



# VHC Newsletter

## Issue No. 2 September 2017



### *For better healthy life and RH practices*

Project for Improvement of Services at Village Health Centers (VHCs) in Rural Host Communities of Syrian Refugees

## The project is in its second year!

Our project was launched in April 2016. The project is supporting the 14 focus village health centers (VHCs) in rural areas of three governorates; Irbid, Mafrqa and Dayr Allah/Balqa. The project aims to strengthen the service provision capacity of VHCs in areas of reproductive health (RH), antenatal care (ANC), postnatal care (PNC), child care and primary health care (PHC) services.

Through the project activities in the first year, the focus VHCs became able to provide better quality RH and family planning (FP) services. As of April 2017, all 14 focus VHCs started to provide FP services (pills and condoms). In addition, 64% of VHCs out of 14 VHCs started to provide ANC, PNC and child care services and several VHCs started to provide vaccination services, which had never before been provided at VHCs in Jordan. Furthermore, nine VHCs are covered by full time or part-time midwives.

Moreover, the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the project provided basic medical equipment and furniture for RH and primary health care service for all 14 focus VHCs to improve the service provision environment. We will continue our efforts to ensure that more VHCs will be able to provide a greater variety and better quality of services and sustain

these services after the end of the project period.

In the second year, we fully introduced community based health promotion (HP) activities in all 14 villages. The HP activities will contribute to promote community health in cooperation with local leaders and community based organizations.



**Director of Woman and Child Health Directorate:  
Dr. Malak Al-Ouri**

Lastly, I would like to thank directors of health directorates of the three focused governorates and their assistants, heads of Woman and Child Health (WCH) departments and Maternal and Child Health (MCH) supervisors in each health directorate and district, and the key project counterparts from Woman and Child Health directorate (WCHD), for their dedication to work together with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) experts and project staff to achieve our project goals and further enhance our RH and primary health care system in Jordan.



**Head of Supervision and monitoring department,  
Fadia Al-Jaber**

## Key counterparts from Woman and Child Health Directorate

I am very proud of the ongoing work with JICA since 2006 with the Project for Integrating Health and Empowerment of Women in the South Region through our esteemed ministry, the Ministry of Health, which always strives to provide the best health services to Jordanian citizens and non-Jordanians living in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

My mission as a counterpart to the Project for Improvement of Services of Village Health Centers in Rural Host Communities of Syrian Refugees is to enhance the capacity of healthcare providers working at VHCs and to continue to expand health services, especially RH/FP services in all remote areas, to allow everyone to receive quality services.

The Ministry of Health continuously works to improve the quality and coverage of RH/FP services which are provided in health centers.

Therefore, the Ministry of Health has always sought to make cooperation with various partners, including JICA, to develop RH/FP services at health centers in rural areas where these services are not available. Our project makes it easier for citizens, especially women and children, to obtain RH/FP services at VHCs located in the same areas of their homes.

I hope that the next stage of cooperation with JICA will include all remaining VHCs in remote communities in order to contribute the achievement of universal health coverage throughout the Kingdom.



**MCH Supervisor,  
Amal Abu-Shaweesh**



## —Great Achievements in the beginning of the Second year— Figures clearly show our achievements !!

From January 2017, the focus VHCs began providing FP services after completion of a series of training in 2016 and updating the VHC Operation Manual for RH and FP services by the efforts of MCH supervisors and supports from WCHD. Through the supervisory visits by the MCH supervisors from WCHD and the project team and the MOH monthly reports, it was observed that all 14 focus VHCs were providing FP services by the end of April

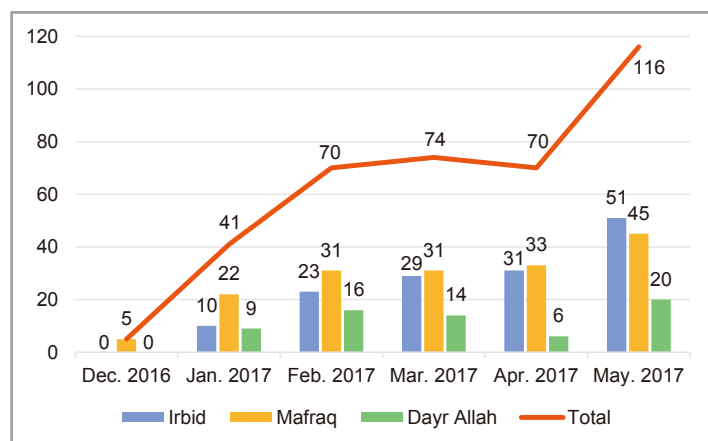


Fig. 1: Increased FP clients at the 14 focus VHCs

2017. Fig 1 shows a great increase in the number of FP clients until May 2017. In addition, at nine out of the 14 VHCs either full or part-time midwives were placed and started to provide ANC, PNC, and child care services. Figure 2 shows a drastic increase in the number of clients seeking RH services, which were almost zero in 2016.

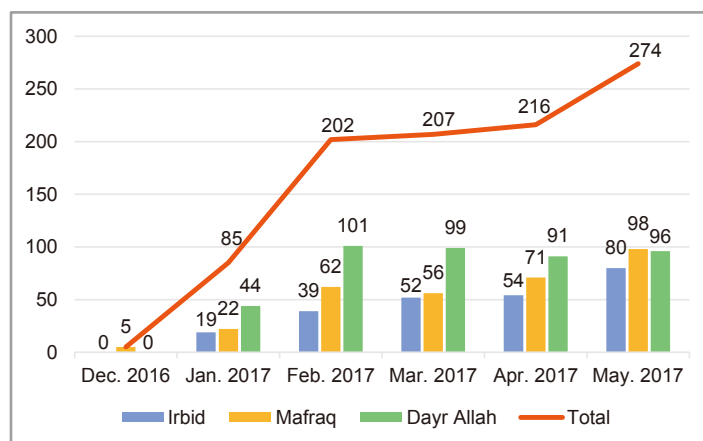


Fig. 2: Number of RH (ANC, PNC, Child care and FP) services provided at the 14 focus VHCs



## Health Promotion Workshops in Three Governorates

The project conducted two-day health promotion workshops with WCHD. The community health committee (CHC) members were invited and they analyzed current health issues in their communities and developed action plans to address those issues.

**5-6 April**



**Irbid**

The CHC consisted of the VHC staff, representatives of local associations, school teachers, and so on. A half CHCs out of six has experienced in health promotion activities. Various health issues were addressed, such as lack of awareness of FP and newborn care, early marriage, chronic diseases, and so on (35 participants).

Dr. Malak Al-Ouri, Director of WCHD, and representatives from the JICA Jordan office joined this workshop in Mafrqa. Senior local leaders as members of the CHCs actively participated in the discussion. At the workshop, health issues in their communities that frequently reported were lack of awareness of FP, anemia, head lice and so on (22 participants).

**Mafrqa**

**12-13 April**



**3-4 April**

**Dayr Allah**

Two CHCs consisted of various members including school principals, teachers, heads of associations and a health promoter in Dayr Allah district. Majority of local leaders are female. Major health problems identified at the workshop were lack of awareness of birth spacing, adolescent's unhealthy behavior, personal hygiene and so on (18 participants).





# Health Promotion Opening Ceremony in 14 Villages

The community health committee (CHC) members in collaboration with VHC staff planned and implemented various ceremonies based on their resources and experiences.

**April 18 -  
May 10, 2017**



**Ass'arah May 2**

The VHC midwife and the CHC members collaborated well in organizing the event. Many female community members and school girls participated. The girls presented well-trained plays about RH services and nutrition songs (75 participants).



**Dahl May 1**

The ceremony was held under the tent near the VHC. The director of the Mafrq Health Directorate joined the event and listened to community people's requests for enhancement of health facilities in their community. The CHC members helped each other (56 participants).



**Tokobol and Om Al-Jadail May 4**

The CHC members helped children to perform a short skit about oral hygiene. The VHC nurse made her speech on new RH services at her VHC. The district health promotor collaborated with the CHC well. (50 participants).



**Roudet Al-Amir Mohamed April 27**

The event took place in the VHC's waiting space which was nicely decorated by the CHC members. Paying respect to specific to local culture, most participants were male. A community leader delivered a welcome speech and promised to support to improve the VHC environment (41 participants).



**Al-Khribeh May 10**

The CHC members prepared various kinds of slides-shows and children's plays about nutrition and harm of secondhand smoke. The photo (left) shows their handmade food sample used for the children's play. A great level of commitment was observed from all stakeholders (86 participants).



**Breiqa May 9**

The CHC members include the doctor who covers the VHC and nurses from a neighboring comprehensive health center. They collaborated in organizing the event. All community stakeholders are always committed well to implement the project activities (52 participants).



**Kufur Kyfia April 25**

The ceremony took place at the community hall "diwan." The CHC members utilized their extensive experiences in conducting community health activities. The midwife made a speech announcing new services at her VHC. A community leader appreciated Japan's assistance (67 participants).



**Roudeh Al-Amir Hamzeh May 10**

The ceremony took place under a tent and was led by one of the community members. Most participants were male due to the community's culture, and each one of them has a specific responsibility in the event. The district MCH supervisor made a speech on VHC roles (56 participants).



**Mandah May 1**

The CHC members conducted a health promotion activity to raise awareness of the hypertension and hyperglycemia screening program. The village leasers and the health promotor had rich experiences and great resources in the health promotion field (66 participants).



**Al-Aqeb May 4**

The CHC members were highly committed since they joined the project workshop. Many traditional male community leaders joined the event and stressed their health issues, such as shortage of health services and health staff in their communities (76 participants).



**Abu Habeel April 25**

A great level of collaboration was observed between the CHC members and school teachers. Two children's plays about FP methods as well as songs and dances about nutrition were presented. It was an attractive and fascinating ceremony (98 participants).



**Maysara and Fanoush April 26**

The ceremony was carried out at the girl's school. The CHC members prepared a slide-show about the project activities. Two representatives from the JICA office joined and expressed their gratitude for active community involvement (100 participants).



**Al-Daqmasah April 26**

The venue had a great view of the landscape of the whole village. Villagers combining well-mix genders were gathered. A head of the awareness and health media department of Mafrq Health Directorate made a speech on the CHC's roles and importance of health promotion activities (63 participants).



**Um Ayash April 18**

This ceremony at the girl's school was well coordinated by the CHC members and the district MCH supervisor. Many female participants enjoyed the event. The health promotor presented his experiences in health promotion activities (106 participants).

Dr. Malak, Director of WCHD, Ms. Shuto, a representative of JICA Jordan office, and Ms. Komasawa, a project chief advisor, expressed their appreciation for the efforts of all health directorates and districts to conduct these epoch-making events.





# Supervisors from the Target Health Directorates

*"We are expecting to strengthen VHC capacity and increase quality of services"*

## From Irbid



*A collaborative effort to enhance "healthy community"*

Photo from right to left; Ms. Mariam Al-Omari, MCH supervisor. Dr. Lutfieh Shalabi, former Head of MCH department, Ms. Hiyam Obidat, MCH supervisor, Ms. Khlood Horani, staff nurse at MCH department.

## From Mafrq



New head of MCH department, Dr. Mohannad Abu Al-Hijaa

*Everybody working together makes greater achievements*

Photo from right to left; Dr. Amal Abdel Kareem, former Head of MCH department, Ms. Souad Shdiefat, MCH supervisor, Ms. Sawsan Tamimi, Al-Badia district MCH supervisor, Ms. Majeda Takrori, Midwife/ member of MCH department.

## From Dayr Allah, Balqa



*Hand to hand to improve our services*

Photo from right to left; Ms. Helweh Al-Issa, MCH supervisor, Ms. Nuha Hatamleh, MCH supervisor, Ms. Khitam Rahahleh, Head of MCH department, Ms. Bothina Zaqzouq, Dayr Allah district MCH supervisor.

### Activities conducted from Jan. to Sep. 2017

- Mar.: Technical committee meeting
- Mar.: Supervisory visits for all 14 focus VHCs
- Apr.: Workshops for the health promotion activities in 3 health directorates
- Apr. - May.: Opening ceremonies for health promotion in 14 villages
- May.: Delivering Medical equipment and furniture to the 14 VHCs from MOH and the project
- Jul.: Meeting on Mobile clinic operation
- Jul.: Meeting on the follow-up the performance of VHCs in three governorates
- Aug.: Advisory mission by the JICA headquarters and the third JCC meeting
- Sep.: Refresher workshop for VHC health staff
- Sep.: Printing FP flip-chart and distribute it to health centers in Jordan
- Sep.: Printing the VHC operation manual for RH/FP services and distribute it to VHCs.
- Sep.: Mobile clinic training

### Planned Activities for Oct. to Dec. 2017

- Oct.: Supervisory visits for all 14 focus VHCs
- Nov.: Study tour for good practices in health promotion activities
- Nov.: Developing a good practice booklet
- Dec.: Preparation for the endline survey



If you have any comments, questions, suggestions, please contact us at;  
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