess this situation. After an extensive review, the verification team recommended that WHO acknowledges leprosy has been eliminated in Jordan.

Although Jordan has successfully eliminated leprosy, the WHO and Ministry of Health both stress the importance of maintaining robust surveillance systems to detect and manage future potential cases, including foreign-borne cases, without discrimination.

> Jordan's elimination of this age-old disease is a historic milestone in public health and a huge success for efforts to eliminate leprosy globally. The fight against leprosy around the world is more than a fight against a disease. It is also a fight against stigma, and a fight against psychological and socio-economic harm. I congratulate Jordan on its achievement.

Ms Saima Wazed
WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia and head of WHO's Global Leprosy Programme

Jordan joins the Global Platform for Access to Childhood Cancer Medicines

Today, the Government of Jordan, represented by the Ministry of Health, and the World Health Organization (WHO) signed a landmark agreement, marking a significant milestone in healthcare.

With this partnership, Jordan becomes the first member state in the Eastern Mediterranean Region to join the Global Platform for Access to Childhood Cancer Medicines! The Ministry of Health plays a vital role in this initiative, co-founded by St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and WHO, aimed at increasing access to lifesaving childhood cancer medicines.

Jordan Joins the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products

Jordan announced joining the "Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products" marking an important step toward achieving the goals of the National Strategy to Combat Tobacco and Smoking in all its forms. WHO congratulates Jordan on this significant milestone.

We welcome

Jordan

as a new party to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products

PROTOCOL
TO ELIMINATE
ILLICIT TRADE IN
TOBACCO PRODUCTS

"

Congratulations to Jordan on joining the FCTC Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products. We look forward to continued collaboration with Jordan to protect the people of the region from the tobacco industry's harmful tactics.

Dr Hanan Balkhy
WHO Regional Director for
Eastern Mediterranean Region

New guidelines for clinical tobacco cessation

WHO's clinical treatment guidelines encourage countries to promote cessation measures and strengthen cessation services that can help young people to quit tobacco use.

WHO first-ever clinical treatment **guideline for tobacco cessation** in

adults and **young people**

LEARN MORE

World Health Organization

Workshop on strengthening the national vaccine pharmacovigilance system

In collaboration with WHO Jordan, Ministry of Health and Jordan Food and Drug Administration conducted a 4-day training workshop to strengthening the national vaccine pharmacovigilance system, by focusing on supporting the Adverse Event Following Immunization (AEFI) surveillance system using WHO methodology of the AEFI causality assessment, and data management. Provided support for reviewing the national AEFI guidelines, aligning them with WHO guidelines and recommendations.

In the efforts to enhance practical training and experience sharing, a visit to a vaccination health facility to observe immunization sessions and discuss AEFI management.

Concluding this mission, MoH, JFDA and Upsala Monitoring Center, WHO Jordan conducted a one-day workshop to provide information on VigiTools and rollout VigiMobile in Jordan. This new tool aims to enhance the electronic reporting of AEFIs, ensuring data capture for better analysis and informed decision-making.

Community engagement to promote national immunization programme

As part of the national communication campaign on routine immunization in Jordan. The teams of WHO Jordan and RHAS engaged in one of the many community engagement activities across Jordan funded by the European Union Syria Trust Fund. these initiatives aim to raise awareness about the importance of routine vaccinations, ensuring that communities across Jordan are better informed and protected.

EU, WHO and RHAS recognizing the valuable efforts of community volunteers

Funded by the European Union, WHO Jordan and the Royal Health Awareness Society held an event to acknowledge the exceptional efforts of youth community volunteers in advancing the results of Expanded Programme for Immunization campaign

Advancing Patient Safety Policy and Strategy through national collaboration

Funded by the EU; WHO and the Ministry of Health held a workshop to discuss the final draft of the National Quality and Patient Safety Policy and Strategy (NQPS). Participants from government and non-government organizations engaged in the workshop—a crucial step towards improving quality healthcare and patient safety in Jordan.

WHO Jordan team visits Al-Hussein Hospital to examine emergency healthcare toolkits

The visit showcased the hospital's enhanced triage system and emergency response protocols, which have significantly improved patient outcomes and streamlined urgent care processes. This vital toolkit is helping ensure that critical patients receive timely, life-saving interventions.

Capacity building of healthcare workers in Jordan

The Ministry of Health and WHO concluded a series of trainings to empower healthcare workers to provide quality parenting services to parents and caregivers - targeting midwives, nurses and general physicians/pediatricians with focus on boosting parental care and child development services in Jordan.

Ministry of Health and WHO organized a workshop to develop the National Health Promoting Schools Strategy

As part of ongoing efforts to develop a comprehensive National Health Promoting Schools Strategy, the WHO team in Jordan partnered with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education to conduct a two-day workshop focused on strategy development and prioritization.

This collaborative event brought together key stakeholders, including government officials, UN entities, specialized centers, and national NGOs, to discuss and shape a healthier future in schools, ensuring the well-being of students across the country.
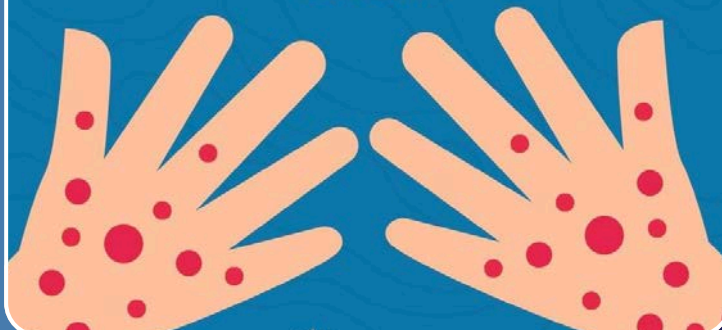
Risk Communication: Spreading Awareness and Countering Misinformation on MPOX

Following the WHO Director-General's recent declaration of the MPOX outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, WHO Jordan swiftly developed and launched an evidence-based social media awareness kit.

This initiative, part of the broader Mpox Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP), aims to inform and protect communities across Jordan, ensuring timely, accurate information reaches those most at risk.

What is monkeypox (mpox)?

Monkeypox (mpox) is an illness caused by the monkeypox virus, which can spread between people and occasionally from the environment to people

WHO and MoH Celebrated World Patient Safety Day and spreading awareness for improved diagnosis

On World Patient Safety Day the buildings of the Ministry of Health and World Health Organization were lit up in orange, as a reminder of the importance of teamwork to ensure patient safety, and this year, with a focus on improving diagnosis for safe and effective treatment

Healthier Schools: Training for Education Focal Points

In its effort to promote health and wellbeing across Jordan; Ministry of Health in collaboration with WHO delivered a series of trainings to the Ministry of Education school health focal points on key health topics; further strengthening health promotion activities on the community level. The training focused on key topics important to the capacity of school health focal points, such as vaccination, communication for health and emergency response.
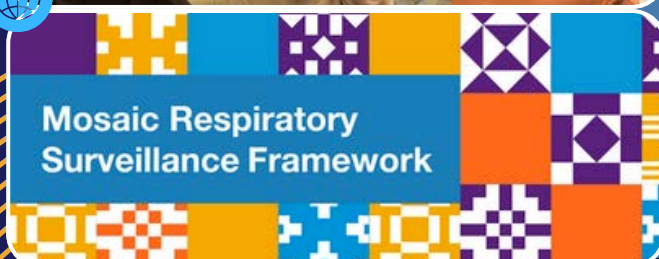

Empowering Caregivers: Impact of CCD Training in Jordan

WHO Jordan recently carried out a series of field visits to health centers across the country, showcasing the positive impact of the Care for Child Development (CCD) training. Caregivers are now more engaged in providing responsive care and creating enriching learning environments for their children, promoting healthier development and stronger family connections.

Jordan becomes first country in the region to implement Mosaic workshop

Mosaic Respiratory Surveillance Framework

The workshop that included around 45 participants representing several senior capacities at the national and subnational levels was concluded with a national consensus to adapt the Mosaic Framework to Enhance National Respiratory Virus Surveillance to respond to emerging threats and allocate resources effectively.

The WHO Mosaic Respiratory Surveillance Framework (Mosaic Framework) is a tool that harmonizes and collaboratively tailors' surveillance approaches to specific priority objectives.

Pandemic influenza and public health emergencies Community Protection Workshop

To strengthen Jordan's national Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Plan, WHO, at all three levels, piloted the first global multisectoral workshop. This initiative brings together national and international agencies to enhance people-centered preparedness and response to influenza and other respiratory viruses with epidemic and pandemic potential.
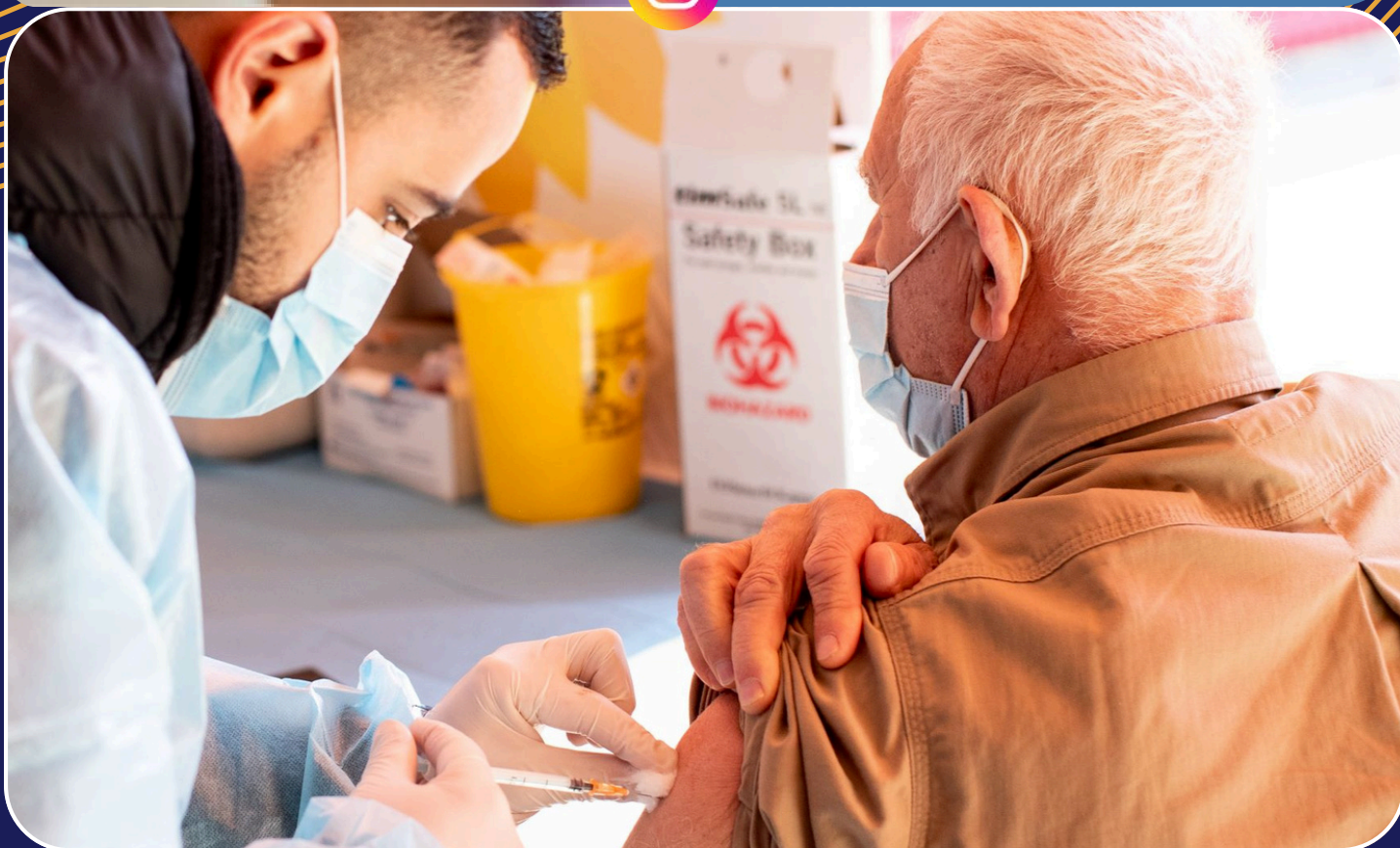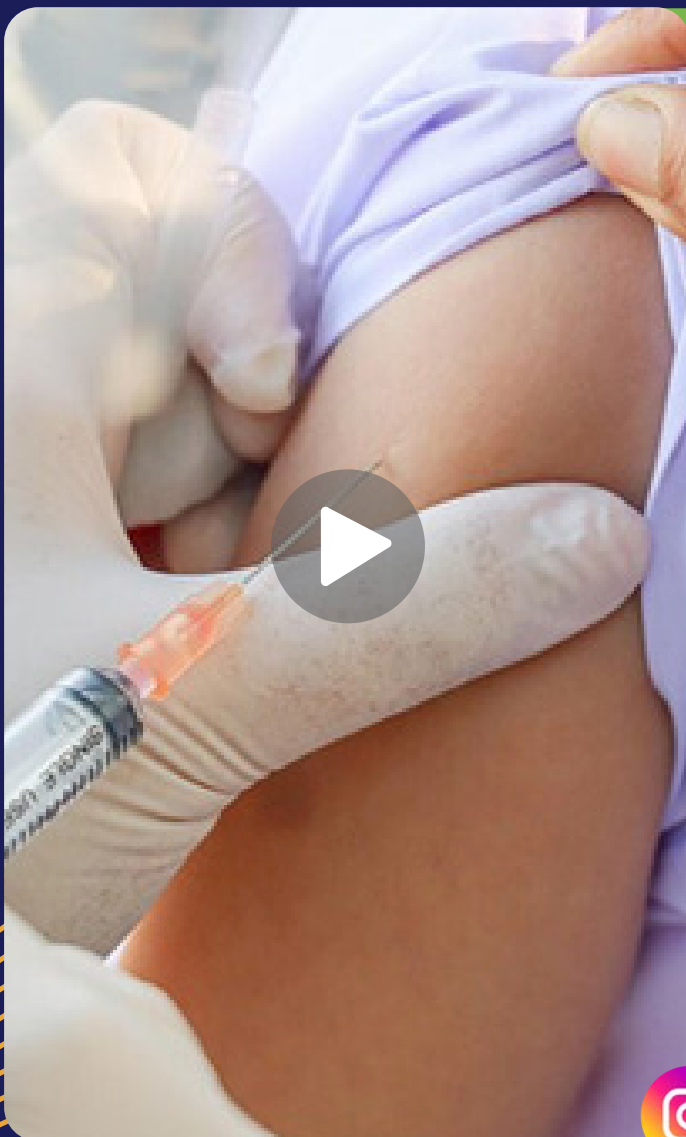
Stay Protected: Influenza Vaccination Saves Lives

Influenza vaccination is the best way to prevent influenza.

Vaccination is especially important for people at high risk of influenza complications and their carers.

Annual vaccination is recommended for:
- Pregnant women
- Children aged 6 months to 5 years
- People over age 65
- People with chronic medical conditions
- Health workers.

Our team is always growing!
We welcome:

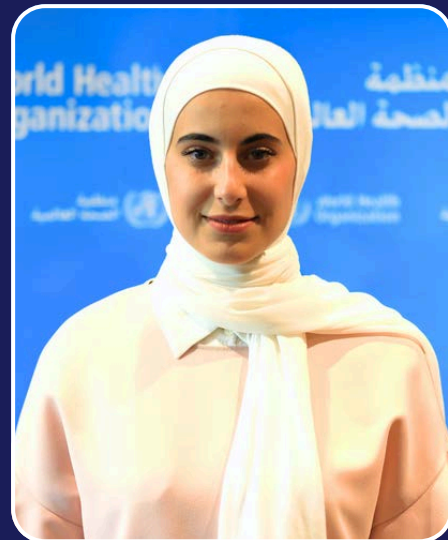

Dr Mona AlMudhwahi
Senior Health Advisor

Dr Oday Ibrahem
WHE Team Lead

Dr Ala' Shannaq
Health Emergency Support Officer

Yahia AlNajem
Project Engineer Specialist

Amal Tabba
Technical Specialist

Meet our staff

> As Jordan is hosting thousands of vulnerable refugees, I look forward to working with the team at Jordan country office to effectively support the impacted populations in Jordan and ensure refuge's wellbeing through providing them with most attainable quality healthcare services and affirm WHO's leadership within the health sector humanitarian response.

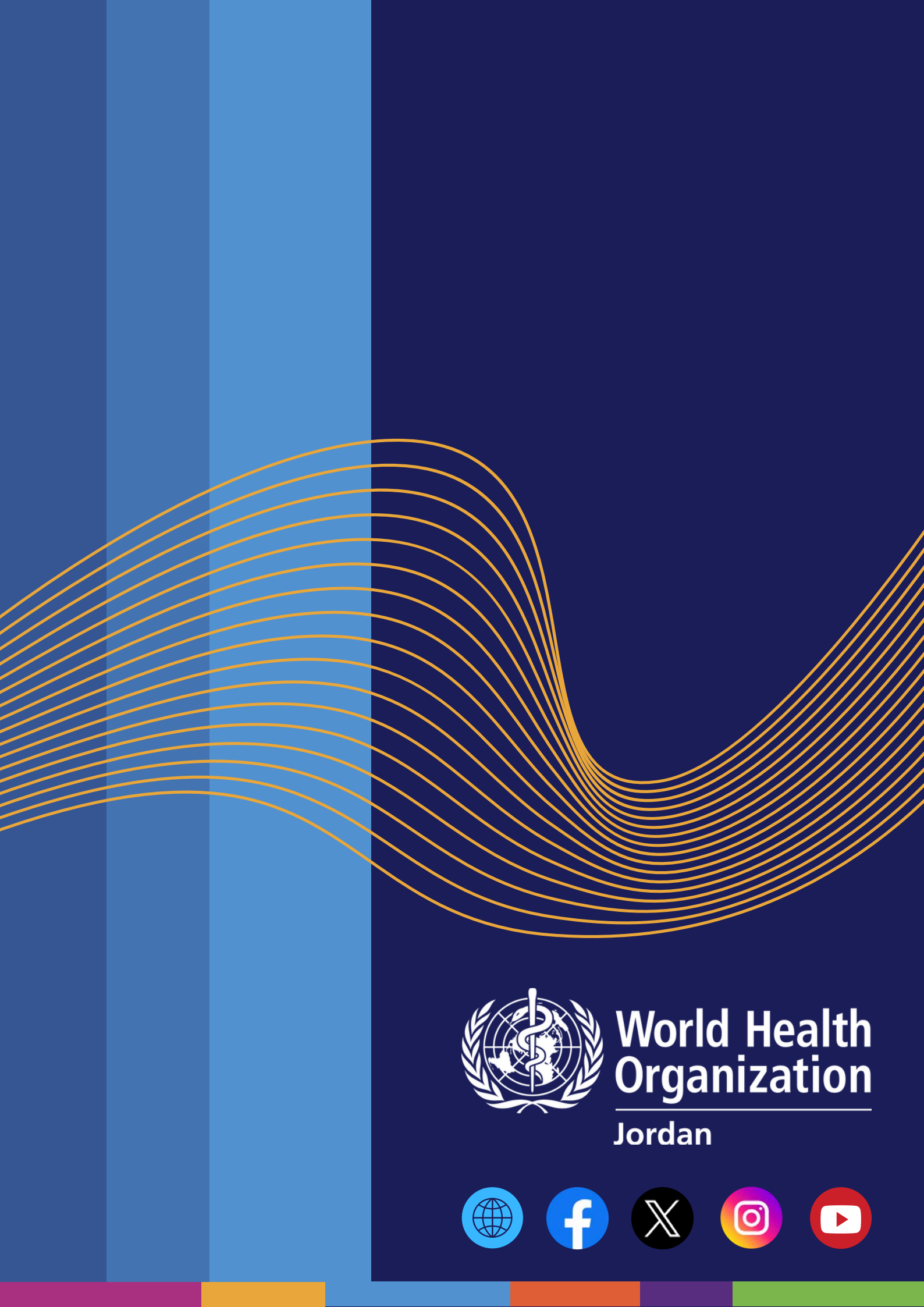**Dr Oday Ibrahiem**
WHE Team Lead

> Luckily, working for WHO /HR department, has opened my eyes and changed my perspective towards humanity and the role of HR in different aspects, where being passionate and bringing the right resources to the organization was a mediator to fulfilling the organizations vision and mission. My goal is to add more value and learn from this dynamic and broad experience in order to pave a path where harmonization and peace are applied.

Zain Amareen
HR Assistant

> As a Media and Communication Specialist at WHO Jordan, I have the privilege of supporting public health initiatives through strategic communication and media engagement. It's been incredibly rewarding to work with a passionate team; creating impact, promoting health awareness and countering health misinformation. The experience has been both professionally fulfilling and personally enriching.

Khaled Ahmad
Media and Communications Specialist

World Health Organization

Jordan