

Building Community Protection in Health Emergencies: The Jordan Experience

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Building Resilience Through Community Protection: The Jordan Experience

- **Core Objective:** Empower communities to act as frontline responders in health emergencies.
- **Strategic Importance:**
 - Communities are the first and last line of defense in health emergencies.
 - Reduces the health, social, and economic impact of crises.
 - Enhances local resilience and national preparedness.
- **Global Context:** WHO's Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (HEPR) framework emphasizes community-centered approaches.
- **Jordan's Context:** COVID-19 and Mpox highlighted the need for stronger community engagement.

Jordan CDC's Collaborative Leadership

- **Mandates:**
 - Develop health policies for epidemic control and prevention.
 - Coordinate national health emergency responses.
 - Strengthen RCCE and integrate community engagement into public health systems.
- **Collaboration:**
 - Partnered with the Ministry of Health among other local stakeholders, with support from the World Health Organization and Robert Koch Institute to develop a community protection roadmap.



Jordan's Journey So Far

- **Achievements That Set the Foundation:**
 - National RCCE Committee: Co-chaired with the Ministry of Health Jordan, established Terms of Reference.
 - Pandemic Preparedness: Developed RCCE plans during COVID-19 and Mpox outbreaks and initiated the integration of RCCE in national preparedness plan.
 - National workshop to initiate a context-specific community protection roadmap.
 - Activities:
 - Introduced principles of community protection.
 - Conducted a tabletop exercise (TTX) simulating a zoonotic outbreak.
 - Identified gaps and prioritized actions for a strategic roadmap.

Key Insights from the Workshop

Gaps Identified:

Governance and Coordination:

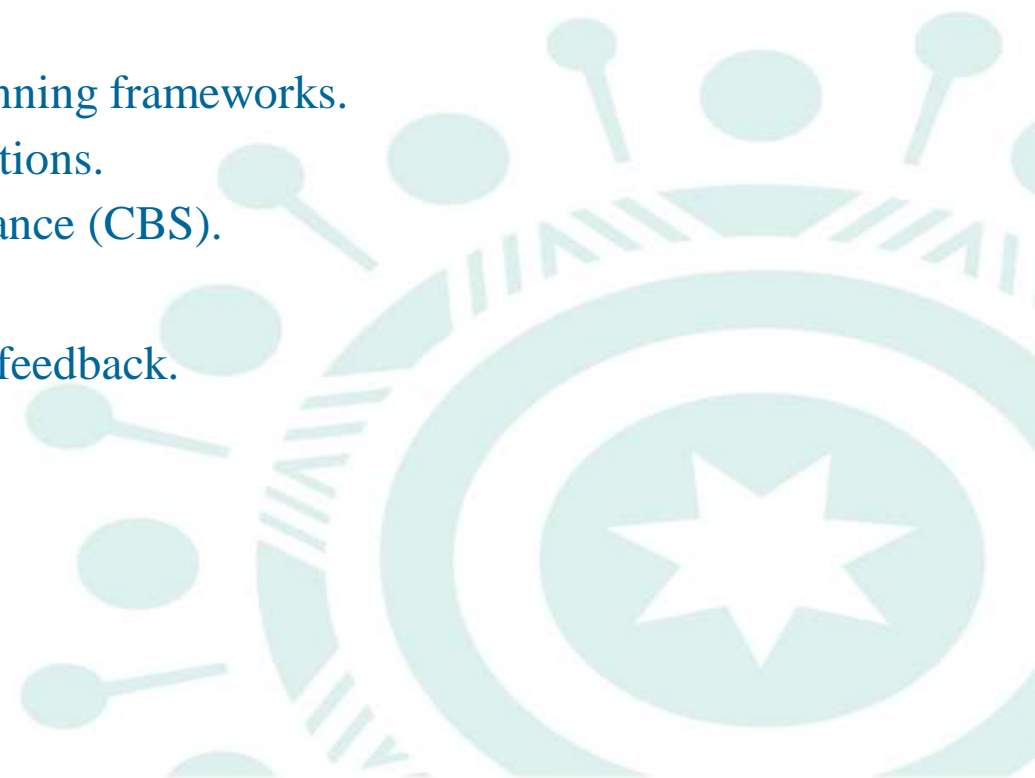
- RCCE perceived as secondary priority; limited integration into frameworks.

Community Engagement:

- Limited community representation in national emergency planning frameworks.
- Roles for community health committees require clearer definitions.
- Lack of standardized protocols for community-based surveillance (CBS).

Infodemic management:

- Insufficient tools for infodemic management and community feedback.



Prioritized Actions and Best Practices

- **Prioritized actions:**
 - Strengthen governance with RCCE at the core of emergency planning.
 - Improve coordination through formalized protocols and SOPs.
 - Build local capacity with structured and continuous training initiatives.
- **Best Practices:**
 - Engage communities early in the planning and response phases.
 - Foster trust through transparent risk communication and inclusive community engagement.
 - Document lessons learned to refine strategies and build evidence.



Roadmap for Community Protection

Phase 1 (Short-Term):

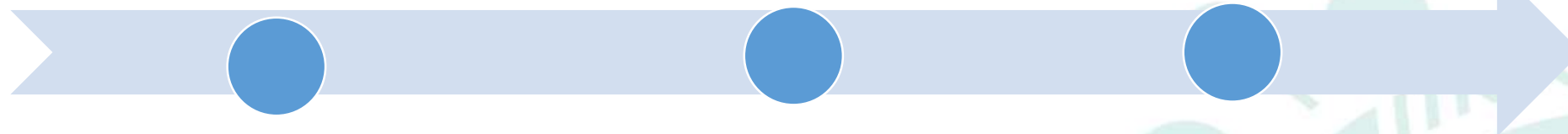
- Validate the roadmap through inclusive multisectoral consultations and pilot-testing in selected communities.
- Finalize and refine the strategy based on stakeholder feedback from consultations and pilot-testing.
- Conduct targeted training for community health volunteers to enhance community-based surveillance (CBS) and RCCE capacities.

Phase 3 (Long-Term):

- Integrate community protection principles into national health policies, strategies, and legislative frameworks.
- Advocate for sustained financing and capacity-building initiatives to strengthen community health systems and RCCE activities.

Phase 2 (Medium-Term):

- Establish institutionalized RCCE platforms and create digital and community-based tools for social listening and managing infodemics.
- Operationalize multisectoral collaboration mechanisms through defined roles, responsibilities, and resource-sharing agreements.



Leveraging Community Engagement

COVID-19 and Mpox Lessons:

- ✓ RCCE drove behavior change and effective risk communication.
- ✓ Strengthened local partnerships enhanced response efforts.

Workshop Contribution:

- ✓ Engaged 60+ participants across sectors to align efforts and identify synergies.
- ✓ Focused on empowering local systems and integrating community voices into planning.



Reflections for NPHIs

- **Shared Lessons:**

- Align community protection strategies with national health priorities.
- Empower communities as proactive actors in health emergency preparedness.
- Foster partnerships to leverage global resources and expertise.



Moving Forward Together

- Jordan CDC remains committed to advancing community-centered health security.
- Collaboration with National, regional, and global partners is essential for success.

Together, we can build resilient health systems that prioritize community protection.





THANK YOU