

KEY FACT

268,711 Lebanese and 248,256 Syrian children were vaccinated against polio.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The Ministry of Public Health, in collaboration with WHO and UNICEF, launched the 5th National Polio Immunization Campaign on October 14. The campaign is a crucial national response to the outbreak of Polio in the region. All vaccines were procured by UNICEF. 516,967 children were immunized (91 percent of the initial target). The next national polio immunisation campaign will take place from 15-21 November with the aim of reaching 570,000 children across Lebanon. To cover the needs of the October and November campaigns, 1.2 million doses of polio vaccine were provided to MOPH through the European Union (EU)-funded project, “Conflict Reduction through Improving Healthcare Service for the Vulnerable Population in Lebanon” (€20 million in total). This EU-funded project will ensure that children under five receive the polio vaccine for free, regardless of nationality or where they are receiving health care.

In view of the current Ebola virus disease (EBV) outbreak, WHO has been supporting the MoPH to develop an EBV preparedness plan. As part of preparedness, WHO supported the capacity building of the first responders and provided 480 sets of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) level C for the MoPH, civil defense and Lebanese Red Cross. An isolation unit at Rafic Hariri University Hospital was established.

WHO is conducting a series of trainings for health care workers in hospitals all over Lebanon on Infection Control, including MERS-CoV and Ebola preparedness.



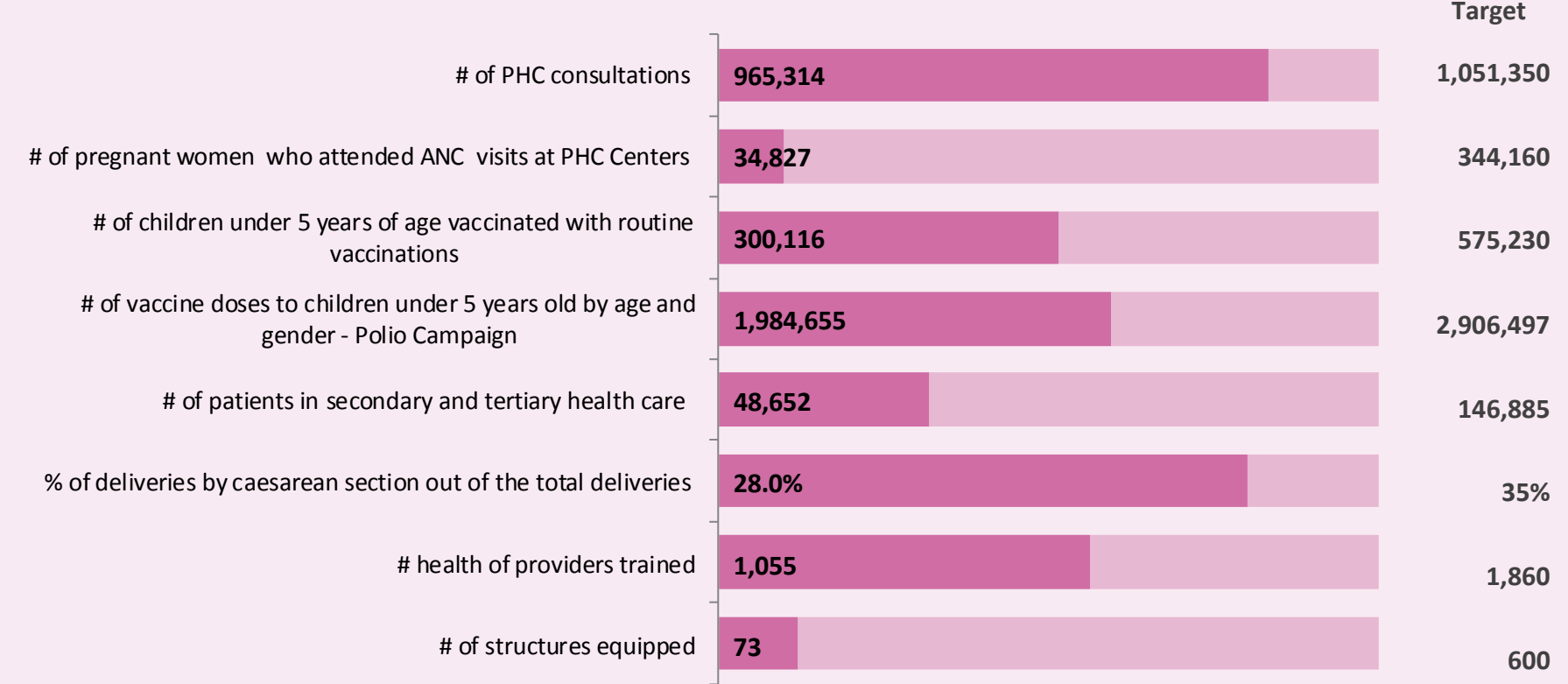
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Reporting Agencies:

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

The polio vaccination campaigns and the accelerated routine vaccine vaccination have succeeded thus far in keeping Lebanon polio free. However, additional vigilance is required to prevent other vaccine-preventable diseases, such as measles and mumps. The constant increase of vulnerable Syrians fleeing to Lebanon has posed challenges in meeting the continuous age-specific health needs of the population. The population presents several health service needs, including communicable diseases, chronic conditions, reproductive health issues, nutrition and mental disorders. Limited funds are available for equitable provision of health services in order to meet health needs on primary, secondary and tertiary health care levels.

There is also a need to protect more than one million refugees and host communities against Hepatitis A through public health measures, including those concerned with hygiene and access to safe water.

PROGRESS AGAINST 2014 TARGETS



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