

Cost is a significant barrier to accessing hospital care in Lebanon, where secondary and tertiary health care institutions are mostly private. UNHCR helps cover some of the costs of life-saving and obstetric care for refugees. The costs covered by UNHCR vary according to the type of service provided and the vulnerability of the refugee. This "In Focus" report is based on 2016 data¹ provided by UNHCR and MediVisa,² UNHCR's third party administrator (TPA), who managed and audited referral care until the end of December 2016. Page two summarizes some key contributions of other actors in the Health Sector.

TREATMENT COSTS

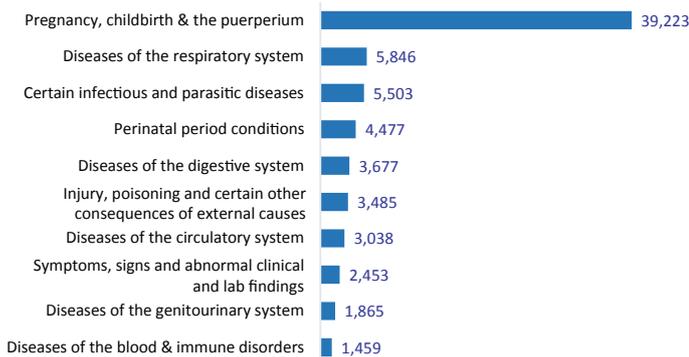
UNHCR covers:

- 75%** of treatment costs in the majority of cases
- 90%** of costs for newborn admissions to intensive care; severely vulnerable refugees (approx. 50% of Syrian refugees); children under 18 admitted for intensive care; persons admitted with severe burns.

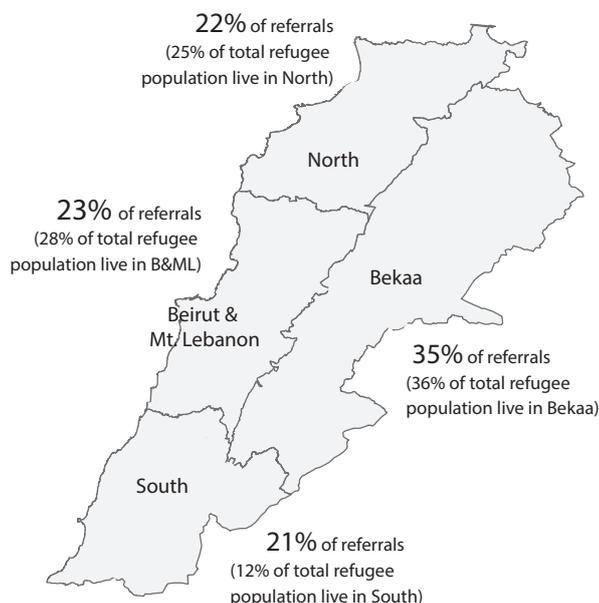
UNHCR has put in place referral guidelines and standard operating procedures (SOPs)³ to support access to life-saving and obstetric care and to manage costs. The referral care programme also supports access to such care for unregistered refugees.

REASONS FOR ACCEPTED REFERRALS

In 2016, 53% of accepted referrals (39,223 in total) related to pregnancy care, compared to 56.9% in 2015. Of this number, 37,621 referrals were for delivery (50.9% of the total accepted referrals). Less than one third (32.2%) of deliveries occurred through caesarean section, compared to 33.7% in 2015.



GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION



76,535 referrals made in 2016

24% increase in number of referrals compared to 2015

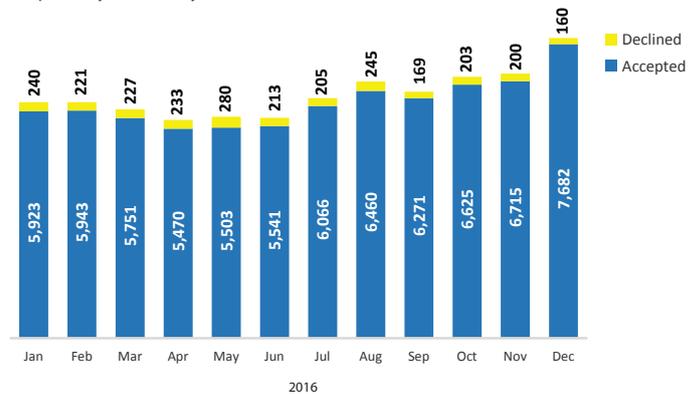
97% of referrals covered by UNHCR in 2016 (95% in 2015)

1,011,366 registered Syrian refugees⁴

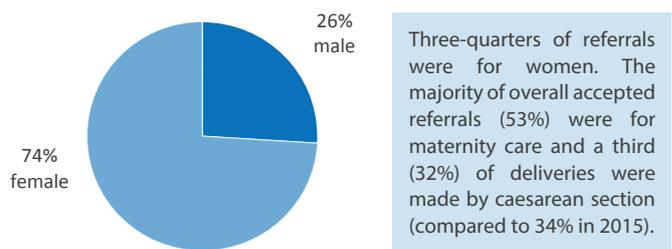
21,761 non-Syrian refugees and/or asylum-seekers⁴

REFERRAL ACCEPTANCE

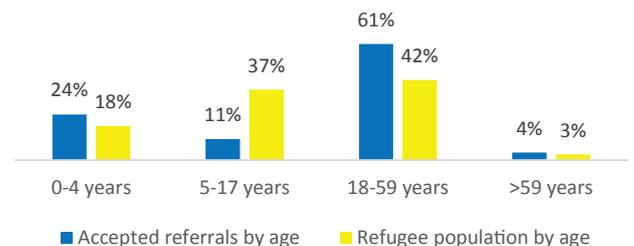
There has been an increasing number of referrals in 2015 and 2016. The referral rate is higher during winter months, mainly due to higher respiratory morbidity.



REFERRALS BY GENDER



REFERRALS BY AGE



24% of referrals related to children under five years of age (2015: 23%). Average age at admission for females: 24.2 years (2015: 24.3). Average age at admission for males: 16.2 years (2015: 15.8)

¹ More details are available in the full report: UNHCR, *Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. Referral Care at a Glance, January-December 2016*, <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=13583>

² NextCare is the TPA since 1 January 2017, following an open competitive bidding process.

³ UNHCR, *Guidelines for Referral Care in Lebanon. Standard Operating Procedures*, updated December 2016, <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=12663>

⁴ As at 31 December 2016.

EXPENDITURE BY UNHCR

2016

\$43.3m	total UNHCR expenditure to hospitals for referral care
34%	of total expenditure spent on maternity care (53% of referrals)
21%	of total expenditure spent on neonatal care (6.1% of referrals)
\$586	average cost per referral

2015

\$31.8m	total UNHCR expenditure to hospitals for referral care
40%	of total expenditure spent on maternity care (60% of referrals)
17%	of total expenditure spent on neonatal care (5.6% of referrals)
\$544	average cost per referral

The financial audit of hospital invoices by the TPA led to a 7.3% deduction of the overall costs invoiced by hospitals.

OTHER HEALTH SECTOR ACTORS

CARITAS LEBANON

1,435	Iraqi refugees supported in access to hospital care, of which 969 with assistance from UNHCR.
90	Syrian refugees supported in access to hospital care, of which 33 with assistance from UNHCR.
561	Lebanese supported in access to hospital care.

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR AID, RELIEF AND ASSISTANCE (INARA)

46	Children, mostly Syrian refugees, supported for plastic surgery for scar revisions or reconstructive surgery.
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INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)

57	Syrian refugees supported in tuberculosis-related hospital care. (Source: AI-LCRP 2016 R-Health)
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MEDICAL AID FOR PALESTINIANS (MAP)

130	Palestine refugees from Syria (PRS) supported for life-saving tertiary care hospitalization. MAP contributes 30% of the cost of hospitalization, on top of UNRWA's 60%, up to a ceiling of \$2,100.
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QATAR RED CRESCENT SOCIETY (QRCS)

766	Syrian refugees supported in access to hospital care (cases not covered by UNHCR and contribution to patient share for ICU cases covered by UNHCR). (Source: AI-LCRP 2016 R-Health)
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SYRIAN AMERICAN MEDICAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION (SAMS)

259	Syrian refugees supported in access to hospital care. (Source: AI-LCRP 2016 R-Health)
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UNION OF RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATIONS (URDA)

2,758	Syrian refugees supported in access to hospital care (cases not covered by UNHCR). (Source: AI-LCRP 2016 R-Health)
385	Palestine refugees from Syria (PRS) supported in access to hospital care.
20	Palestine refugees in Lebanon (PRL) supported in access to hospital care.
117	Syrian refugees with renal failure supported in access to dialysis sessions. (Source: URDA, Nov 2016)
185	Syrian refugees with thalassemia and other blood diseases supported in access to blood transfusion sessions.

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST (UNRWA)

28,666	Palestine refugees from Lebanon (PRL) supported for secondary and tertiary health care.
3,090	Palestine refugees from Syria (PRS) supported for secondary and tertiary health care, and access to emergency rooms.

Palestine Children's Relief Fund (PCRf) is also active in the Health Sector. However, up-to-date figures about its activities were not available in time for the publication of this report.