

HIGHLIGHTS

- The average household monthly expenditure on health in 2014 was USD 90 month (UNHCR Health Access and Utilization survey).
- Recent outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases including measles and mumps have been reported.
- It is estimated that around 20% of displaced Syrians in need of hospital care are not able to access it translating to 20,000 persons per year.
- Over 800,000 doses of oral polio vaccinations were administered to children of all nationalities throughout Lebanon.
- The MoPH launched the National Strategy for Mental Health and Substance Use Prevention, Promotion and Treatment 2015-2020, which aims at advancing mental health in terms of leadership, governance, service provision and evidence-based knowledge.
- Five water testing laboratories and eight isolation rooms at public hospitals have been completed.
- Story from the North: A Health Refugee Outreach Volunteer (ROV) took the initiative to set up a group for blood donations. This came as a response to the difficulties faced while trying to find donors for emergency blood transfusions, whereby the process of contacting organizations for help was time consuming. Now, whenever there is an urgent need for blood, the ROV is able to contact those with the required blood type to donate. This initiative has not only decreased the time and effort to find blood donors, but it also demonstrates the capacity of refugees to find solutions to support each other.

FUNDING

(in Million \$)

Original requirement	249
Revised requirement	200
Received	53

PEOPLE

(In Need/Target)

3.3 m (People in Need)

2.0 m (People Targeted)

Refugees	1,134,000
Vulnerable Lebanese	906,000

PARTNERS

30 in Lebanon

count of partners per area of operation

17
14
13
11



PROGRESS AGAINST 2015 TARGETS

January - June progress

# of PHC consultations by age and gender	696,835	2,448,565
# of Pregnant women attending ANC visit in the PHC centers	41,673	203,790
# of children under 5 years old by age and gender receiving routine vaccination	158,215	239,986
# of referrals for emergency conditions, including maternal care and severe acute malnutrition (SAM)	27,596	85,203
# of deliveries (C-section and NVD combined)	15,155	35,657
# doses given to children in campaigns	806,579	1,883,300
# of healthcare providers trained by gender at PHC level	5,102	6,524
# of structures equipped/rehabilitated by category at PHC level	416	1,857

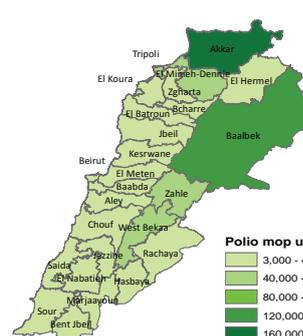
PROGRESS BY COHORTS

INDICATOR 1: Total Number of PHC consultations by Gender From January till June 2015

Females	406,348
Males	290,487

696,835 individual

INDICATOR 2: Polio mop up vaccination campaign



3,000 - 40,000
40,000 - 80,000
80,000 - 120,000
120,000 - 160,000
160,000 - 196,393



Situation analysis and change in context

Refugees and vulnerable Lebanese have various health care needs that need to be supported within a highly privatized and costly health system. For refugees, these needs are compounded by the often traumatic experiences they faced in Syria during their flight as well as from complications arising from the extremely poor conditions in which most of them currently live.

The main objective of the Public Health sector is to ensure access to adequate health care. Since the beginning of the year, vulnerable populations have been accessing primary health care (PHC) services, with a total of 696,835 consultations supported between January and June 2015. The majority of beneficiaries who sought these consultations were Syrians (75 %), followed by Palestinian Refugees from Syria (18 %) and Lebanese (8 %). To date, 41,673 pregnant women sought antenatal care (ANC), which is 20% of the annual target. This is an improvement compared to the same period last year and partners continue to work on strategies that will increase awareness among pregnant women to seek preventive medical care.

As for secondary and tertiary healthcare (S/THC), access continues to be provided to Syrian refugees (27,596 hospitalizations from January- June 2015), with 55% covering women delivering babies. S/THC is only partially funded, meaning only beneficiaries who meet strict criteria for hospitalization, namely life-saving, obstetric and emergency care services, can access subsidized services, leaving out most of the chronic disease cases, including cancer.

The number of reported cases of Mumps and Hepatitis A has been decreasing. Preventing outbreak of disease is a continuous effort of the health partners and as such, routine vaccinations of children remain a priority. In an effort to keep Lebanon polio-free, two rounds of the mop-up campaign of oral polio vaccinations (OPV) took place around Lebanon, reaching 384,888 children of all nationalities under five years of age in March and 421,691 children in April. The total of 806,579 doses represents 43% of the annual target, which was set in 2014 when national campaigns were still being conducted. Since then, the Polio Review Committee recommended that Lebanon conducts only two mop-up campaigns and that OPV continues only as part of routine immunisation of children under five, a process that will prevent other outbreaks as well. Effectively, 158,215 children under five have received routine vaccination.

In parallel, support was provided to the MoPH to finalize and disseminate the revised guidelines and standard operating procedures and algorithms for the Early Warning and Response System for outbreak prevention and containment of 43 diseases. This was coupled with training of health staff at more than 500 PHC centers, all 143 hospitals, the central MoPH/ESU team and the Qada health units teams across the country.

With the increased burden on PHC centres, efforts to strengthen the existing PHC system are on-going. In an effort to ensure standard quality health care, a total of 5,102 health care providers have been trained on various topics, including clinical care of the most common health conditions, integrated management of childhood illnesses, management of medicines, mother and child health, mental health and food safety. In parallel, 54¹ PHC centres have been renovated and 180 were provided with improved IT , medical equipment, including ultrasound machines and cold chain equipment (solar fridges and regular fridges).

Through the EU-funded Instrument for Stability (IFS) project, 94 health personnel are being maintained within MOPH facilities since 2014 to ensure that services are more accessible. Five water testing laboratories have been renovated and three are on-going, to ensure adequate water testing and detection of possible water contamination. This has been accompanied by water testing trainings taking place around the country for water lab staff as well as environmental municipality staff. Also, eight isolation rooms were created at governmental hospitals to care for individuals with suspected communicable diseases.

.Progress to date

There are some concerns that fear of movement among Syrian refugees is increasing and this may be affecting health seeking behavior. The health and protection sectors are looking into these statements to verify the extent to which this may be true.

¹ The target of 1,857 for the “# of structures equipped/rehabilitated by category at PHC level” is incorrect, as it refers to the number of interventions and not PHC centers, and will be revised.



The National Health Steering Committee was launched in March 2015 under the leadership of the MoPH. It has been agreed to develop a three-year strategic plan for an optimized and more efficient response to the crisis. The objective is to create continuity over a three year period and to ensure that standards and guidelines are defined under government leadership in consultation with partners.

Health sector partners have continued to provide malnutrition prevention and treatment services to all populations in Lebanon. This is done through therapeutic feeding programmes and referrals in case of hospitalization needs, in parallel with strengthening the capacity of the MoPH. Malnutrition screening activities will also be fully integrated within the primary health care services offered at MoPH facilities.

The MoPH launched the National Strategy for Mental Health and Substance Use Prevention, Promotion and Treatment 2015-2020 which aims to strengthen effective leadership and governance for mental health. The strategy provides a framework for comprehensive, integrated and responsive mental health and social care services in community-based settings. It strives to meet the specific needs related to mental health and substance use, including for refugees.