WHO SPECIAL INITIATIVE FOR MENTAL HEALTH

JORDAN

- Jordan's National Mental Health and Substance Use Action Plan (2018-2021) is coming to an end
- While 6.1% of Jordan's annual GDP is allocated to healthcare, there is limited information about funds expended on mental health each year; although it is well established that most financial support for mental health is limited to long-stay psychiatric hospital facilities
- Jordan has 0.87 psychiatrists per 100,000 people, the majority of whom work in psychiatric hospitals
- Jordan has 5 psychiatric hospitals, 3 psychiatric inpatient units, and 113 outpatient mental health facilities
- To date, 80 primary health care providers have been trained in WHO mhGAP to identify and manage the care needed for people living with mental health conditions

STRENGTHS
- Strong psychiatry program
- Awareness of challenges and next steps within government
- Increasing civil society activism
- MOH technically supports de-institutionalisation which is part of their National Mental Health and Substance Use Action Plan (2018-2021)
- Interest from the international community in supporting the mental health reform in Jordan
- Mental health care is free or very low cost for Jordanian nationals and some Syrian refugees

CHALLENGES
- Mental health governance needs restructuring and budgetary allocations re-organised to promote mental health care outside of long-stay institutional care
- Medication for common mental health conditions is lacking in primary health care centres and there are restricted prescription rights for such medicines
- Lack of national-level mental health data
- Lack of a human resources plans for de-centralisation of mental health professionals to work outside of the psychiatric hospital system
- Limited inter-sectorial coordination

JORDAN’S DESIGN PROCESS

1. Create a National Technical Committee to review, evaluate and report on achievements of the existing National Mental Health and Substance Use Action Plan (2018-2021)
2. Conduct workshops with National Technical Committee to develop the next National Mental Health and Substance Use Action Plan (2022-2025)
3. Consult with National Technical Committee to consultation to identify areas for WHO’s Special Initiative for Mental Health to support and/or complement the revised National Mental Health and Substance Use Action Plan (2022-2025)
4. Develop a detailed plan for implementation of WHO Special Initiative for Mental Health support, in the form of a logical framework, including outcomes, outputs, activities, indicators and timeline.
5. Finalise plans, ensure Jordan Ministry of Health sign-off and begin implementation of both Jordan's National Mental Health and Substance Use Action Plan (2022-2025) and work of the Jordan-WHO Special Initiative for Mental Health