

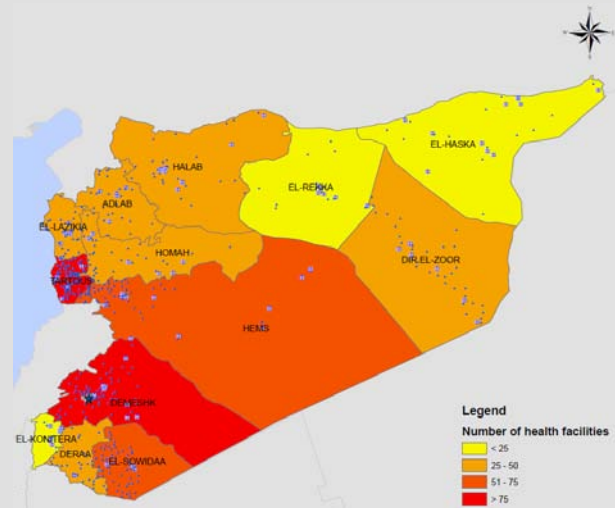
Syrian Arab Republic

Situation Report # 3

Date: 20 March 2012

Highlights

- The Government-led joint needs assessment mission, supported by the United Nations (UN) and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, began on the 18 March. The objective of the mission is to conduct a rapid assessment and collect information on humanitarian needs, gaps and how to best deliver humanitarian aid.



Health situation

- The current situation of pharmaceutical companies are a primary concern, especially in terms of sustaining the cost of urgently needed medicines and medication due to currency fluctuations and difficulty in the availability of dollars due to sanctions on the Central Bank, in addition to the increase of operational costs (fuel).
- Vaccination coverage rate has decreased dramatically in affected areas due to the lack of access for families with children under 5 years of age, as well as a lack of access for health care providers.
- The number of Syrians in Jordan registered by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is about 5400 with 2000 more waiting for their registration appointments; about 48% of registered Syrians are under the age of 18 years. The main health problems reported are those of acute respiratory infections, chronic illnesses, reproductive health needs and mental health/psychosocial support needs. In addition, there are concerns regarding immunization coverage and nutritional deficiencies.
- In Turkey, where camps are being managed by the Government, almost 23 000 persons have received protection in seven camps in Hatay province since April 2011.

- According to UNHCR and Lebanon's High Relief Commission there are 7088 registered Syrians in north Lebanon and registration is to continue in Tripoli where several thousand more are estimated to have taken refuge. Additionally, UNHCR and local partners estimate there are some 4000 persons in the Bekaa valley.

Coordination

- WHO is supporting the Syrian Ministry of Health in establishing a coordinating body for nongovernmental organizations, UN agencies and the donor community.

Health response

WHO response

- WHO is currently participating in an interagency mission to conduct a rapid assessment and identify humanitarian needs in affected areas of the Syrian Arab Republic. Focal points from UN agencies, together with representatives from the Ministry of Health and Organisation of Islamic Cooperation will be travelling to eight governorates in the Syrian Arab Republic: Homs, Hama, Tartous, Lattakia, Aleppo, Der Al Zoor, Rural Damascus and Dara'a. The UN agencies represented are UNICEF, World Food Programme, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Development Programme and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.
- WHO has finalized a prioritized list of needed health supplies, equipment and medicines and is pre-positioning supplies from its warehouse in Dubai to the Syrian Arab Republic. The shipment consists of surgical supplies and interagency health kits.

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