

## 1 Introduction

The aim of this research is to assess the impact of accessibility on the effective delivery of health services in the Jordan Badia. Central to the research will be to identify the key geographical, economic and social factors which explain variations in accessibility to health care. In addition, the study will identify which groups have problems of accessibility and the resultant impact on patterns of utility in the area.

The purpose of the preliminary visit to the programme field centre at Safawi was to become oriented and familiar with the study site. I also aimed to make contact with the Jordanian Ministry of Health to discuss the proposed research to avoid carrying out the study in isolation and to discuss the accessibility of secondary data.

This report will summarise previous studies carried out in the project area, outline the aims of the visit, record the findings, and suggest a way forward.

## 2 Previous studies

Two studies have been carried out with regards to health and health provision in the project area. These are briefly summarised as follows.

Al-Akour *et al.* (1994), carried out a survey of patients visiting health centres during 1994. The report presented an overview of the numbers and characteristics of the population visiting the health facilities in the area to establish an approximation of their needs. In addition, it summarised current provision of services and suggested which aspects of provision were weak, for example few 'specialist' facilities such as x-ray equipment. One of the main weaknesses of this report is that the interviewees are 'users' of facilities and are therefore not likely to represent the full range of those experiencing different accessibility problems.

Brandenburg (1995) carried out an anthropological study of a small number of households in the programme area in the summer of 1994. The study considered attitudes amongst the people interviewed to modern health services and traditional medicine. The report indicated many attitudinal reasons for limited uptake of services but limited consideration was made to the geographical and economic factors relevant to accessibility. In addition it did not attempt to identify which sub-groups have accessibility problems, neither has a definitive list of factors been compiled and their relative importance considered. A more complete survey is therefore required to allow for a systematic appraisal of the impact of accessibility on the effective delivery of health services. My research will fulfil this requirement by providing a working report which will be a valuable tool for the planning of health services not only in the programme area, but also Jordan as a whole.

Al-Akour, R, *et al.* 1994: Study On: Improvement of the Health Services in the Jordan Badia Research and Development Programme Area. Published by Jordanian Ministry of Health.

Brandenburg, C, 1995: Health and Education Survey. Published by Jordan Badia Research and Development Programme.

## 3 Aims of the preliminary site visit

The aims of the site visit are as follows:

- i) To become oriented and familiar with the Badia programme study site.
- ii) To shadow other research projects, particularly human and social science projects, to get a feel for the interaction process between researcher and population in the specific context of this programme in this area.