



**Primary Health Care:** International Medical Corps continues to provide primary health care (PHC) services for Syrian refugees across the country. In February 2014, **37 PHC centers and 7 mobile medical units (MMUs)** provided **19,067 and 8,279 consultations** respectively. Of the PHC consultations, over **1,700 were ante-natal care consultations** were provided for pregnant women.

Pregnancy continues to be one of the top reasons for seeking PHC consultations. International Medical Corps encourages women to seek four ante-natal care visits during their pregnancy, following the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) protocols.



Syrian refugees visit an International Medical Corps' supported clinic

International Medical Corps promotes family planning sessions among those seeking services at the supported PHC centers. In February, **7,290 beneficiaries** received family planning awareness sessions. These topics are addressed in a culturally sensitive manner, taking into consideration local attitudes and practices. In addition, almost **1,000 individuals** received a form of modern birth control last month.

**Health Education:** During the winter months, respiratory diseases are the

number one reason for seeking consultations at PHC centers. The Health Education team has stressed prevention and treatment of respiratory diseases during their community outreach sessions, providing sessions to

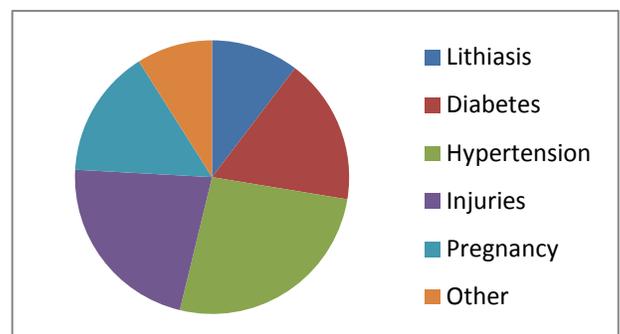
over 13,000 beneficiaries in February. In addition, International Medical Corps will be providing refresher training on diagnosis of Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI) for doctors and nurses from supported clinics.

The health education team continued to implement awareness sessions and outreach activities across the country, reaching over **77,000 participants** in February.

**Mental Health and Health Education Social Assessment in Aarsal:** Following another refugee influx into Aarsal during February, in which an additional 13,500 Syrians arrived in the area, the mental health and health education outreach workers completed social assessments of recently arrived populations in ten informal tented settlements.

In total, **1,659 individuals** (45% male, 55% female) were assessed. Forty two percent of the individuals were aged 15 or less and another ten percent were over the age of 50.

Of those screened, 145 presented with health conditions or concerns and 216 had mental health conditions. The top five health concerns were hypertension (26%), injuries (22%), diabetes (17%), pregnancy (15%), and lithiasis (10%). By far the most common mental health concern was mood disorders, which accounted for 82% of the total mental health cases. This was followed by enuresis (8%), aggressiveness, (3%), and epilepsy (2%). These cases have been referred to the health and mental health teams on the ground.



Prevalence of health concerns identified during the Aarsal social assessment



**Case Management:** International Medical Corps continued to support mental health case management (CM) services through **14 CM teams** across the country. In February, **4,557 consultations** were provided for Syrian refugees, Iraqi refugees, and vulnerable Lebanese. Of these, 322 also completed psychotherapist consultations while 169 had psychiatrist consultations.

**Awareness Raising:** International Medical Corps aims to increase knowledge and understanding of mental health issues by conducting awareness sessions individually and in groups. In February, **1,522 individuals** participated in awareness sessions focusing on various topics, including gender-based violence (GBV). Group awareness sessions were provided to primary caregivers this month in an effort to lessen minute psychological disturbances, such as fear, anxiety, enuresis, and sleep disorders, among the children of displaced Syrians.



**Mental health awareness session conducted in the Bekaa**



**A Syrian refugee receiving psychosocial support**

**Mental Health Program at MOPH:** International Medical Corps and the MoPH have held various meetings in order to discuss the objective of establishing a Mental Health Technical Assistance Unit at the MoPH. The Ministry has formally requested IMC's support for this Technical Unit. Walid Ammar, the Director General of the MoPH, explained, "The Mental Health programme will be constructed around a set of values and guiding principles that stem from the basic human rights for information protection and health for all. These shall be translated into universal accessibility to patient centered services, for all without discrimination, in a continuum of care approach, while

ensuring community involvement." One of the main priorities over the coming two years will be the integration of mental health into primary care and a strong referral system to secondary and tertiary care.

**Gender-Based Violence:** An awareness session covering GBV topics was provided to 34 Syrian women between the ages of 20-47 at the Ministry of Social Affairs center in Baalbek. The session was used as a platform for discussing issues of domestic violence and molestation. Several support mechanisms were introduced to the women who attended the activity. Further, International Medical Corps' community health educators will undergo training from the mental health department in April in order to equip them with knowledge and skills to raise awareness about GBV and refer cases for further care as needed.