



22.46 million Syrian and host community children have now been vaccinated against polio since the start of 2014

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS:

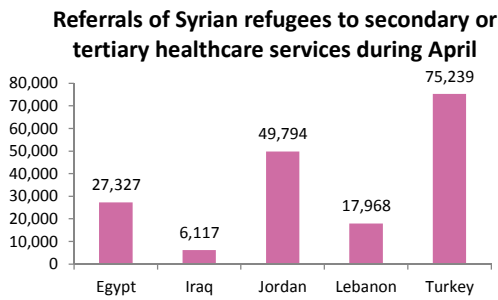
Supporting health infrastructure, whether in camps or in the community, remains a priority. In Turkey the construction of seven out of 10 planned prefabricated health facilities of 750m² has begun in camps and urban areas. In Egypt, partners are working on establishing a new clinic in Gisir El Suez, north east of Cairo governorate. The clinic in village 3 of the newly opened Azraq camp in Jordan became operational providing primary health care services 24/7.

Training of health workers continues, with sessions for community health volunteers in Egypt during April. So far this year, almost 300 health workers have received training in Iraq and almost 200 were trained in Lebanon.

Healthcare systems and information continue to be supported, including in Iraq where the implementation of the Health Information System was completed in all camps in the Kurdistan Region, and the Early Warning and Response Network is in place to help detect disease outbreaks at an early stage. In Turkey, awareness materials on primary health care, vaccination and reproductive health for hospitals on referral services for urban refugees are being prepared.

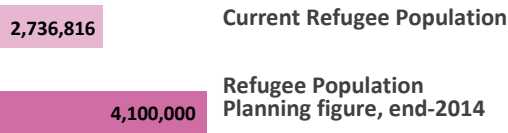
National **polio vaccination campaigns** continued to be supported across the region. In Lebanon, the fourth campaign targeted children under 5 years, including complementary activities such as measles/rubella vaccination and Vitamin A supplementation. The campaign covered all affected population and targeted informal settlements, collective shelters, schools, primary healthcare centres, private clinics and households. In Turkey, an additional campaign was carried out in six provinces, supported by communications and information materials promoting the campaign. A mass immunization campaign against polio was carried out across the whole of Iraq.

In Turkey, partners initiated the establishment of **reproductive health** counseling units, providing staff at women and cultural centres. Almost 1,800 antenatal consultations have been provided for Syrian women in Egypt, almost 4,000 in Iraq, and almost 13,000 in Lebanon.



Mahmoud Mosque Hospital, Egypt. UNHCR/Shawn Baldwin

SYRIAN REFUGEES IN THE REGION:



NEEDS ANALYSIS:

The health needs of Syrian refugees and their host communities are a high priority. Communicable diseases such as measles, tuberculosis, respiratory and gastrointestinal infections are putting thousands of lives at risk. Inadequate hygiene and sanitation conditions predispose populations to diarrheal diseases, and the occurrence of these common illnesses, if coupled with food insecurity, can cause malnutrition.

Access to quality primary health care is critical for provision of preventive and life-saving treatment to vulnerable populations. Non-communicable diseases are on the rise. Diabetes, hypertension and other cardiovascular diseases can lead to disabilities that further burden an already overstretched health system, including secondary and tertiary facilities.

Though medical services for SGBV survivors exist, they need to be further expanded and quality improved. One in twenty people in the region is in need of mental health care, including as a result of recent trauma or chronic mental conditions. Mental health and psychosocial services, for communities at large, including survivors of SGBV, need to be further expanded.

Specialized and longer-term care for disabilities is limited in the region, both for refugees and host communities. Vulnerable populations face high costs related to intermediate care, as well as longer-term treatment.

Though statistics are not complete in the region, it is estimated that less than 70 per cent of Syrian refugee children have been adequately vaccinated against polio and measles. The regional polio campaign underway aims to address the lack of polio vaccinations among children.

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS:

