



Polio vaccination campaigns reached 16.2 million under five children in Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and Lebanon

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

This month, polio vaccination campaigns were launched or continued in four host countries.

In Egypt, the first round of the polio immunization campaign began and more than 15.4 million under five children were vaccinated, 94 per cent of the target. Awareness activities were conducted by community health volunteers prior to the start of the polio campaign.

In Jordan, a total of 373,622 children under five living in 210 'high risk' areas in host communities were vaccinated during the first part of the Sub-National Immunization Days (SNID). The campaign will continue in refugee camps during May.

In Iraq, a campaign in the Kurdistan Region saw 763,104 children vaccinated against polio during April, reaching almost 100 per cent of the target.

Partners conducted a supplementary polio vaccination campaign in Lebanon in 27 districts, reaching children under five regardless of nationality.

By the end of 2015, some 22.5 million children are targeted to receive a polio vaccination. As of end-April, more than 16.2 million children have been immunized so far.

Other routine vaccination programmes also continue in the refugee hosting countries. For example, in Lebanon 20,426 refugee and host community children were covered during the month with routine vaccinations, while in Iraq some 2,000 Syrian refugee children below the age of one have been immunized against measles this year.

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 non-communicable diseases (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.



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

Sector Response Summary:



5,362,842 Refugees & Local Community Members targeted for assistance by end-2015
1,256,642 assisted in 2015



Syrian Refugees in the Region:



4,270,000 Syrian Refugees expected by end-2015
3,978,825 currently registered or awaiting registration



3RP Overall Funding Status:



USD 4.5 billion required in 2015 (Agencies)
USD 881.73 million received in 2015



SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

The health of women fleeing conflict is further threatened by severe living conditions and absence of either immediate or longer-term reproductive health services. There are more than 970,000 Syrian women and girls of reproductive age living in the region, many of whom are particularly vulnerable to sexual violence and sexual exploitation. It is a priority within the health sector of the 3RP to ensure that all Syrian women and girls have access to affordable reproductive health care and are protected from gender-based violence, through access to support services and referral mechanisms.

For example, in Jordan more than 12,000 women accessed reproductive health services and 2,635 women received ante-natal care at UNFPA-supported facilities this month. During the same period, 4,000 women, girls, men and boys living in refugee camps and host communities were sensitized on gender-based violence prevention, sexual harassment and reproductive health.

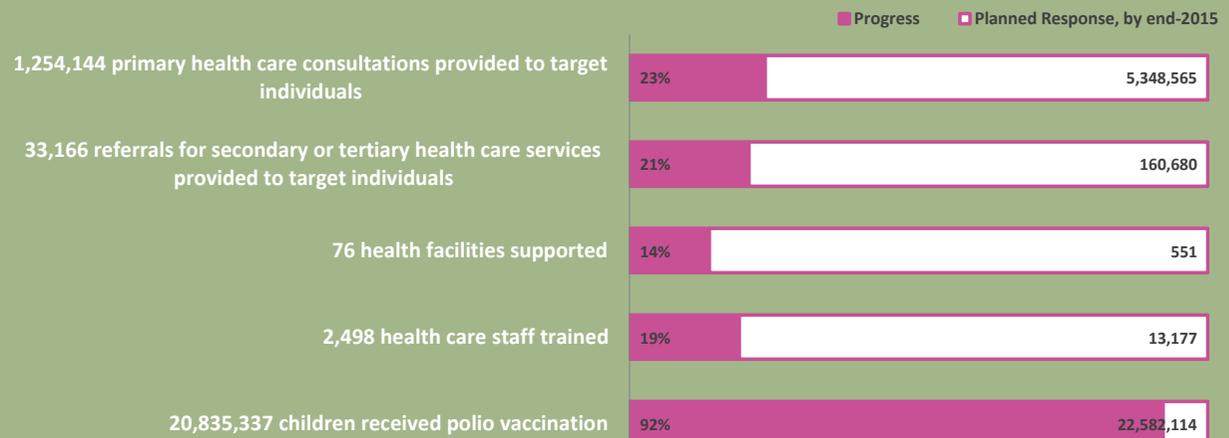


In Iraq, safe spaces for women have been established in refugee camps which offer information and courses to Syrian women, as well as psychosocial support and referrals to health services.

Kwestan (left) is a 31 year-old social worker at the El Mesala women safe space at Kawergosk camp. Kwestan supports Syrian refugee women, organizing sewing courses, enabling them to learn new skills and also providing support and a safe space to discuss their personal struggles. Refugee women visit the centres regularly and many feel that the courses have positively impacted their mental and emotional health.

Credit: UNFPA/Shayda Hesami

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY - APRIL 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 30 April 2015.