

REGIONAL OVERVIEW: RRP5 Update - October 2013

HEALTH




TARGETS

H **2 million** refugees are supported to access to primary and emergency health care

 **100%** of child-bearing age women have access to reproductive health services

 **150,000** refugees supported to address special medical needs, including mental health and psycho-social services.

 **90%** of refugees receive adequate immunization.

 **242 million** USD required

NEEDS

Health services in host countries struggle to provide services to the increasing number of refugees. In camp situations, clinics, equipment, drugs and other medical supplies as well as professionals (nurses, doctors and technicians) need to be deployed to meet immediate and primary health care needs. Reproductive health care is required by women and families, including ante-natal, labour and delivery and post-natal care. Ensuring public health for refugees and host communities also necessitates optimal immunization for children as well as effective surveillance, which serves as an early warning indicator for public health concerns. Given the often traumatized state of refugees following their flight and arrival to safe countries, psycho-social support services are also required, with improved access to specialized mental health services for those with acute or chronic mental health conditions.

RRP5 partners are working to ensure access to adequate emergency and primary care, and where possible facilitate access and referral for secondary and tertiary services. Efforts are also made to strengthen existing national health schemes and increase their capacity to address the growing demands on their resources whenever possible. Where necessary,

KEY OCTOBER DEVELOPMENTS

In **Lebanon**, assessment of mental health services provided to Syrian refugees is ongoing. Nutrition survey trainings are undertaken. Malnutrition screening and growth monitoring trainings rolled out country-wide to PHC centres in most affected areas. Mental health services expanded and reproductive health commodities were distributed.

In **Jordan**, reproductive health services are now offered now in the northern part of the Jordan Valley and the northern governorates through two mobile clinics. The polio outbreak confirmed in Syria is leading to outbreak preparedness and response activities. One measles case was confirmed in a five-year-old male who arrived in Zaatri in early October with fever and rash though no evidence of intracamp transmission was found.

In **Turkey** WHO opened its field presence in Gaziantep in early October. Support was provided to the polio outbreak response with responsible health officials focusing on supplementary immunization activities in Turkey aiming at covering all children 0–59 months regardless of nationality. A multi-country Strategic Plan for Polio Response in Syria and Surrounding Countries was prepared.


In **Iraq**, the response to the health needs of Syrian refugees has focused on keeping the supply chain uninterrupted, providing technical support to the Ministry of Health/DOH and promoting partnerships. Field visits in the camps were identified to establish the system for early warning and response. Routine vaccinations for children under 5 years continued.


In **Egypt**, a series of trainings for health care workers in Alexandria and Damietta were provided including those for primary health care and post-traumatic stress disorder were undertaken. A needs assessment for two primary health care facilities in Giza Governorate, as well as training for community health workers, was carried out. Antenatal care services for Syrian refugees are provided in two clinics.


ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

 At least **1,199,000** visits to primary health care facilities for acute illnesses, chronic diseases and mental health were reported across four countries

H **55,700** refugees referred for secondary and tertiary care

 **914,000** children and young adults vaccinated against measles and other immunization

 **23,800** women received reproductive health assistance

 **298,750** persons benefited from training or education on health matters

