

WHO Field Office in Gaziantep, Turkey

MONTHLY PROGRAMME UPDATE – JUNE 2016

Syria Crisis

Syria Crisis – WHO Level 3 Emergency

Situation overview – Turkey’s refugee programme & response inside northern Syria

Children to be immunized in northern Syria	Primary health care (PHC) supplies delivered	Hospitals and PHC clinics assisted
617  thousand	40  tons	109 

“One of our most important programmes is to train Syrian doctors and nurses who are living in Turkey, and to certify them in the Turkish health system so they can provide health services to their fellow refugees in Turkey.”

*Dr Alaa Abou Zeid,
WHO Emergency Coordinator*

Funding appeal for 2016



WHO Country Office, Turkey
WHO visit to Vefa Migrant Health Centre in Adana, Turkey.

People affected by the crisis

2.7 million Syrian refugees in Turkey
506 728 internally displaced persons in northern Syria since September 2015

WHO Field Office in Gaziantep

The WHO Field Office assumes the roles of the health sector coordinator of the refugee response programme in Turkey and the health cluster coordinator for the northern Syria programme. It was

- established in 2013;
- moved to new WHO premises in January 2016; and
- has 19 staff from various fields including public health, mental health, epidemiology, noncommunicable diseases, Early Warning and Response Network (EWARN), administration, logistics and health communications.

TURKEY PROGRAMME

Work permits for foreign health professionals

Turkey has taken an important step to ensure that refugees have better access to health services. On 16 June, legislation was amended to allow foreign medical staff who complete a validation process to obtain a work permit and serve patients from their native country. The Ministry of Health developed the requirements for the validation process.

These health professionals are expected to provide health services to patients mainly in migrant health centres and in health facilities of 26 camps.

WHO has been working to improve the trainings for refugee doctors and nurses to help ensure the smooth adaptation of the Syrian health workforce into the Turkish health system.

In 2014 and 2015, more than 300 Syrian health professionals completed adaptation trainings conducted by WHO in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.

In order to align these trainings with the new legislation and to qualify more Syrian health staff, WHO and the Ministry of Health held the “Workshop on Training for Adaptation of Syrian Health Professionals” in Ankara.

More than 30 participants from the Ministry of Health, Ankara University, Yildirim Beyazit University and WHO finalized a new course with a comprehensive curriculum of theoretical and practical training. It is expected that this training will help Syrian health staff qualify for work permits.

TURKEY PROGRAMME (contd)

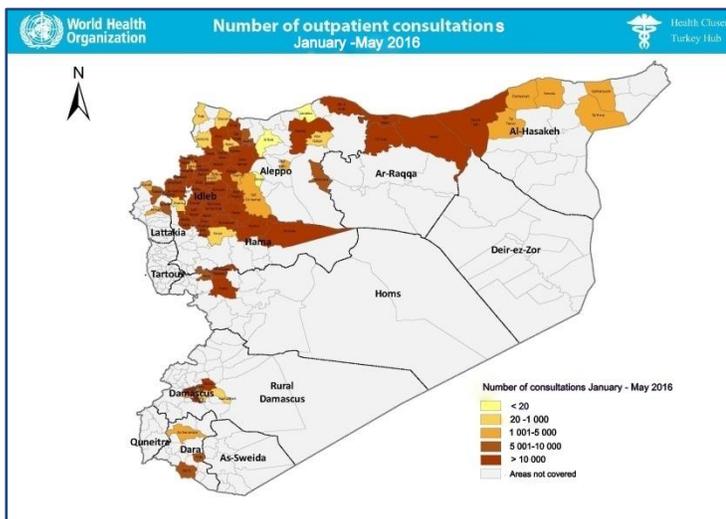
Matching needs and new modalities in cooperation

The Ministry of Health of Turkey has established more than 60 migrant health centres in 17 cities to facilitate access to health services by refugees and to overcome language barriers. The Ministry is planning to increase the number of centres to about 250 throughout the country. A WHO team together with the Ministry of Health completed a field assessment and submitted a comprehensive project to establish a new model of migrant health training centers. WHO will establish 6 migrant health training centres in different parts of Turkey to qualify Syrian doctors and nurses for work permits. With a short theoretical course and 3 months of practical training in the new migrant health training centers, Syrian health staff will be ready to serve in camp health clinics and migrant health centres.

NORTHERN SYRIA PROGRAMME

Medical supply line meets urgent health needs

Partners operating health facilities in northern Syria reported a lack of medicines, a reduction in the number of health staff and worsening access to health care. In response to the increasing needs, WHO established a medical supply line and quantified an Essential Medicines List to address critical shortages in medicines and medical supplies. This supply line is providing essential medicines for communicable and noncommunicable diseases, including mental health and other common illnesses, and surgical supplies for trauma management. Since March 2016, the number of partners working through this supply line has increased to 19 and the number of patients treated on a monthly basis has increased to 476 000. Yet, demand to access the supply line continues, which calls for an increase in funding.



3 deliveries reach northern Syria

WHO teams completed the delivery of emergency health kits and medical supplies, which will enable the provision of health care services to more than 200 000 patients for a period of one month. Consisting of 4 truckloads of interagency emergency health kits and surgical supply kits, the supplies are expected to fill the urgent needs of 75 primary health clinics and 34 hospitals in Aleppo and Idleb governorates. The shipments were provided through funding from the United States Agency for International Development and from the State of Kuwait.



WHO Country Office, Turkey
Managing a shipment of emergency supplies at a United Nations hub in Turkey.

Online tool supports the supply line

The Supply Line Online Tool (SLOT) provides an online platform for sharing information with partners. Partners can add or update information such as expressions of interest in partnership with WHO and participation in the supply line, follow-up of deliveries, availability of supplies and distributions among implementing partners using the tool.

NORTHERN SYRIA PROGRAMME (contd)

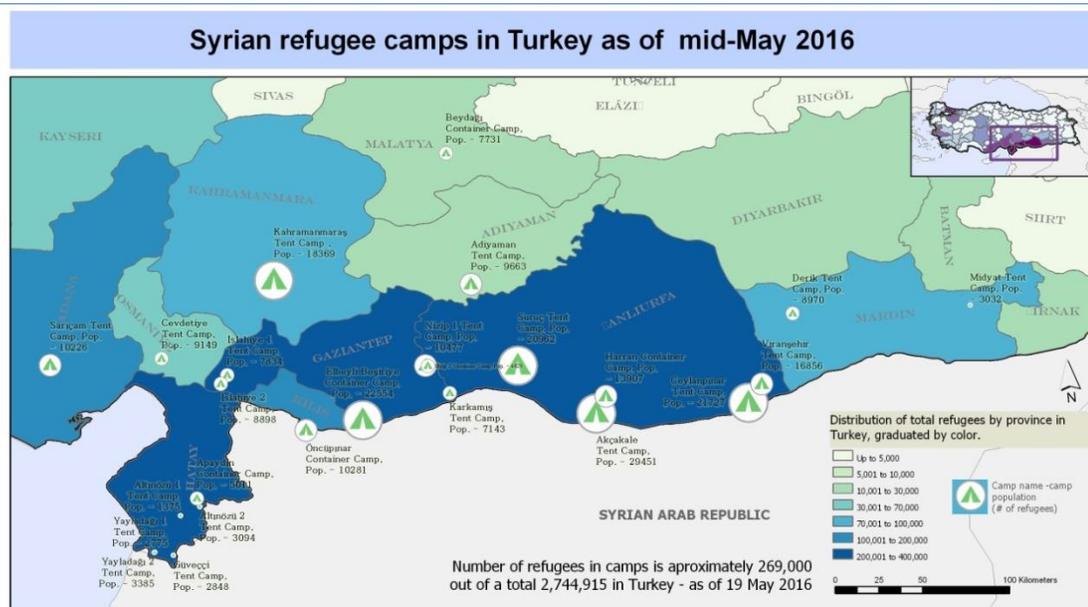
Health Resources Availability Mapping System is now online

WHO together with health cluster partners in Turkey have launched the online Health Resources Availability Mapping System (HeRAMS). The online tool enables partners to enter up-to-date information on the health facilities they support. Real-time data enable decision-makers to get information on health resources and services for better decision-making based on evidence. To ensure the best use of the platform, WHO conducted 2 trainings for information management staff and health directors in 30 health organizations who will provide the data via this platform.

Polio/Expanded programme on immunization updates

The Accelerated Implementation of Routine Immunization (AIRI) campaign took place in accessible areas of the northern governorates of Hama, Idleb and western Aleppo in Syria, targeting 617 000 children aged 0–59 months, of which 73% were vaccinated till end of June. Independent monitoring confirmed the numbers with a high quality over 90%.

The campaign, however, took place under very dangerous conditions due to an escalation of conflict in the planned areas of intervention. In addition, sudden population movements to safer areas required an adjustment to the planned outreach campaigns of the vaccination teams. AIRI provides vaccines to reduce illness and death among children under the age of 5 years from vaccine-preventable diseases such as polio, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, Haemophilus influenzae type B, hepatitis B, measles and rubella.



The WHO Country Office, Turkey would like to acknowledge with thanks and appreciation the following partners and donors for their support to the Turkey and northern Syria programmes: **European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection; State of Kuwait; Norway; Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration of the United States Department of State; Department for International Development (United Kingdom); Office of United States Foreign Disaster Assistance; and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.**

More information is available at <http://www.euro.who.int/en/countries/turkey/syrian-refugees-in-turkey>

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