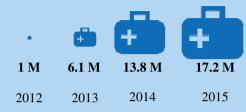
# Health in Syria: Five year update

# Number of people in need of aid



- Out of 13.5 million people in need of humanitarian aid inside Syria, 11 million need urgent health services.
- Almost two-thirds of all Syrians lack access to safe water.
- Half of all children miss out on lifesaving vaccinations.
- Almost 5 million people need mental health care.

#### **Providing medical treatments**



- Total medical treatments provided by WHO increased from one million in 2012 to more than 17 million in 2015.
- Treatments include medicines for chronic disease such as diabetes and cancer, trauma, primary and secondary care.
- WHO works closely with 67 nongovernmental organizations to reach people with health services, including trauma care and essential medicines.

#### Immunizing children



- WHO supported more than 17 rounds of polio vaccination campaigns, reaching almost three million children each round.
- WHO also supported mass and routine measles vaccination campaigns reaching 1.6-1.9 million children.
- More than 300 000 children in hard-toreach and besieged areas were vaccinated against polio in 2015.

#### **Controlling disease outbreaks**



- WHO has established close to 1000 sentinel sites in Syria reporting on disease outbreaks, almost one third of these are in opposition-controlled areas
- Portable water testing kits and purification units are provided so that people can have access to clean water.
- Supplies are also provided for the control and prevention of leishmaniasis.

## Reaching hard-to-reach and besieged populations

- WHO and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent delivered five tonnes of medical assistance to beseiged Mouadamiya, and crossed conflict lines to deliver 280 000 lifesaving treatments to people in Quamshli.
- Supplies were provided to support around 2000 major surgical interventions in an underground trauma hospital in northern Syria.

#### **MOBILE CLINICS**

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IN 2013 IN 2015





#### **Managing Malnutrition**

- WHO set up screening for children with malnutrition in 193 centres, and supported 14 stabilization centres and eight therapeutic feeding centres for children with acute malnutrition.
- WHO provides breastfeeding support at shelters hosting internally displaced persons and health centres.
- WHO distributed micro-nutrients for mothers and children during polio immunization campaigns.

### **Ensuring mental health care**

- WHO supported rehabilitation of psychiatric units in hospitals in Damascus and Aleppo.
- WHO provided essential psychotropic medicines in 12 governorates.
- WHO has integrated mental health services into health facilities in mostaffected areas.

#### **Training health workers**



 WHO trained almost 20 000 health workers to manage diseases, provide trauma care, mental health and reproductive health care.

#### **Updating health information**

- WHO assessed the availability of resources in all public hospitals and almost all public health care centres.
- The Syrian Essential Medicines List was updated each year to reflect the evolving situation and changing health needs.

# **Support to WHO's response to the Syria crisis**

WHO's response to the Syria crisis has been supported by donors around the world, including Australia, Canada (DFATD), United Nations Central Emergency Response Funds (CERF), European Commission (ECHO), Finland, Hungary, Ireland (Irish Aid), Italy, Kuwait, League of Arab States, Luxembourg, Norway (NORAD), Russia, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom (DfID), UNOCHA, United States (USAID/OFDA).

#### **Providing health services to refugees and host communities**

WHO fully equipped 180 primary healthcare centers in **Lebanon** and provided medications for chronic diseases to 435 primary healthcare centers serving Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese patients. Vulnerable pregnant women and children benefited from a comprehensive package of healthcare services at no cost. WHO reinforced the communicable diseases monitoring, early warning and response system through training of healthcare workers, reactivating school-based surveillance and establishing 8 water laboratories.

Pioneering technology was introduced to enhance **Jordan's** Early Warning Alert and Response System utilizing mobile technology and an on line web-platform. The application introduced automated real-time alerts, clinical decision management support, mapping and reporting that can be accessed at all levels of the Ministry of Health (MoH). By the end of 2015, 85% of all MoH health facilities with 277 sentinel sites were currently reporting through this system.



Syrian children in **Iraq** were immunized against measles and polio in national immunization campaigns. Following an outbreak of cholera in 2015, refugees were also included in cholera immunization campaigns. Medicines and medical supplies, including for chronic diseases were

provided to all nine Syrian refugee camps in Iraq. These camps are also covered by the communicable diseases monitoring and early warning and response system.

WHO established web-based surveillance in 62 primary health care centres in **Egypt**. WHO also conducted training courses for physicians and nurses in six governorates hosting Syrian refugees on the early detection and referral of noncommunicable diseases, and trained laboratory technicians in 30 primary health care centres on diagnostic investigation of select noncommunicable diseases. Specialized medical centers were contracted to provide secondary and tertiary care for life-threatening and emergency cases and national measles and polio immunization campaigns including Syrian children were supported.

Training courses were developed for Syrian doctors and nurses aimed in **Turkey** at familiarizing participants with the national health system. Topics covered include levels of care, types of services provided in different facilities and family physician clinics, and the essential medicines list for primary health care in Turkey. The initiative is expected to help decongest Turkish health facilities, especially those at the secondary level, increase access and acceptance of health services among Syrian refugees, and create job opportunities for Syrian health professionals.