WHO Response to the Syria crisis in Jordan 2014

Situation in Jordan
At the beginning of 2014 over 570,000 Syrian refugees reside in Jordan. 120,000 are in Al Zaatari refugee camp in the north of the country. Over 1.5 million Jordanians are directly affected by the burden of Syrian refugees in the country. The Government of Jordan remains committed to keep its borders open and granting Syrian refugees the right to access all public services. However, this is an enormous strain on the local health services.

A recent rapid health assessment, conducted by WHO, showed that in the five northern governorates (which have the largest amount of Syrian refugees) nearly 9% of all health service deliveries were for the Syrian refugees. Thus, the Syrian patients represent an increased case load and place an additional burden on healthcare and, by extension, pose a further strain on an under-resourced Ministry of Health health care system.

WHO Regional Response Plan 5 (RRP) achievements in Jordan

WHO strengthened the planning and management capacity of the Ministry of Health by providing technical expertise in mental health; epidemiology; health assessments; epidemic surveillance; non-communicable disease management; and health information systems.

WHO trained in collaboration with the Ministry of Health over 500 Ministry of Health and NGO staff working in emergency public health planning, coordination, management, disease surveillance / monitoring, outbreak response and case management for priority communicable and non-communicable disease conditions. Another training was organized for over 4000 individuals on measles campaign management and vaccination techniques.

Health facilities assessments:
WHO lead the health system capacity assessment in the north of Jordan. 94% (331) of all hospitals and health facilities across 5 northern governorates were assessed.

US$ 13.6 million is needed to help health sector in Jordan

WHO interventions and funding needs for RRP6 in Jordan for 2014

- Access to primary and essential secondary health care services. Funding needs: US$ 2,050,000
- Communicable and non-communicable disease management. Funding needs: US$ 3,750,000
- Access to mental health services at different levels. Funding needs: US$ 330,000
- Capacity building (including; various MHPSS trainings; update surveillance guidelines; conduct surveillance refresher training; surveillance laboratory guidelines; and establish surveillance steering committee). Funding needs: US$ 1,840,000
- Availability of essential chronic disease drugs. Funding needs: US$ 2,500,000
- Polio vaccination campaigns and the strengthening of immunization response capacity. Funding needs: US$ 3,099,000

Contact: Dr. Base Al-Yousfi, Acting WHO Representative in Jordan. Email: alyousfi@who.int
Liam Robertson, Advocacy and Communications Officer. Email: robertsonl@jor.emro.who.int

Vaccination Campaigns:
WHO supported the Ministry of Health’s national immunization campaigns against polio, measles, and rubella, amounting to an estimated 4.9 million individual doses administered nationally during 2013 (including in Al Zaatari refugee camp). Routine polio vaccinations and the polio vaccination campaigns helped Jordan remain polio free.