

Health

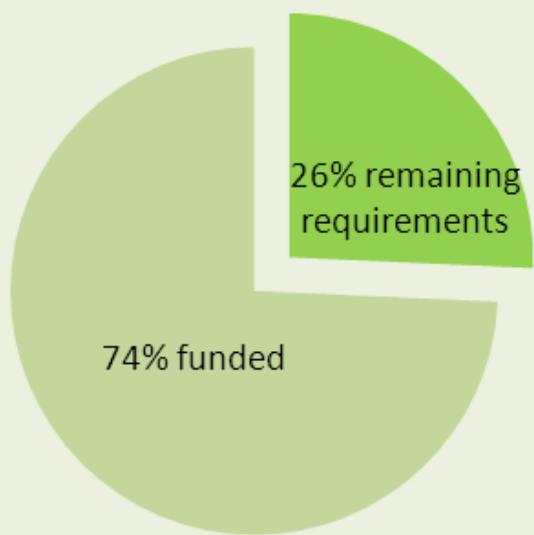
December 2013

Key figures

858,641	Individuals registered or pending registration
19,600	Individuals / month receive primary health care funded by UNHCR
3,600	Individuals / month receive secondary and tertiary care

Funding

UNHCR health requirements: **37.9 m**



A young girl is inoculated against measles at a UNHCR registration centre @UNHCR /G.Beals

December developments

- 11,173 individuals were assisted by UNHCR in primary health care (PHC) centres through IMC, Makhzoumi Foundation, Amel Association and IOCC.
- 2,069 patients were supported with clinical and psycho-social consultations for mental health conditions by UNHCR through IMC and Restart.
- To strengthen mental health services and referrals to the PHC level, trainings on psychological first aid (PFA) and mh-GAP were undertaken.
- IOCC trained health personnel in maternity and paediatric wards in key hospitals on infant and young child feeding (YICF) and malnutrition management.
- Some 10,000 children were vaccinated for measles, polio and vitamin A by UNICEF at UNHCR's registration centres in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health.
- 3,502 patients were assisted by UNHCR with secondary and tertiary health care through IMC and GML.

Achievements: January – December

Activity	█	reached Jan – December	█ 2013 Target
Primary health care (including reproductive and mental health)		178,489	100,000
Life-saving secondary healthcare		37,950	49,000
Health education		328,276	250,000

Needs

As a consequence of the violence in Syria and the destruction of public infrastructure, many refugees arrive in Lebanon with health conditions that require immediate attention. Others have developed health problems during displacement related to trauma and substandard living conditions. Common health care needs of refugees include: reproductive health care

and family planning, child health care (i.e. vaccinations), treatment for acute illnesses (respiratory infections, gastrointestinal diseases), chronic diseases (hypertension, diabetes) and mental health. As a result and in light of their limited financial resources, refugees need support in accessing primary, secondary and tertiary health care within the public and private health care systems.

Challenges

Refugees are facing difficulties in accessing health care services:

Physical access to health care centres is a challenge for some refugees who live in remote locations. In addition, access is limited by short working hours and availability of trained health personnel. Visits of mobile medical units are in place to address this obstacle, but providing coverage in all areas remains a challenge. UNHCR's existing network of 18 primary health care centres needs strengthening in order to offer comprehensive services and adequate follow-up of chronic conditions.

High cost of health care:

Refugees are charged the same medical fees as Lebanese nationals. Despite contributions by UNHCR and other partners in health centres supported by the humanitarian community, many refugees still find it difficult to cover the costs of medical treatment. In addition, medications and diagnostic tests are frequently overprescribed, increasing costs for refugees and UNHCR. Moreover, some providers require upfront payment of costs not covered by UNHCR.

Needs for health care outstretch available resources:

With the daily increase in the number of refugees, UNHCR's resources cannot meet all health care needs. As a result, funds are increasingly stretched among prioritized and vulnerable cases, particularly at secondary and tertiary care levels. Lifesaving interventions in the area of maternal and infant health (surgical deliveries by caesarean section and care of premature infants) are extremely costly.

Strategy

UNHCR's role vis-à-vis refugee health is to facilitate, monitor, and advocate for refugee access to health care services in Lebanon.

- Primary Health Care:**

UNHCR supports a network of primary health care centres, which serve as the entry point for refugees needing medical care. Through its partners, UNHCR covers 80% of consultation fees for all refugees and 85% of the cost of diagnostic procedures for select groups (including pregnant women, children under 5 and adults over 65 years). In exceptional cases, up to 90% of costs of primary health care are covered. In addition, UNHCR is working to expand the existing network of mobile medical units to ensure free of charge access to the most vulnerable refugees and those living in remote locations. UNHCR prioritizes essential services for the most vulnerable groups, especially reproductive healthcare, services for infants and young children (including immunizations), and mental health care services. By improving access to primary health care UNHCR aims to minimize the need for referrals to its network of hospitals, and to reduce the burden of hospitalization.

- Secondary and Tertiary Health Care:**

UNHCR supports secondary and tertiary health care in life-saving and emergency situations only. 75% of all emergency life-saving care and between 75% and 100% of cost of delivery are covered. Moreover, UNHCR has established an exceptional care committee to review exceptional cases basing decisions on prognosis, treatment plan and cost criteria.

UNHCR implementing partners

International Medical Corps (IMC); Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center (CLMC); Makhzoumi Foundation; Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale (PU-AMI); International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC); Lebanese Popular Association for Popular Action (AMEL) Restart Center; Association Justice and Misericorde (AJEM) and GlobeMed Lebanon.