

# Lebanon

## Health Sector Needs Assessment

While Lebanon is known for the quality of its medical services, these come at a high price. Although primary health care centres are generally found throughout the country, medical care for chronic patients and secondary interventions are expensive and doctors and hospitals normally require a guarantee of payment. As a result, refugees, who normally do not possess any health insurance, must cover most health care costs themselves. The 2007 Danish Refugee Council Survey found that 43% of Iraqi respondents paid for natal care themselves (as opposed to 49% by NGO and charity organizations); 68% paid themselves for chronic health care (27% by NGO and charity organizations); and 68% paid themselves for treatment of acute illness (24% by NGO and charity organizations). These figures suggest that while external assistance is available, refugees continue to shoulder the cost of medical care. Iraqi refugees have even more limited access to mental health care due to its high cost and scarcity of services. In the meantime, there is a significant need for psychosocial care among the Iraqi refugee population, given the level of violence and human rights violations experienced in Iraq. A report prepared by IOM in February 2008 concluded that 34% of Iraqi refugees in Lebanon were exposed to highly traumatizing events.<sup>1</sup>



## Health Sector Priorities for 2009

### Prevention

- Health education for the refugee community in order increase awareness on important topics including child nutrition, immunization, childhood diseases, maternal health care, and personal hygiene;
- Immunization of at least 80% of under-five children (according to the National Vaccination Programme);
- Develop a response mechanism for substance abuse cases;
- Develop awareness of and response to sexually transmitted infections, e.g. HIV/AIDS.

### *Health information system (HIS)*

- Establish a multifunctional committee working with a programmer to develop a HIS;
- Introduce the system to partners and train working staff.

### *Mental health care*

- Provide rehabilitation services for victims of torture, poly-traumatized and people with special needs;
- Strengthen skills for psychological and mental health support among health professionals;
- Raise awareness on Iraqi refugee psychological and social needs among caregivers.

### *Accessibility*

- Capacity-building for health caregivers;
- Providing health care, focusing on maternal healthcare;
- Establishing mobile clinics and providing outreach health services outside cities.

## **WHO Proposed Projects in the CAP 2009**

<b>Project titles</b>	<b>Requested funds *</b>	<b>Implementing partners</b>
Supporting public health functions needs for Iraqi refugees in Lebanon 2009 <b>IRQ 09/H/20954/122</b>	219 220	MoPH, local NGOs

\* Amounts given in US dollars.

**Total funds requested: US\$ 219 220**

**Notes:** 1) *Assessment of psychosocial needs of Iraqi displaced in Lebanon and Jordan*, IOM, February 2008.