



### Infant and young child feeding programmes improve nutritional status of children in the 3RP countries



UNICEF/Romenzi

#### REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

Nutrition assessments carried out by Health Sector partners over the years have shown inadequate and inappropriate practices of young child feeding among Syrian refugees in both camp and non-camp settings in the region. As recommended by these assessments, Partners continue to implement infant and young child feeding (IYCF) programmes to strengthen the awareness, promotion, and protection of optimal IYCF practices through preventive and nutrition promoting services.

During October in Jordan, the IYCF programme continued to be implemented in selected areas in the northern, middle and southern districts as well as vulnerable communities in the Jordan Valley. IYCF services reach pregnant and lactating mothers and children under five years old with specialized services and awareness on best practices of feeding, starting from early initiation of breast feeding and continuing with the timely introduction of complementary feeding while maintaining breast feeding until two years old. Nearly 6,500 pregnant and lactating mothers were reached with IYCF education and counselling (individual and group counselling sessions) on breastfeeding and early initiation of breastfeeding through IYCF centres and outreach activities in the camps and host community.

In Lebanon, Partners organized awareness sessions and counselling on IYCF targeting 2,445 women; of these, 496 women in Bekaa/Baalbek-Hermel and 288 women in Akkar and Tripoli received one-on-one counselling on IYCF.

In Iraq, nearly 350 women and girls in Domiz, Gawilan, and Arbat refugee camps benefited from sessions on breastfeeding promotion and complementary child feeding, one-to-one counselling in camps and host communities.

#### NEEDS ANALYSIS:

Increasing demand throughout the region is stretching national health systems and services, which provide significant health care to Syrian refugees. Insufficient personnel, medical supplies, and inadequate service delivery mean vulnerable populations are at increased risk of communicable diseases due to unfavourable environmental conditions and limited access to basic health services, such as child immunization.

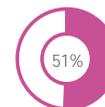
Shortcomings in health systems also increase the risks of a wide range of health issues. The management of NCDs is a significant challenge. Nearly 30 per cent of refugees in Jordan suffer from NCDs such as hypertension or diabetes, and 78 per cent of households in Egypt have reported a family member suffering from a chronic disease. Access to adequate and appropriate reproductive health care is a continuing need. It is necessary to improve capacities for basic and comprehensive emergency obstetric and neonatal care at primary, secondary and tertiary health care locations.

The main nutrition concern among refugees is micronutrient deficiency such as iron deficiency. Global acute malnutrition rates are at acceptable levels, below five per cent among refugees.

#### Sector Response Summary:



**4,910,255** Refugees & Local Community Members targeted for assistance by end-2015  
**2,487,151** assisted in 2015



#### Syrian Refugees in the Region:



**4,270,000** Syrian Refugees expected by end-2015  
**4,279,567** currently registered or awaiting registration



#### 3RP Overall Funding Status:



**USD 4.3 billion** required in 2015 (Agencies)  
**USD 2.019 billion** received in 2015



### POLIO OUTBREAK STOPPED IN MIDDLE EAST; HOWEVER RISKS REMAIN

Despite continuing conflict, declining immunization rates in conflict-affected areas, and mass population displacement, no new polio cases have been reported in the Middle East for over 18 months.

So far in 2015, 21.7 million children in the 3RP countries have received polio vaccination, as part of what has become the largest ever immunization response in the history of the Middle East.

Experts believe the extensive multi-country outbreak response has been effective in stopping the outbreak.

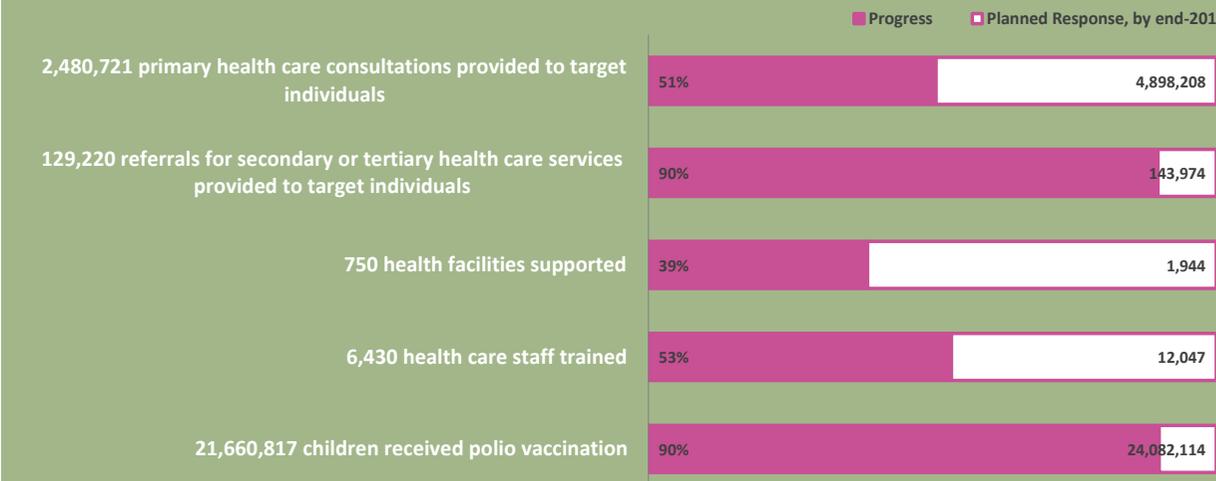
The swift and collaborative intervention and effective partnerships between the governments of countries dealing with the outbreak, 3RP partners, other global Polio Eradication Initiative partners, international organizations and nongovernmental organizations has been given credit for the successes of the response and the lessons learned have been shared globally.

In the occasion of the World Polio Day, representatives from governments and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative met in Lebanon in October to review the outbreak response and discuss next steps to maintain the gains made.

Experts strongly encouraged governments to continue working with partners to strengthen the basic delivery of routine immunization and focus on further strengthening surveillance so that the virus will be detected should it reappear.

Despite the positive news for the region, the risks remain and complacency at this time could be disastrous, as up to 700,000 children under the age of five are not reached on a regular basis by polio vaccine.

### REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY - OCTOBER 2015



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 October 2015.