

Health and Nutrition Sector only 25 per cent funded; increased funding required to reach 2016 targets

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

During March, Sector Partners continued to provide much-needed health care to Syrian refugees and other vulnerable population in the 3RP countries. In Turkey, partners provided medical equipments to the field hospital in Suruc camp, which currently hosts some 28,000 Syrian refugees.

So far this year, 3RP partners in Lebanon have provided 406,994 primary health care (PHC) consultations to Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese representing 13 per cent of the annual target of 3,204,000 consultations for 2016. An average of 135,000 consultations per month are carried out, the maximum capacity per month. At this rate, only 50 per cent of the annual target will be achieved and as such there is a need for increased number of PHC centres to expand coverage. Furthermore, in regard to medical referral and hospitalization, health partners have been able to support only an average of 5,400 Syrian refugees per month.

In Jordan, the Ministry of Health (MoH) has granted Syrian refugees with free access to Maternal and Child Health (MCH) and family planning services. Refugees must have a valid UNHCR registration card, Ministry of Interior cards and MoH white cards in order to benefit from the services. To meet the rise in demand in health services in Azraq camp due to new arrivals, a number of additional arrangements were made including the setting up of a temporary clinic to screen new arrivals. From 12 March to 1 April, 1,065 health consultations were conducted, of which the majority were for acute health conditions.

In Iraq, a total of 26,853 patient consultations (acute and chronic conditions) were conducted in PHC facilities in refugee camps in the month of March. Major cause remained upper respiratory tract infections, skin infections and urinary tract infection.



Vaccination of new arrivals at Ibrahim Khalil Border point, Duhok. UNHCR/ R. Rasheed

Sector Response Summary:



5,387,300 Refugees & Local Community Members targeted for assistance by end of 2016
770,910 assisted in 2016



Syrian Refugees in the Region:



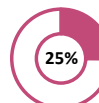
4,687,000 Syrian Refugees expected by end-2016
4,765,000 currently registered



Health Sector Funding status:



USD 296 million required in 2016
USD 74 million received in 2016



3RP PARTNERS PROMOTE VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS AND REINFORCE ROUTINE IMMUNIZATION SERVICES

The need for routine immunization of children against vaccine-preventable illness remains a key 3RP priority. As part of the Health Sector's efforts in boosting routine immunization coverage for measles and polio for children, a number of immunization initiatives were implemented in the 3RP countries during the month of March.

In Lebanon, 293,147 children (96% of the target) were reached as part of a polio vaccination campaign aiming at maintaining Lebanon's polio-free status. As part of the switch from the current trivalent oral polio vaccine (tOPV) to bivalent oral polio vaccine (bOPV) vaccine, partners conducted training on the use of a mobile application for data collection benefitting both health care staff from the Ministry of Health (MoH) and health organizations.

In Jordan, partners supported the MoH in the implementation of a nationwide polio vaccination programme between 27 and 31 March during which over one million children under five years old, including 139,904 Syrian refugees, 939,089 Jordanians and 50,947 children of other nationalities, were vaccinated.

As part of the expanded programme of immunization, 388 children under one year old completed the full course of vaccination in the refugee camps hosting Syrian refugees in the Kurdistan region of Iraq (KRI). Furthermore, mobile immunization teams vaccinated 900 children under 15 years against polio and 60 children under 15 years against measles. Some 200 health staff were trained on introduction of new vaccines and immunization services across three governorates of the KRI.

In Egypt, health partners worked closely with the MoH to analyse the coverage data of the first round of Polio National Immunisation Days which took place in February. According to the preliminary results, over 13,000 Syrian children under five years were reached.

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

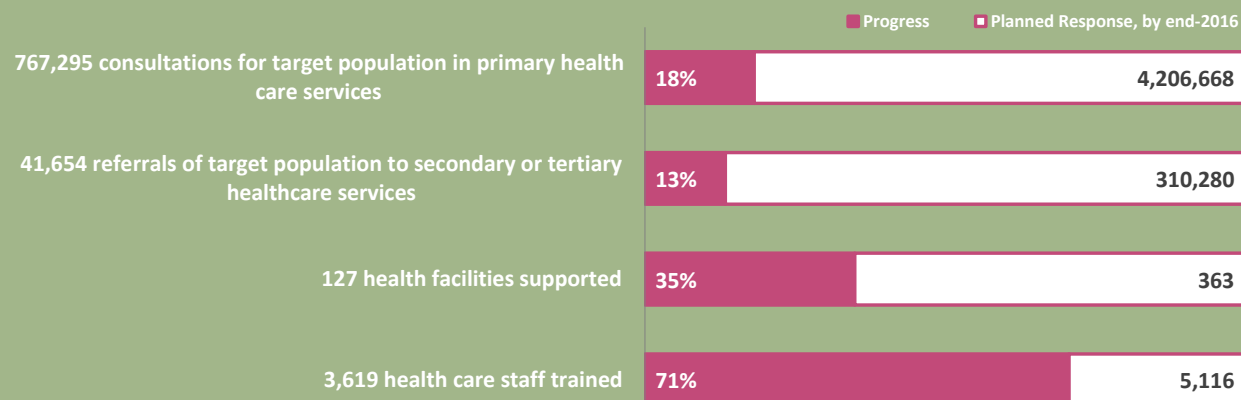
Across the five countries, the sheer demand for health services places enormous strain on public health infrastructure, and has resulted in overwhelming patient caseloads, overworked health staff and shortages of medicines and equipment.

Vulnerable populations are at heightened risk of communicable diseases due to overcrowding, substandard housing, limited access to safe water and sanitation and varying degrees of access to primary health care (PHC) services. Acute respiratory infections and diarrhoea continue to be prevalent among vulnerable communities all year round, but with specific seasonal peaks.

The need for routine immunization of children against vaccine-preventable illness remains a key priority. The need for health and hygiene messaging and proper waste management is also a key focus area.

Management of non-communicable diseases is a major challenge. High prevalence of hypertension, diabetes and cardio-vascular diseases among Syrian refugees, in addition to significant caseloads of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and cancer, continues to spur demand for early diagnostic services and medicine.

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY - MARCH 2016*



These dashboards reflect the achievements of the more than 200 partners, including governments, UN Agencies, and NGOs, involved in the 3RP response in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Progress and targets may change in line with data revisions. All data on this Dashboard is current as at 31 March 2016.

*Progress data not yet received for Turkey in March 2016.