SITUATION IN TURKEY

The conflict in Syria is now in its third year and the influx of Syrian refugees into Turkey has far surpassed initial projections. The estimated total number of Syrians in Turkey is **1 million**. On 26 June 2014, AFAD (the Prime Ministry Disaster and Emergency Management Agency of Government of Turkey) announced that the total number of Syrians registered and assisted in 22 camps located in 10 provinces in Turkey is 218,561. The total number of refugees registered outside the camps is 571,117. The total number of refugees registered and with registration appointments is **789,678**. The Government of Turkey expects the number of Syrian refugees in-country to reach 1.5 million by the end of 2014, with 300,000 in camps and 1.2 million out of camps.

KEY HEALTH ISSUES AND NEEDS

The Turkish authorities’ emergency response has been of a consistently high standard; new arrivals are being swiftly settled in camps specially set up by AFAD, partnering with the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS), UN agencies as well as line ministries, including the Ministry of Health.

Camp populations have been provided with medical assistance without interruption and free of charge in the primary care services in the camps and throughout an active referral system. The general level of health care services in Turkey is high. However, people living outside of the camps, especially those not yet registered, face challenges in reaching essential services.

There is a need to assist the Government of Turkey in sustaining a high level of health care services for the host and Syrian refugee population. The extra burden on host communities has overstretched local health facilities and the health system at large.

Health concerns related to people living outside of the camps include an increased risk of **communicable diseases**, potential **health service access** limitations, and an increased number of patients requiring **psychosocial support**.

WHO TURKEY KEY ACHIEVEMENTS (JANUARY - JUNE 2014)

The technical focus of WHO activities in southern Turkey is to support the Government of Turkey and work with national and international health partners around the critical functions laid out in the WHO Emergency Response Framework (ERF): **health coordination**, **information management**, **provision of technical expertise and core services**. Up-to-date WHO Turkey has focused on:

1. Coordination of health actions by UN agencies, NGOs and health partners based in southern Turkey
   - WHO Turkey co-leads the health sector jointly with UNHCR and conducts regular meetings with health partners, donors and authorities to discuss emerging health gaps and to coordinate initiatives and responses of the health sector. This work is supported by on-going dialogue with Turkish health authorities.
   - WHO Turkey has coordinated efforts within the UN Country Team to provide health support and assistance to the Government of Turkey.
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JANUARY - JUNE 2014

WHO Turkey has collaborated with the Ministry of Health (MoH) on concrete actions to interrupt wild poliovirus transmission and prevent further international spread within the framework of the "WHO/UNICEF Strategic Plan for Polio Outbreak Response in the Middle East".

2. Facilitation of coordinated health needs assessments and resource mobilization (contingency plans, UN Regional Response Plans) for essential public health services and interventions

WHO Turkey, with the MoH, has undertaken several missions to assess the provision of health services in Gaziantep, Kahramanmaraş, Osmaniye, Şanlıurfa, Mardin, Adana, Hatay and Kilis provinces.

WHO Turkey has provided technical assistance to health sector partners in a broad range of public health issues, including communicable disease control, detection and response, mental health, essential medicines, maternal and child health and reproductive health, etc.

3. Coordination of the provision of essential medicines and medical supplies and provision of technical expertise

WHO Turkey prepositioned 86 emergency medical kits for distribution in the provinces in need.

WHO Turkey disseminated 100,000 health information leaflets on available health care services for Syrian refugees in the Arabic language.

Following the adoption of Security Council 2139 and the agreement of Syrian and Turkish governments, WHO participated in the first UN inter-agency convoy from Turkey to Qamishli in Syria on 25 March providing medical assistance for 61,000 people.

WHO Turkey disseminated 10,000 leaflets on leishmaniasis prevention.

WHO Turkey initiated the Refugee Doctor Adaption Training (ReDAT) together with the University of Gaziantep.

LESSONS LEARNED

Governmental support is essential. The Turkish authorities’ emergency response has been of a consistently high standard since the onset of the Syrian refugee influx. The Government of Turkey is making significant efforts to coordinate assistance to the non-camp population.

Liaison and communication are essential within and across sectors. WHO liaises with the MoH and provincial authorities keeping the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator and UNHCR fully informed and involved in main developments and challenges encountered.

WHO’s key role in coordinating health sector information is crucial as additional NGOs are accredited and Syrians arrive in southern Turkey.
KEY STRATEGIC AREAS IN RRP6 FOR 2014

WHO Turkey estimates that to continue its work to support access for all affected by the Syrian crisis to essential health services USD 7,455,000 is needed. This is broken down to:

- Coordination for equitable emergency health response, streamlining of decision making, monitoring and information management in partnership with local authorities and other actors: USD 1,330,000
- Continuation and strengthening of essential and equitable PHC services, including essential lifesaving medicines and other medical supplies, for filling gaps and unmet needs in the health response: USD 2,285,000
- Strengthening communicable diseases surveillance and response, including immunization to mitigate morbidity and mortality among affected and displaced populations (including emergency polio response): USD 1,740,000
- Strengthening health promotion and protection, including MNCH and reproductive health services: USD 1,400,000
- Support effective management of non-communicable diseases and mental health: USD 700,000