

Meeting Minutes

Health Working Group - Displaced Syrians

April 25, 2014

The central Health Working Group met, as planned on a monthly basis to discuss issues and plan actions for follow up concerning the displaced Syrians crisis in Lebanon. The meeting was held at the premises of WHO – Museum Square, Glass Building, floor -1 - on Friday April 25th, 2014 between 09:00 AM and 11:00 AM.

Topics of Discussion

- 1- Action items and previous minutes of meeting
- 2- Updates on outbreaks and vaccination
- 3- Reproductive health
- 4- Mental health
- 5- Nutrition
- 6- AOB

Organizations present

See detailed List of Attendees annexed.

Main Discussions

<i>Topic 1:</i>	Action items and previous minutes of meeting
<i>Topic Details</i>	<p><u>Main discussions :</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The minutes of the meeting held on March 28th 2014 were approved by the meeting participants – The action points of the previous meeting were also revised and revisited <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Amel has been accepted as a Core Group member of the HWG and will now represent LNGOs the CG meetings

<i>Topic 2:</i>	Updates on outbreaks
<i>Topic Details</i>	<p><u>Main discussions :</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – MoPH-ESU: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Polio: in 2014 12 cases of AFP have been detected among Syrians in Lebanon in 2014 and active surveillance in this regard has been enhanced by the MoPH ○ Measles: 30% of present cases are of Syrian nationality in Lebanon ○ Mumps: an outbreak in schools in Bekaa has been identified – MoPH performing further follow up and investigation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – WHO: there have been discussions to couple mumps vaccine with that of measles and rubella, however given the increased risk of mumps vaccine side effects, the coupling is being reconsidered – WHO: discussions with the national committee of vaccination has brought pediatricians on board, and has had them engaged in actions taken towards vaccination, and there has also been a proposal to provide the private sector with free vaccines to decrease the cost and increase access to vaccines in the private sector – WHO: in collaboration with the MoPH, the WHO is preparing a Hepatitis A project which in line with other important health messages will take on TV spots and will be covered by giving tips and recommendations to ensure that awareness is spread about all relevant communicable diseases – WHO: the current vaccination campaign has been extended till the end of April 2014, and an independent monitoring/observation by WHO and a post vaccination survey will be conducted by UNICEF and WHO – UNICEF: will ensure the availability of bivalent polio vaccines, in addition to Hepatitis A vaccines which has been newly introduced to the national vaccination calendar <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – WHO: intensification of routine vaccination in addition to increased field action is greatly recommended – Inter-Agency (UNHCR): if a child presents without a vaccination card, vaccinate him/her as if he/she has never been vaccinated in the past – MoPH: increased awareness regarding the importance and necessity of vaccination among the population is required – Inter-Agency (UNHCR): share and promote existing MoPH awareness material on vaccination – MDM: recommends that focus is kept on one main area of health awareness schedule every month, so as to keep people's concentration and focus – Inter-Agency (UNHCR): in order to avoid duplication of work, the DropBox created by UNICEF's hygiene promotion team is suggested to be used for health partners to share their health promotion material 	
<i>Action Items:</i>	<i>Person responsible:</i>	<i>Deadline:</i>
<p>1-Ensure that routine vaccination is encouraged among host communities and refugees</p> <p>2-UNICEF to confirm the possibility of using the hygiene promotion working group's DropBox to share all health awareness material by all health partners</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">All partners</p> <p style="text-align: center;">UNICEF Rindalla Berro</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2014</p> <p style="text-align: center;">15 May 2014</p>

<i>Topic 3:</i>	Reproductive health (RH)
<i>Topic Details</i>	<p><u>Main discussions :</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – UNFPA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The RH working group chaired by the UNFPA is now calling for nomination for a co-chair to oversee the RH working group alongside UNFPA ○ Pregnancy cards are already printed and distributed by UNHCR, in the meantime the WHO is working on updating health messages on the card, and will communicate changes once it is finalized by the MoPH ○ UNICEF and ABAAD, in close collaboration with the MoPH, have organized 15 facility-based CMR (clinical management of rape) training sessions, in addition to one ToT to generate a pool of trainers. UNHCR and IRC are also planning for facility-based CMR ○ The Lebanese Family Planning Association will be conducting health outreach sessions in the South and Bekaa ○ MoPH to distribute RH medications to PHCs that belong to the MoPH network and those that are not within the network – IMC: reports from the field indicate in a shortage in oral contraceptives found at PHCs <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – WHO: within the EU/IFS project, support will be given to a selected number of PHCs, where they will be given equipment and human resources and they will become designated mother and child clinics. In this regard, it is important to coordinate with UNHCR to ensure that those centers receive important RH medications and kits – WHO: counseling for the use of family planning methods may not be a feasible method to encourage the use of family planning – health partners need to ensure the availability of contraceptive methods, concentrate on raising awareness on the importance of contraception, and ensure that there aren't any religious/cultural barriers that inhibit the targeted population from using contraceptives

<i>Topic 4:</i>	Mental health (MH)
<i>Topic Details</i>	<p><u>Main discussions :</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – IMC: the Knowledge to Policy (K2P) MH policy dialogue on "Securing Access to Quality Mental Health Services in Primary Health Care in Lebanon" was discussed in meeting at the American University of Beirut, that aimed at exploring ways that increase access to quality mental health services within PHCs in Lebanon – MoPH/MH Task Force: presented the objective of the newly

	<p>establish MH task force, TORs, and the task force's action plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – IMC: after an incident in the North, where a woman set herself on fire near the UNHCR registration center because her assistance from UNHCR was cut off, several beneficiaries have threatened to do the same, thus they have been referred to mental health service providers that are already overwhelmed by the existing numbers of cases that they see on a regular basis. These are not all cases of mental health and may not require a mental health response. <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – WHO: recommends that the task force creates a timetable for its plan of actions, to include expansion of MhGap, MH data management, assessment of services and systems, in addition to the establishment of referral systems – IMC: suggests that a decision is taken at a central level to mitigate and face cases such as that of the woman who has set herself on fire 	
<i>Action Items:</i>	<i>Person responsible:</i>	<i>Deadline:</i>
1- Share the mental health policy report and strategy with partners after clearing with the MoPH	WHO	May 2014
2- Present on the main areas covered by mhGap	MoPH MH Task Force	May 2014

<i>Topic 5:</i>	Nutrition	
<i>Topic Details</i>	<p><u>Main discussions :</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – UNICEF: a nutrition sub-working group has been formed to be led by the MoPH and UNICEF/IOCC/WFP on an alternating basis. The Plan of action and timeframe are in the process of formation for the sub group (meeting on second Tuesday of every month) – UNICEF: mass nutrition screening campaign for Lebanese and Syrians children who are under 5 years of age, to be conducted in Bekaa, as of May 19th for 7-10days on a house-to-house basis focusing mainly on ITSs and collective shelters (WHO: concern about dates of campaign, given the possibility of political tension during that time) – UNICEF: a course on “Nutrition in Emergencies” is organized by the American University of Beirut and sponsored by UNICEF, agencies and NGOs are encouraged to nominate candidates to attend this important course 	
<i>Action Items:</i>	<i>Person responsible:</i>	<i>Deadline:</i>
Present on the plan of		

action and the TORs of the nutrition working group	UNICEF (Najwa Rizkallah)	15 May 2014
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<i>Topic 6:</i>	AOB
<i>Topic Details</i>	<p><u>Main discussions :</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – WHO: one of the ways in which the WHO is involved in improving and ensuring the access of all health services to all populations in Lebanon is through the universal health coverage initiative that is a joint project between the WHO, the World Bank, and the MoPH, and it involves the expansion of PHCCs to reach the poorest of the poor and increase the availability, affordability and accessibility of quality health services – National Tuberculosis (TB) Program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A sub-regional proposal/expression of interest has been submitted to the Global Fund for which 5 countries in the region have submitted proposals to (Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt) ○ The following agencies have been involved in the submission process: UNDP, IOM, WHO, and UNHCR ○ The fund is to cover the period of January 2015 to 31st of December 2017 ○ The fund covers activities that aim: to ensure continuity of care of TB patients, to mitigate the risk of TB transmission, to decrease the burden of TB on health systems ○ The total expected amount of funding over 3 years period is 15million US\$ for all 5 countries – for Lebanon the fund equals to around 6million US\$ ○ Egypt and Syria are not eligible for funding, however they will be involved in the regional coordination mechanism of this fund that will be led by efforts from UNHCR ○ Recipients of the fund will involve the national TB programs in addition to UN agencies (UNDP, WHO, UNHCR, and IOM) – WHO: to conduct a national vector mapping through an identified entomologist , the mapping will include flies, mosquitos and insects cross tabulated with the risk for any related diseases that they might cause – Inter-Agency UNHCR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the multisectoral needs assessment (MSNA) chapter was finalized and sent to all health sector partners. It will also be posted online soon

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ RRP6 revision is ongoing – agencies have been contacted to provide their revisions. Revisions must be submitted no later than 9 May. ○ 2013 UNHCR SHC referral care report is released and made available online. ○ The central HWG’s core group has been provided with data on secondary health care covering the period of January – February 2014 – to be discussed. ○ The health group’s comments on the VaSyr have been shared with WFP. WFP will provide an amended draft questionnaire shortly. ○ INQAL directory is in the process of being created and – it is a Q&A multi-sectoral document that will serve in answering question posed by beneficiaries at all regions <p>– Handicap International: a report on disabled populations in the Syrian crisis has been released and is available online</p>	
<i>Action Items:</i>	<i>Person responsible:</i>	<i>Deadline:</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Submit their Activity Info data by the 7th of May 2014 2- Submit RRP6 budget revisions 3- Share MSNA finalized document 4- Submit INQAL Q&As 	<p>All partners</p> <p>All partners</p> <p>Inter-Agency UNHCR</p> <p>All partners</p>	<p>7 May 2014</p> <p>9 May 2014</p> <p>completed</p> <p>1 May 2014</p>

Annex: List of Attendees

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Friday April 25, 2014			
Organization	Name	Tel.	E-mail
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