<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Citation</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Main Health Problems in Jordan and in the region

Dr. Ali As’ad MD, MPH
Jordan
WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region

- comprises 22 countries located in
  - North Africa (Egypt, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Tunisia),
  - Sub-Saharan Africa (Djibouti, Somalia and Sudan)
  - South-west Asia (Afghanistan, Bahrain, Iraq, Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arabian Republic, United Arab Emirates, Yemen)
- The total regional population is 513 million.
Jordan
Age Distribution
Population 5,800,000
Some Facts about Jordan

- 38% of the population are less or equal to 15 years of age
- 6% of the population are greater than or equal to 60 years of age
- 7% of women are active in the workforce, as are 23% of men.
- 11% of the Jordanian population are under the poverty line
- Unemployment rates: 14%
Major Challenges in Jordan

- The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is 3.7 (Which means that average Jordanian woman will bear 3.7 children during her lifetime;) if the current fertility rates obtain. The size of population will be doubled within 20 years.
- Population growth is the main Challenge in Jordan.
Malaria

- Malaria is eradicated in Jordan since 1971
- But in the region it is still prevalent
Tuberculosis

- Tuberculosis is relatively a rare disease and is in continuous decline in Jordan. The incidence is 6/100,000 (It means that number of detected cases in the country does not exceed 450 cases every year.)
Estimated number of adults and children living with HIV, by region (excluding Sub-Saharan Africa), 1990–2007
Estimated number of adults and children living with HIV, by region, 1990–2007
Jordan is one of the low prevalence countries. *(0.02% Estimation)*

Total cumulative HIV/AIDS cases reported less than 500 cases.

According to WHO/UNAIDS estimates the actual number of cases is 1000 cases.

Unprotected paid sex is main mode of transmission,
What are the main diseases in Jordan

- Cardiovascular diseases
- Diabetes
- Cancers
- Respiratory infections
- Accidents
Scope of Public Health work

- National Level
- Regional level
- International level
National Level/Jordan

- Reproductive health
- Family planning
- Training & Education
- Disease Surveillance and control
- Environmental sanitation
- Training & education
Mother and child health is the main component in primary health care in Jordan. There is close collaboration between Japan and Jordan in this field through JAICA.
Immunization of Children

- National Immunization Campaigns
Disease surveillance & control
Disinfection of Aircraft During SARS
Education of youth is one of main activities.
Environmental sanitation
The main public health problem in Jordan is shortage in water resources.

Jordan is among the least 10 countries in the world with scarcity in water.
Regional Activities

- Jordanian Outreach teams in Sudan
Regional assistance

- Training activity in Lebanon
Outreach activities
Rural clinic in Sudan

[Image of a rural clinic in Sudan]
Jordan plays a significant role in assisting countries of the region. It is estimated that around 800,000 displaced Iraqis reside in Jordan.
Bed nets from Japan

- Distribution of bed nets in Africa
- UNICEF hope this net distribution will save thousands of lives a year.
Global Health Issues

- Global Health Issues are among the most challenging and complex ones faced by XXIst century in societies and international community.
- To be addressed and solved, they require the cooperation among, and input from a multiplicity of very diverse stakeholders, in particular,
  - National governments,
  - International institutions,
  - Humanitarian
  - Professional health organizations,
  - Bio-medical industry sector