



Country brief and funding request

January to June 2015

PEOPLE AFFECTED

**>1.8 million** Syrian refugees in need of health services  
**1.5 million** refugees within the communities  
**260 000** residing in camps

HEALTH SECTOR

**1.8 million** refugees have access to public health facilities

Among the health facilities providing health care to Syrian refugees in Turkey, **16** are run by NGOs in support to MoH Turkey

**246** cases of measles have been reported in 2015 for all of Turkey

**25** Syrian doctors attended Refugee Doctor Adaptation Training for possible into healthcare delivery

BENEFICIARIES REACHED

**1.1 million** consultations  
**200 000** inpatients  
**70 000** surgical operations  
**1 million** children vaccinated through polio campaigns  
**30** emergency health kits supplied, covering the treatment of **30 000** outpatients for **3** months  
**10 000** deliveries  
**1 300** emergency interventions

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Health Sector

**\$29 million** requested (3RPs 2015)



Concentration of Syrian refugees in Turkey. Source: UNHCR

Highlights

The language barrier is a major hindrance for refugees trying to access health services. Integrating Syrian doctors and nurses so that they can provide health services to Syrian patients can alleviate the workload on Turkish health professionals while the relevant legislation is being completed.

WHO in collaboration with Gaziantep University and the MoH, launched the first Refugee Doctor Adaptation Training for 25 Syrian refugee doctors in 2014. The curriculum has been reinforced to further train 175 doctors in 2015, also expanding to 50 nurses through the Refugee Nurse Adaptation training.

WHO is supporting the MoH in the development of legislation and regulations to provide refugee access to family physician centers.

WHO continues to support the MoH in strengthening communicable disease surveillance and response, including routine immunization and polio campaigns.

Limited availability of mental health services continues to be a concern.

Situation update

UNHCR and AFAD (Disaster and Emergency Management Authority of Turkey) data indicates that Turkey, with 1.8 million Syrian refugees, has become the largest refugee hosting country in the world. Approximately 260 000 refugees live in 25 camps across 10 cities, with the remaining refugees living among host communities. Syrian refugees living outside camps are spread throughout Turkey, mainly in five provinces adjacent to Syria: Hatay, Kilis, Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa

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and Mardin. Major cities of western Turkey such as Ankara, Antalya, Izmir, Istanbul and Mersin have also attracted large numbers of Syrian refugees. The projected number of Syrian refugees in Turkey for end of 2015 is 2.5 million with only 300 000 estimated to be residing in camps.

### Public health concerns

The health profile and the disease spectrum of the host population and the Syrian refugee community are very similar, with a high prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Registered Syrian refugees have had, so far, free access to medical care provided by State-run Turkish medical facilities. Transportation costs and the language barrier hinder health care service utilization. Non-registered refugees can only access emergency health care.

The limited provision of mental health and psychosocial services are major concerns amongst the Syrian refugees in Turkey, particularly due to the language barrier and limited number of facilities that offer mental health services. Although nutritional deficiencies are currently not a major challenge, they are expected to become a concern due the increasing numbers of refugees and food shortage in Syria. Surgical trauma and intensive care for the large number of severely injured patients from conflict areas requires inputs of equipment, human and financial resources. Treatment of complex injuries involves long-term post-operative rehabilitation, which remains a challenge for the already burdened Turkish healthcare system.

With non-camp refugees often living in crowded settings in urban areas, communicable and vaccine-preventable diseases remain a risk to the health of refugees and host communities. In urban settings, which host the highest percentage of the Syrian refugee population, an increasing need for secondary care continues to be a major concern.

#### Surge capacity

- WHO staff: 11
- Geographic distribution of deployed staff: Southern Turkey and Ankara
- Health partners operating on the ground: 35
- Location of Health Sector coordination: Gaziantep

#### Health Sector priorities and targets in Turkey according to 3RP

- To strengthen essential health services for NCDs
- To strengthen health promotion and protection interventions
- To improve the quality and coverage of communicable diseases surveillance and response capacity and increase routine immunization coverage among children under five years
- To support access to mental health and psychosocial services
- To coordinate and strengthen the equitable health sector response for refugees and impacted communities
- To train Syrian health professionals to improve health care provision for refugees, in their own language

#### Health Sector actions

WHO procured and prepositioned a total of 106 emergency kits in Gaziantep, Sanliurfa, Kilis, Suruç and Hatay, including interagency emergency health kits, supplementary units, emergency A kits, emergency B kits and surgical supply kits covering the treatment of 170 000 outpatients from the beginning of the crisis until the end of June. In addition, WHO

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supported 4 000 surgeries for injuries including ten days post-op care and 1 300 emergency cases. The most recent delivery of 30 emergency kits and surgical supplies were in June 2015 just before the bomb attack on Suruç.

WHO delivered various IT equipment and software including computers and printers to the health facility in Suruç Camp aiming at reinforcing registration of health records in the camp facility.

Health service delivery capacity has been substantially supported by health partners through provision of capacity building in PHC, MHPSS, RH, SGBV and communicable disease surveillance.

In support of integrating the professional workforce, WHO in collaboration with Gaziantep University and the MoH launched the first Refugee Doctor Adaptation Training for 25 Syrian refugee doctors in 2014. The curriculum and training materials have been reinforced to further train 175 doctors in 2015. The training program for Syrian refugee nurses is under development. The expansion of these programmes will improve access to health care through addressing the language barrier.

MoH has reported over 1.1 million outpatient visits, 200 000 inpatients admissions, 70 000 surgeries and 10 000 deliveries for Syrian refugees in the public health system during the first six months of 2015.

### WHO Turkey Activities

- WHO delivered 30 health kits consisting of emergency and surgical supplies to the health facility in Suruç Camp following the sudden influx of refugees.
- WHO facilitated the delivery of IT equipment and software, including 14 computers and printers in collaboration with the MoH to health facilities in Suruç Camp. The equipment is to be used to strengthen registration and health record-keeping in camp facilities.
- WHO conducted a series of joint meetings with local authorities in Gaziantep to advance cooperation. The delegation, including representatives from AFAD, visited Nizip Camp in Gaziantep to gain insight on health issues from the medical staff.
- WHO and the MoH conducted hospital contingency planning training in Urla, with the participation of 25 national health professionals and directors.
- Six Health Sector coordination meetings were held with the participation of health partners, ensuring a comprehensive platform to discuss observations from the field and health implementations, briefings from health partners including representatives of the MoH and registered INGOs providing health services.

**Donors for WHO operations in Turkey:** Norway, BPRM, ECHO and CERF.

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