

Vaccination and other disease prevention measures in the region were reviewed and strengthened in December

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS:

In Lebanon, missions were conducted during December to compile and analyze information on the repeated outbreaks of hepatitis A across the country over the past two years. Preliminary recommendations from the missions were to carry out a nation-wide catch-up vaccination campaign for all children between 18 months and 3 years and to include Hepatitis A vaccination in the routine childhood vaccination package. Similarly, another mission has assessed the country's preparedness for Ebola virus disease (EVD), identifying areas of concern and recommending remedial measures to strengthen capacities for risk mitigation and prevent possible spread and transmission of EVD.

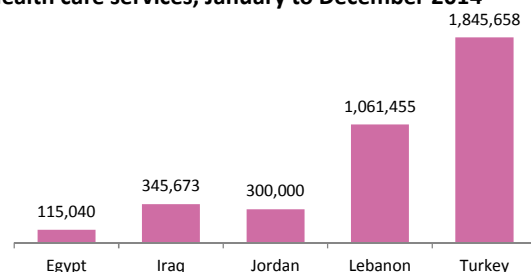
In Iraq, more than 26,000 new refugees have arrived since late September, and the Department of Health in Dohuk has established mobile units at the border crossing to vaccinate against measles and polio and to conduct triage. Cases in need of further medical care are referred to the nearby hospital in Zakho.

In Egypt, trainings have been held for medical and paramedical staff on different health topics including high risk pregnancy case management, chest infections, fever among children under five, and breast feeding. Health education sessions have also been carried out for mothers attending antenatal care clinics on calcium and vitamin C sources and their importance during pregnancy.

In Turkey, a polio review mission was carried out in early December in five provinces. A first ever nutritional survey was also conducted in both camps and local communities to better comprehend the nutritional situation of Syrian children and women. A total of 1,218 households were assessed, and the results are expected to be available in the first quarter of 2015.

In Jordan, the National Immunization Days conducted from 30 November–4 December reached a total of 1,223,872 (1,008,572 Jordanian, 155,550 Syrian, 59,750 other) children under five. In regards to the planned target of 1,001,836, this equates to 122 per cent coverage.

Consultations for Syrian refugees in primary health care services, January to December 2014



Jordan, UNHCR

SYRIAN REFUGEES IN THE REGION:

3,775,798

Refugee Population, end-December 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 RRP 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 RRP partners. RRP actors support an estimated 75 per cent of the cost of primary health care services for Syrian refugees.

RRP 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. RRP 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 DECEMBER 2014

3,667,826 consultations for Syrian refugees in primary health care services

3,667,826

Planned Response, by end-2014

3,717,000

469,305 referrals of Syrian refugees to secondary or tertiary healthcare services

469,305

717,000

108,390 antenatal consultations for Syrian refugee women

108,390

423,000

4,343 health workers trained

4,343

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. By the end of 2014 there were 3.77 million refugees in the region, and the overall RRP6 appeal was 61% funded.