



# VHC Newsletter

Issue No. 1 March 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

### Welcome note from our Director

As a “welcome” to this Newsletter, Dr. Mohammed Tarawneh, the Project Director and Director of Primary Health Administrative Directorate, expressed his expectation towards this project.

Over the last several years, the massive influx of Syrian refugees into Jordan has stressed the country’s health service provision capacity. According to Census 2015, 1.27 million Syrian are living in the Kingdom and 44% of them live in Irbid and Mafrqa. According to information collected by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) during a field visit in August 2014, obstetric bed occupancy rates of some hospitals in the northern region exceeded 100%, and more than half of them were Syrian refugees. Accordingly, to maintain quality and quantity of health services for Jordanians living in host communities, we need to enhance our health facilities to increase in both quantity and quality of service provision.

On the other hand, we appreciated that JICA has been implemented series of technical cooperation projects to strengthen Reproductive health (RH) services and improve women’s empowerment in rural communities of South Region since 1997 and successfully contributed people’s behavior change in these field.

To tackle with our current challenges, the Ministry is ready to implement this project, entitled the “Project for Improvement of Services at Village Health Centers (VHCs) in Rural Host Communities of Syrian Refugees,” with JICA supports based on the JICA’s long and valuable experiences.



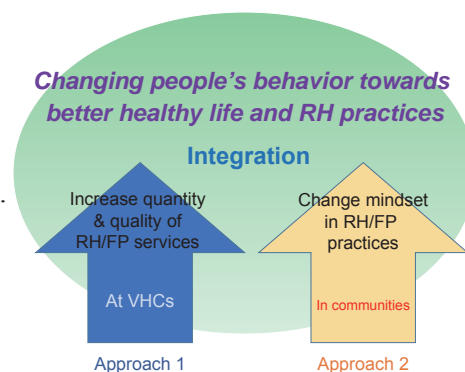
Dr. Mohammed Tarawneh

### About VHC Project

The Project has been launched in April 2016, jointly operated by Ministry of Health (MOH) and JICA. The Project aims at contributing to improve the quality of services at village health centers (VHCs) in rural host communities of Syrian refugees through strengthening VHC capacities and promoting healthy life style/RH practices for both Jordanians and Syrian refugees.

The project purpose is “Service delivery function of the focus VHCs is improved.” To achieve its purpose, three outputs and activities were set as follows:

- Output 1:** An enabling environment for VHCs in the project sites is secured.
  - Updating VHC operation manual
  - Providing mobile clinic
  - Providing basic medical furniture and equipment
- Output 2:** Capacity of health staff at VHCs in the project sites is strengthened.
  - Providing training sessions
  - Supervisory visits to VHCs
- Output 3:** Health promotion activities are activated at 14 focus VHCs.
  - Health promotion activities (e.g. Activating the established Community Health committees)



Project Period: April 2016 to April 2018  
 Implementation Agency: Directorate of Women and Child Health Department, Ministry of Health  
 Project Site: Health Directorate of Irbid, Mafrqa and Dayr Allah district in Balqa Directorate





# Snapshots of Achievements in 2016

## Opening Ceremony

An Opening ceremony of the project was held in Amman on August 3, 2016 with the 46 participation of key stakeholders. The contents of the ceremony were the introduction of the project outline, and discussion of the planned activities with respective stakeholders. The participants were the MOH central and governorate staff (23), the Higher Population Council (3), the development partners (10) and JICA Jordan office representatives (3), the project team members. The participants' valuable comments were the project about confirmation of VHC role and responsibilities, improvement of indicators to monitor project progress and project sustainability and so on.



Project Manager



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

If you have any comments, questions, suggestions, please contact us at; VHC Project Office  
7th floor, Ministry of Health  
Email: vhcproj@gmail.com



Project Website: <https://www.jica.go.jp/project/english/jordan/001/index.html>

## Training for Health Staff

The project provided three kinds of training sessions, aiming at 1) Family planning (FP) and counseling, 2) FP logistic, 3) basic Reproductive health services (Antenatal care, Postnatal care and Child care) at VHCs. After completion of these training, health staff at 14 focus VHCs were able to provide FP services (provision of pills and male condom and FP counseling) and basic RH services.



at Balqa



at Mafraq

## Activities Done in 2016

- Jun.: Work Plan and Monitoring Sheet Ver. 1
- Jul.: Various meetings (Establishing the Technical committee, updating VHC manual)
- Jul.-Aug.: VHC survey
- Aug.: Opening ceremony
- Aug.: 1st JCC meeting
- Sep.: Technical committee meetings (Preparing the training plan)
- Sep.-Nov.: Household survey
- Oct.: Training on FP and counselling and Training on FP logistic
- Nov.: Training on Reproductive Health services at VHCs
- Dec.: 2nd JCC meeting

## Planned Activities in 2017

- Feb.: Complete mobile clinic production
- Mar.: Health promotion meeting in communities, medical equipment procurement
- Apr.: Starts health promotion activities in villages
- May.: Meetings on the follow-up of VHC RH/FP service provision
- Aug.: Advisory mission by the JICA headquarters and JCC
- Sep.: Refresh workshops for nursing staff
- Nov.: Study tour for the best practice in health promotion activities
- Dec.: Preparation for the online survey.

## Project Sites in three Governorates

