Libya Crisis: Health Sector Update

As of December 2015

**Health risks**

- Increased risk of communicable diseases, including tuberculosis, malaria, and HIV-AIDs, as a result of large numbers of migrants and a collapsed surveillance system.
- Increased risk of outbreaks of measles and polio due to new waves of displacement and disruption of Primary Health Care services, including vaccination activities in some areas.
- Limited care for patients with chronic diseases, disabilities, and mental health disorders.
- Increased mortality and morbidity caused by noncommunicable diseases due to weak Primary Health Care services.
- Increase in populations requiring acute psychosocial support.
- Limited services for women requiring reproductive health care due to lack of referral services and access to basic and comprehensive obstetric care (including emergency obstetric care and family planning).
- Limited prevention and management of the consequences of sexual violence, and treatment of sexually transmitted infections.
- Risk of technological hazards, including nuclear and chemical spills.

**Challenges**

- Critical shortages of health care workers
- Limited functionality of health facilities
- Shortages in life-saving medicines and vaccines
- Limited funding

**PRIMARY HEALTH CARE FUNCTIONALITY STATUS**

- 10% Fully functioning
- 4% Partially functioning
- 37% Not functioning
- 49% Under rehabilitation

**HEALTH RESPONSE PLANNING BY PROVINCE**

- No of partners per province
  - 1-2
  - 3-4
  - 5 or more

**Challenges**

- 20% ALL HOSPITALS CLOSED
- 60% HOSPITALS IN INACCESSIBLE AREAS CLOSED
- 5 HEALTH WORKERS KILLED
- 20 HEALTH WORKERS INJURED

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*reported between July 2014 and May 2015 in Benghazi*
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HEALTH SECTOR PRIORITIES

The primary objectives of the health sector are to (i) improve access to basic life-saving primary and emergency secondary healthcare services; (ii) reduce communicable diseases transmission and outbreaks; and (iii) strengthen the existing health structure to avoid the collapse of the health system.

These objectives are fulfilled through a number of key activities, including providing support to the national health network; providing life-saving medicines; providing temporary assistance via mobile and medical outreach services; and strengthening capacity of local health networks; providing life and medical outreach services; and

WHO KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2015

- 250,000 PEOPLE REACHED BY WHO IN 2015

- Provision of 15 mobile clinics and five field hospitals;
- Provision of trauma care services to 25,000 patients with trauma;
- Provision of life-saving medicines and kits for one million patients for one year;
- Provision of immunization services to 350,000 children under five years age; and antenatal, natal and postnatal services for 150,000 pregnant women;
- Strengthening 20 hospitals for emergency obstetric care and neonatal care;
- Mental health and psychosocial services for 25,000 patients;
- Access to 500,000 patients for Primary Healthcare Services;
- Long-term care for 200,000 patients with chronic diseases;
- Creation/strengthening of ten child-friendly services;
- Provision of rehabilitation services to 50,000 persons with disabilities;
- Capacitating 100 sentinel sites for disease early warning systems;
- Training of 100 health staff in emergency preparedness and response.

WHO PLANNED ACTIVITIES 2016

WHO is working together with health authorities and partners to effectively improve the public health situation in the country, with special emphasis on a number of immediate priorities targeting 1.2 million people:

Leadership and coordination
- Supporting the development of a national plan for emergency preparedness and response

Information
- Expanding the Early Warning Alert and Response System to 500 sentinel sites

Technical expertise
- Recruiting doctors and paramedics; deploying nurses and midwives
- Ensuring the availability of health expertise in trauma management; psychiatric support; and reproductive, maternal and child health
- Providing technical expertise in the areas of HIV/AIDS, TB, vaccine preventable diseases
- Introducing a full package for maternal health in emergencies
- Conducting an assessment of the primary health care network
- Strengthening the immunization program and conducting regular national immunization days to avoid resurgence of polio
- Strengthening the disability and rehabilitation program
- Rehabilitating the psychiatric hospital in Ben-Ghazi
- Capacity building of national health workers (public health, surveillance, health systems)

Core services
- Building HR capacities in procurement, storage and distribution
- Procuring vaccines and medicines for noncommunicable diseases
- Procuring psychotropic medicines; antiretroviral medicines for HIV/AIDS; medicines for leishmaniasis

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