



KEY FACT

2,162 cases of viral Hepatitis A have been reported as of 5/12/2014

HIGHLIGHTS:

From the 2nd until the 11th of December 2014, a joint WHO, European CDC and EPIET mission visited Lebanon mostly concerned about repeated outbreaks of hepatitis A across the country over the past two years.

In the same line, WHO has been technically supporting MoPH to adopt efficient vaccination strategy against the mentioned disease. The objective of the mission was to compile and analyze the available information (incidence of hepatitis A, patterns of the outbreaks among age groups and geographical locations and population coverage of hepatitis A vaccination), meet with stakeholders, and conduct field visits to better understand risks of infection.

In addition, another WHO mission has been conducted the 8th to the 10th of December 2014 to assess the country's preparedness measures for Ebola virus disease (EVD) using standardized public health methods approach. It also identified areas of concern for stepping up national preparedness for EVD and recommended remedial measures to strengthen capacities for risk mitigation of spread and transmission of EVD.

The mission appreciated the high level of awareness and engagement of the Lebanese authorities especially the Ministry of Public health and the measures implemented to enhance the level of preparedness.



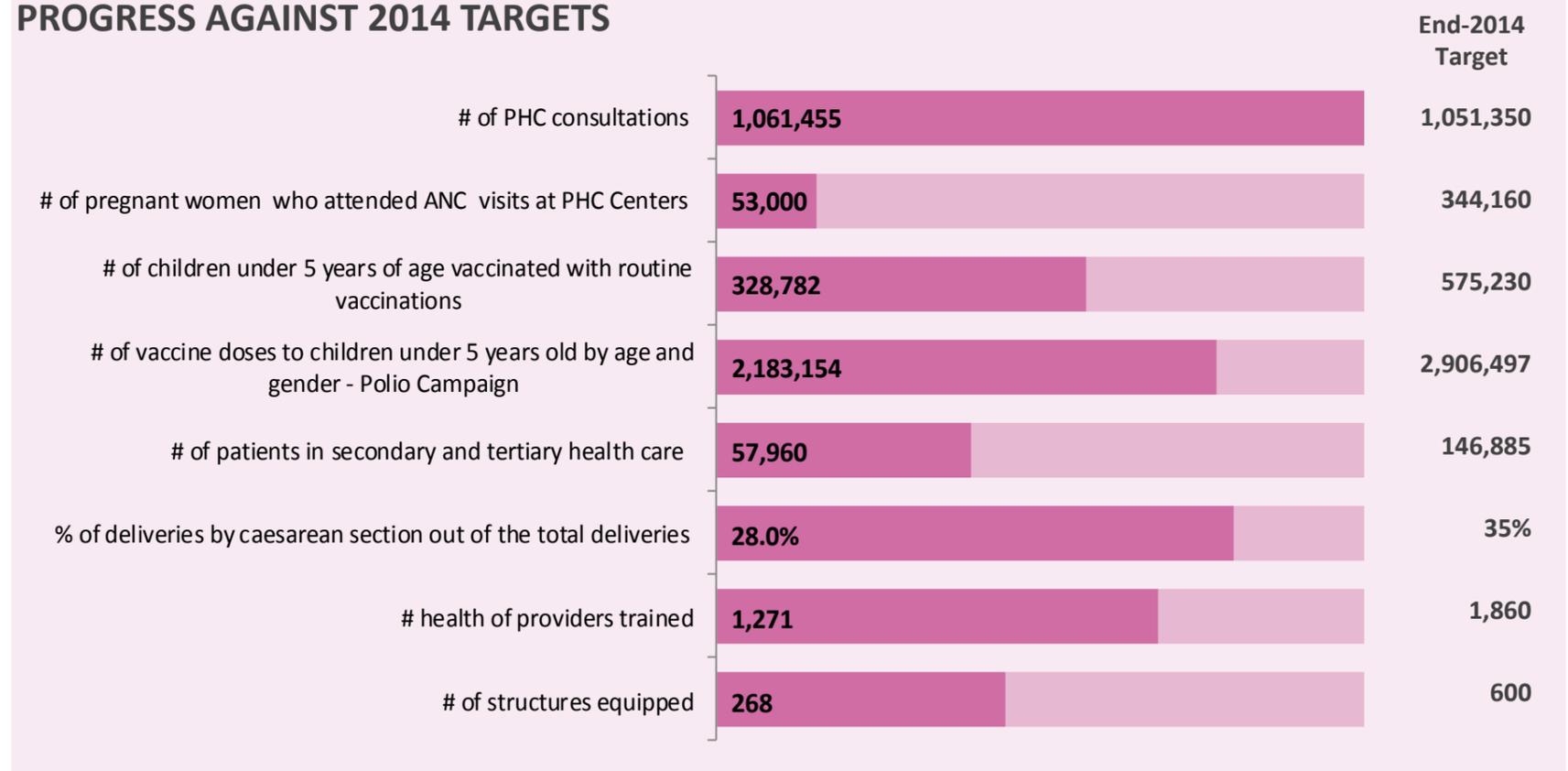
NEEDS ANALYSIS

Preliminary recommendations for the Hepatitis A mission were to carry out a nation-wide catch-up vaccination for all children between 18 months to 3 years and to include Hepatitis A vaccination in the routine childhood vaccination.

Depending the availability of funds, the age bracket of catch-up vaccination can be extended to older children. The mission team also recommended to promote hand hygiene practices, reinforce water and sanitation access and quality monitoring on a continuous basis.

Moreover, Ebola mission recommended further formalization of coordination structures with various non-health actors, more development of the risk communication strategy, and further harmonization of national contingency plans.

PROGRESS AGAINST 2014 TARGETS



Source: figures reported above reflect the information reported to Sector Coordinators by partners participating in Working Groups

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