Situation in Iraq

As of the beginning of 2014 over 570,000 Syrian refugees have crossed the border into Iraq. 170,000 reside in the refugee camps, and estimated 300,000 are currently in the host communities. The continued arrival of Syrian refugees has significantly burdened the local public health services.

The main health concerns among the refugees are: obstetric care, child care (particularly immunization), hospital referrals, emergency care, prevention and control of communicable diseases (including diarrhoea, measles, TB, typhoid, cholera, pneumonia, other airborne and waterborne diseases), management of chronic diseases including disabilities, and mental health disorders.

WHO Regional Response Plan 5 (RRP) achievements in Iraq

WHO ensured availability of primary healthcare services to all refugees in the camps, as well as to some outside.

WHO procured and supplied of life-saving medicines including ten Basic Health Kits covering 10,000 individuals each, and drugs for chronic diseases.

WHO established a disease early warning system in all eight Syrian refugees camps.

Public health staff, communicable disease experts, and WASH experts were employed in Erbil, Sulaimaniyah and Dohuk.

As leader of the health and nutrition sector, WHO coordinated and consolidated health actions of present UN agencies, NGOs and health partners in the Kudistan region.

WHO established operational modalities for regular information exchange and dissemination.

WHO provided capacity building activities in mental health in emergencies, disease early warning system, public health in emergencies, immunization, management of patients with chronic diseases, management of exposure to chemical weapons, violence prevention, and Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) surveillance.

Together with UNICEF and the Government of Iraq, WHO developed the Plan for Polio Immunization and organized two national and two sub-national immunization days.

WHO conducted cholera risk assessment field missions to all refugee camps.

WHO interventions and funding needs for RRP6 in Iraq for 2014

- Establish health services and provision of comprehensive primary health care including non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS).
  Funding needs: US$ 740,000

- Reach total coverage of the expanded programme on immunization (EPI) services.
  Funding needs: US$ 360,000

- Provide comprehensive reproductive health services including emergency obstetric care and gender based violence (GBV) services to Syrian refugees in and out-side the camps. Funding needs: US$ 400,000

- Strengthen the referral system for secondary and tertiary care. Funding needs: US$ 375,000

- Strengthen the community health volunteer teams in place. Funding needs: US$ 200,000

- Supply essential medicines and equipment. Funding needs: US$ 800,000

- Expand the disease early warning system. Funding needs: US$ 250,000

- Support the management of patients with chronic diseases. Funding needs: US$ 300,000

- Support the management of patients with mental disorders and provide psycho-social support. Funding needs: US$ 175,000

- Provide health coordination and leadership. Funding needs: US$ 150,000

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