

# Meeting Minutes

## Health Working Group - Displaced Syrians

### November 24, 2017

The central Health Working Group met, as planned on a bi-monthly basis to discuss issues and plan actions for follow up concerning the displaced Syrians crisis in Lebanon. The meeting was held at the premises of WHO – Museum Square, Glass Building, floor -1 on Friday November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017 between 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM.

#### Topics of Discussion

1. Field news and information on outbreaks
2. Reproductive health
3. Mental health and psychosocial support
4. Child health/vaccination
5. Nutrition
6. LCRP updates
7. AOB

#### Main Discussions

Topic 1	Field news and information on outbreaks
<i>Topic Details</i>	<p><b>MOPH- ESU department</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Syrian case of Vibrio cholera isolate sent to reference lab; not choleraform (non-01 and non-0139);</li> <li>- Tetanus in a Syrian child with good health status, born at home (by a midwife); was referred to MSF Sabra Shatila; make sure Syrian mothers get tetanus in ANC</li> <li>- SOP preparedness plan for polio; 2 big dates to note: day 0 is when we receive positive results for polio, we should on day 3 be able to present information on this assessment; we started to put our activities from day 0 to day 3; we informed the Qada physicians on these steps and in December we will gather our field teams to train them on those activities (8 activities: education, contact investigation, sewage and water sanitation infrastructure, etc.);</li> <li>- Mission in Nigeria to get the experience in using DHIS2 and to be trained on the case-based form (up till now we are using the aggregate-based form for the labs, health centres, and schools), we should be prepared for next year to use the case-based form; in 2018 we will have the forms ready and entered by the surveillance team and then train the health facilities to enter the data online;             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 4 aggregate-based forms (showing number of cases; no detailed information on the case); dashboards to be presented during the next working group;</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Information on outbreaks             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Polio: 0</li> <li>o AFP: 71 cases; all investigated, culture negative for wild polio or for vaccine derived polio virus; sewage sampling: added Tripoli in the sampling system</li> <li>o Cholera: 0</li> <li>o Measles: 116 cases</li> <li>o Pertussis: 84 cases</li> <li>o Rabies: 1 case in Oct (8-year old Syrian child passed away in Bcharreh, Bkaakafrah; bitten by a stray dog which also bit another dog; child referred to Tripoli Governmental Hospital to do the vaccine; conflicting information between hospital and family); bitten dog also died; municipalities informed to be aware of the stray dogs and to refer to Tripoli governmental hospital in case of any bites.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<b>Topic 2</b>	<b>Reproductive health</b>
<i>Topic Details</i>	<p><b>MOPH- PHC department</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Launched the pap smear campaign on 20 November 2017; addressed to 10452 married Lebanese females aged between 21 and 65 years old; in all PHC centres; from 20 Nov till 20 Jan; technical meetings conducted with all PHC centres on technical and logistic issues and reporting forms were developed; a short study on the campaign will be conducted; smears will be collected from all PHC centres and Cada physicians' offices and sent to Aftimos lab in coordination with Al Mashreq Hospital; the MOPH started this campaign with NGO "3a Stouh Beirut" in coordination with UNFPA, and the National Commission on Women's affairs</li> <li>- Continuous Reproductive Health (RH) provision for drugs and commodities for PHC centres and 57 dispensaries</li> <li>- 6 days of training completed on the Service Delivery Guidelines for the dispensaries in coordination with UNFPA</li> <li>- Training for the focal persons in the hospitals on the maternal and neonatal data reporting</li> </ul> <p><b>UNFPA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- RH commodities (all types including contraceptives) are provided to MMUs and all centres even if not part of the MOPH network;</li> <li>- The Service Delivery Guidelines are a set of national protocols on RH and we have been training on these protocols and now doing an assessment on how they are being useful and utilized; Ms Hana Nassif is the consultant working on this assessment and will be contacting the centres;</li> <li>- Finished review and analysis of existing RH IEC and BCC materials and will be presented in the RH working group on Dec 1;</li> <li>- Working with Lebanese order of midwives on training around 100 midwives on family planning counselling (mainly in North, Bekaa and South); included also midwives working with local and international organizations;</li> <li>- UNFPA also training more than 300 peer educators (Lebanese and Syrians) to do outreach all over Lebanon on family planning and early marriages.</li> </ul>

Topic 3	Mental health and psychosocial support
Topic Details	<p><b>MOPH- National Mental Health Programme (NMHP)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Online mapping tool for MHPSS services based on the WHO 4Ws; online platform pilot version ready and pilot started in beginning of November with 5 organizations; platform expected to be ready by beginning of January 2018; meanwhile, smaller mapping focusing on specialized services was conducted and shared with all actors;</li> <li>- E-mental health project- Step by Step (Khoutweh-Khoutweh): MOPH in collaboration with WHO and with the support of Fondation D'Harcourt developed and are currently piloting an online electronic self-help programme of 5 sessions to help the person cope with difficult emotions; during the pilot, tablets are provided free of charge in a private space in 4 centres (Makhzoumi- Beirut, MOSA Bakhoun- North; Imam Sadr Foundation centre in Aita Al Chaab- South; and the Lebanese Welfare Association for the handicapped in Sarafand- South); persons will undergo a questionnaire to identify eligibility; e-helpers available to provide support either by chat or telephone; website is: <a href="http://www.khoutouwat.com">www.khoutouwat.com</a>; for more information, the hotline can be contacted on 81-820474 from Monday to Friday from 8 AM to 4h PM; the programme is in Arabic (adapted to Lebanese and other Arabic dialects such as Syrian and Palestinian);</li> <li>- MHPSS task force action plan for 2018: development based on an online survey where around 50 TF members provided feedback on gaps and challenges as well as priorities for 2018; part of the action plan was integrated within the LCRP (i.e. development of mental health services in underserved areas, conducting capacity building for non-health and social welfare staff on identification and referral, conducting an evaluation and needs assessment of MHPSS response, and developing tools for quality monitoring of mental health programmes);</li> <li>- Training on mhGAP with the support of WHO was conducted to reach 40 centres that have well trained staff; training was also conducted to centres with specialized teams as well as midwives;</li> <li>- Training on management of psychiatric emergencies at the ER still ongoing; the complete staff of 7 hospitals was trained; placement of medications for psychiatric emergency will be done by January;</li> <li>- Training on the Quality Rights tool kit was conducted with the support of WHO; the tool kit aims at improving the quality and human rights of persons with mental health disorders; new concepts introduced such as the legal capacity (person consulted in the choice of their care plan) and recovery model (switching from the medical model towards the full comprehensive live independently of the disease); assessment was conducted in two facilities and the report and improvement plans will be developed;</li> <li>- EMDR training was conducted in coordination with the EMDR association (51 participants);</li> </ul> <p><b>URDA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Question about psychotropic medications at RHUH</li> </ul> <p><b>MOPH- National Mental Health Programme (NMHP)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Medications are available at RHUH provided that the person is registered as a beneficiary at RHUH Community Mental Health Centre.</li> </ul>

<b>Topic 4</b>	<b>Child health/vaccination</b>
<i>Topic Details</i>	<p><b>MOPH- PHC department</b></p> <p><i>Accelerated Immunization Activities (AIA)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MOPH with the support of WHO and UNICEF is working on strengthening the routine immunization through outreach activities, the accelerated immunization activities (AIA) which will take place in 209 cadastres in Lebanon with low immunization coverage; the pilot was conducted in Bint el Houda centre (Baabda) and in Chmestar centre (Baalbek); following the pilot, the activities were launched on 6 November starting with 69 cadastres across Lebanon;</li> <li>- Outreach activities: a PHC centre or a partner for UNICEF will conduct field visits to the households in catchment areas and will provide awareness sessions on malnutrition and immunization, check the vaccination calendar, and refer all drop-outs to the nearby PHC centres;</li> <li>- More than 400 health care providers are trained on the AIA activities; NGOs and PHC centres will send the data daily to the IT in Qada physicians' office and then the IT will compare the data between the NGOs and the PHC centres and will see who from the drop-out children was not accessing the PHC centres in order to have another visit;</li> <li>- Informal Settlements will be covered in coordination with WHO; mobile teams will provide vaccination and refer to PHC centres;</li> <li>- Coordinating with ESU for AFP cases for provision of vaccination;</li> <li>- Coordination with MEHE and nurseries and schools on vaccination;</li> </ul> <p><b>HAD</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Partner for UNICEF for AIA in the North; campaign started very smoothly; more than 80 outreach workers visiting different cadastres;</li> </ul> <p><b>URDA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Question about the salary of the nurse and the doctor for vaccinations; the PHC charges for vaccination fees to cover salaries;</li> </ul> <p><b>MOPH- PHC department</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Circular for all PHC centres and dispensaries: no charge for vaccines or consultations on vaccines; the MOPH trained registered nurses to provide the vaccines; the MOPH is conducting field visits and when a PHC centre is charging money it is denied provision of vaccines;</li> <li>- It is a management issue that is relatively solved in PHC centres; it is challenging in dispensaries;</li> <li>- Only the vaccines on the national calendar are allowed and the rest are omitted;</li> </ul> <p><b>UNHCR:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some nurses' salaries have been supported UNHCR and other agencies; the intention would be to put more support into that but funding solutions;</li> <li>- The MOPH needs to know about this; and it is important for partners to report this and to provide financial support to dispensaries;</li> </ul> <p><b>URDA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Congenital malformation program started 3 months ago; 400 children on waiting list;</li> </ul>

<b>Topic 5</b>	<b>Nutrition</b>
<i>Topic Details</i>	<p><b>MOPH- PHC department</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNICEF consultant for IYCF planning for integrating malnutrition screening through AIA outreach activities (screening using MUAC and referring to the PHC centres);</li> <li>- All PHC centres do the screening and 50 do the treatment;</li> <li>- Micronutrients provided for children with no malnutrition.</li> </ul>

<b>Topic 6</b>	<b>LCRP 2017-2020 updates</b>
<i>Topic Details</i>	<p><b>Inter-Agency UNHCR (presentation attached)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- LCRP 2017 financial status: 730 M USD received (Jan to Aug); coverage is 27% for Lebanon; compared to 2016, funding has decreased, following the same slope throughout the years;</li> <li>- Health sector received 67 M USD in total (4<sup>th</sup> in line after food security, basic assistance, and education); up to August, the sector is 22% funded; 20 out of 43 LCRP health partners reporting receiving funds;</li> <li>- Next financial tracking update in January 2018;</li> <li>- As an agency, reporting is on a lump sum; suggestion is to ask for additional details/breakdown to better understand how the sector is funded;</li> <li>- LCRP 2018 process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Field consultations; challenges faced at field level</li> <li>o Situation analysis and strategy updated (2017-2020 plan)</li> <li>o Logical framework and budget updated</li> <li>o Plan endorsed by the steering committee (MOPH DG, WHO, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, NGOs, INGOs, etc.)</li> <li>o STEP 1 (Activity Info): expression of interest</li> <li>o STEP 2 (Activity Info): financial appeal</li> <li>o Final LCRP documents will be shared on 24 Nov 2017</li> <li>o Indicators remain the same for 2018</li> <li>o Total sector appeal for 2018 is 296 M USD (compared to 308 M USD in 2017)</li> <li>o Total number of health partners for 2018 is 38 (total appeal of 189 M USD)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>IOM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Suggestion to compare the appeal and funds to the National strategic plans;</li> </ul> <p><b>Inter-Agency UNHCR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The sector strategy is aligned with the MOPH strategy.</li> </ul>

<b>Topic 7</b>	<b>AOB</b>
<i>Topic Details</i>	<p><b>Inter-Agency UNHCR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dialysis support: Qatar Red Crescent and SAMS have received OCHA funding for dialysis support; QRC funding stopped and many of their patients in the Bekaa were taken over by Salam NGO through funds from Intersos (UNHCR partner); SAMS funding stops in Dec 2017; Caritas Lebanon can support a specific number in Dec 2017 and January 2018; URDA also covering 110 dialysis patients till end of March 2018 (to be renewed); list of patients needing dialysis compiled and will be shared with specific partners for update; major funding gap anticipated for 2018; MOPH shared a letter with UNRWA to inform them that they stopped covering dialysis for Palestinians; for any organization having some leftover funds, this is a gap;</li> <li>- PHC master list: all PHC centres, dispensaries, MOSA SDCs, UNRWA clinics; has various details; published on portal and regularly updated; will also reflect the facilities supported by UNHCR;</li> <li>- Preparations for the PIST report (annual report that highlights all institutional strengthening): already compiled staffing support and produced a map; support in trainings and equipment in 2017 to be done;</li> </ul> <p><b>URDA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gaps are also major for children with malformations; and also other gaps such as how many patients could not reach the medical help, how many people were not assisted, etc.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Inter-Agency UNHCR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For other gaps, no data is available; for dialysis, there is a list of patients on waiting list and this is how we know the gap; i.e. Thalassemia numbers are not available</li> <li>- Through the VASyR we know that a number of persons cannot access the PHC centres, etc.</li> <li>- NGOs encouraged to share information;</li> </ul> <p><b>LRC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In coordination with Norwegian Red Cross, launching NCD project; community needs assessment in order to define the activities that will potentially decrease the rates of NCDs (hypertension, diabetes, respiratory diseases and cancer);</li> </ul> <p><b>MOPH- Health Education Department</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Press conference on the call for action on the Antibiotic Resistance; in the presence of the Minister of Health and Minister of Agriculture; in the MOPH on Tuesday 28 November 2017 at 11h AM;</li> </ul> <p><b>UNHCR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meeting with donors around the critical funding gaps on 24 November 2017; intense pressure with financial situation impacting hospital care for UNHCR;</li> <li>- Calling for ad-hoc meeting before the coming central health working group in January to discuss this issue and update partners.</li> </ul>	
<i>Action Items:</i>	<i>Person responsible:</i>	<i>Deadline:</i>
Update regarding the expired medication waste agreement	MOPH- Health Education Department	Next central health working group

*Annex: List of Attendees*

Central Health Working Group- Attendance List				
Friday November 24, 2017				
Organization	Name	Position	Tel.	E-mail
ACF	Bruno Abarca	Nutrition & health adviser		babarca@acmesp.org
Blue Mission Org.	Myriam Allory	Assistant Director	76-856981	allory.myriam@gmail.com
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CCP Japan	Kosuke Kawasaki	Program Manager	70-823730	kosuke.kawasaki@ccp.ngo.jp
HAD	Jeanne Frangierh	Director	03-406888	administrator@associationhda.com
Help Age	Carla Jakarian	M&E officer	70-531613	carla.jakarian@helpage.org
Humedica	Roland Hassel	Country coordinator	76-065117	r.hassel@gmx.de
IOM	Fadi Barrak	Database analyst	81-740777	fbarrak@iom.int
IOM	Nada Najem		81-707500	nnajem@iom.int
Lebanese Red Cross	Celine Abi Haidar	Program coordinator	70-963811	celine.ahaidar@gmail.com
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MEDAIR	Wael Harb	Health manager	81-728854	healthmanager-leb@medair.org
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MSF- OCB	Chantal Lakis	Epidemiologist	03-543430	msfocb-beirut-epidemiologist@brussels.msf.org

MSF- OCB	Helge Braithen	Mental health manager	79-196909	msfocb-beirut-mh@brussels.msf.org
MSF- OCB	Caline Rehayem	Medical coordinator advisor	81-313075	msfocb-beirut-medadvisor@brussels.msf.org
PU-AMI	Luis Rosa Sosa	Health coordinator	76-435803	lib.health@pu-ami.org
Relief International	Sarah Omrane	Program Development	81-666710	sarah.omrane@ri.org
Relief Organization-DAF	Nicole Fortin	Project Developer	70-760180	nicole.fortin@yahoo.org
Solidarites int.	Marangela Dadamo	Country hygiene promotion coord.	81-631609	chp.coo@solidarites-liban.org
UNICEF	Carole Stephan	Health officer	81-625777	cstephan@unicef.org
UNFPA	Christelle Moussallem	RH manager		moussallem@unfpa.org
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