



22.5 million children, the vast majority members of impacted local communities, have been vaccinated against polio this year

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS:

In Egypt, RRP6 partners have extended support to the Ministry of Health and Population Expanded Program on Immunization for its national anti-Polio campaign during October. The campaign targeted more than 17 million children under five, including some 27,000 refugee children. The support was in the form of disseminating information about the campaign through SMS, Facebook and flyers. This is the second round of national anti-Polio campaign in 2014.

In Lebanon, the Ministry of Public Health, in collaboration with RRP6 partners, launched the 5th National Polio Immunization Campaign in October. 516,967 children were immunized (91 percent of the initial target), with the next campaign in November aiming to reach 570,000 children across Lebanon.

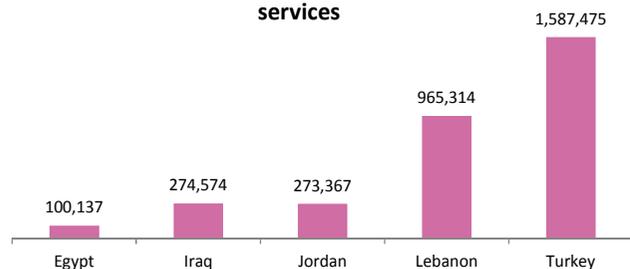
In Iraq, where more than 14,000 new refugees have arrived since 25 September, mobile units have been set up at the border crossing to vaccinate against measles and polio.

In Jordan, a national immunization campaign against polio was successfully conducted from 26-30 October. A total of 1,159,063 children from 0-5 years were vaccinated, 150,042 of whom were Syrian.

In Turkey, a polio immunization campaign was conducted with support of RRP6 partners in six districts of Istanbul.

Also in Turkey, a needs assessment started on a system for the referral of samples across the border, aiming at improving the diagnosis and prevention of communicable diseases and building diagnostic capacity of laboratories in South East Turkey. In Jordan, 600 new arrivals were screened at the Raba Sarhan border crossing, and 193 medical consultations provided. In Iraq, health triage is also conducted for new arrivals, with cases in need of further medical care being transferred to the nearby hospital in Zakho. Partners in the various camps in Iraq have also stepped up their response to the health needs of newly arriving refugees.

Consultations for Syrian refugees in primary health care services



SYRIAN REFUGEES IN THE REGION:

3,181,848

Refugee Population, end-October 2014

3,590,000

Refugee Population Planning figure, end-2014

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

Syrian refugees outside camps have free access to national health care systems in all RRP6 countries aside from Lebanon. For refugees in camps in Iraq and Turkey, free access to primary health care is provided by national health systems (and in the case of Iraq through humanitarian partners), whereas in Jordan, refugees accommodated in camps have their primary health care needs met by RRP6 partners. RRP6 actors support an estimated 75 per cent of the cost of primary health care services for Syrian refugees.

RRP6 partners provide access, and cover costs, for secondary and tertiary health care for the most vulnerable refugees in all countries in the region through targeted, and means-tested, processes with the exception of Turkey. RRP6 partners report that national health care systems are strained to meet the increased health needs of refugees. Mental health needs are growing, exceeding service providers' capacity to respond to the needs, including for survivors of torture, violence and post-traumatic stress syndrome.

The utilization by women of ante-natal services is low, and there are higher than regional rates of caesarean deliveries, leading to higher costs and greater risks to mothers and infants. In addition, ensuring that women have access to normal delivery services is an ongoing necessity. Assessments indicate the need for prevention services to avert deterioration of acute malnutrition and also a need for micronutrient intervention. Infant and young child feeding indicators show poor feeding practices.

Given the incidence of polio and measles and the higher risks of outbreaks of other vaccine-preventable diseases, additional support is required to promote and provide immunization services to refugees and host communities.

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY TO OCTOBER 2014

3,200,867 consultations for Syrian refugees in primary health care services

3,200,867

Planned Response, by end-2014

3,717,000

398,277 referrals of Syrian refugees to secondary or tertiary healthcare services

398,277

717,000

86,101 antenatal consultations for Syrian refugees

86,101

423,000

3,256 health workers trained

3,256

11,300

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Planned response based on full funding of RRP6 for an expected population of 3.59 million Syrian refugees in the region by end-2014. As at end-October 2014, there were 3.18 million refugees in the region and the overall RRP6 appeal was 51% funded.