

Highlights

- Between 12 and 17 July; WHO Syria, together with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), UNICEF, International Organization for Migration (IOM), UN Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS), and the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), participated in an interagency humanitarian assessment mission to Aleppo city. Recommendations included: conducting a wider needs assessment of health services in Aleppo and increasing the availability of rapid blood test kits, blood bags and other required supplies.
- Successful Joint Ministry of Health/WHO/UNICEF/UN Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)/UNRWA measles vaccination campaign achieved almost 90% coverage among Syrians and host Jordanian communities in Mafraq and Irbid governorates.
- Information on disease outbreaks, outbreak preparedness and the overall national disease profile in Iraq was collected and validated by the WHO technical expert mission, in collaboration with the Ministry of health and the WHO country team.



WHO team visit to an IDP collection shelter in Aleppo city

Health situation

Syrian Arab Republic

- In week 26 (23–29 June):** Out of a total of 67 135 consultations, 2892 cases were reported to the Early Warning and Reporting System (EWARS)¹, of which 33% were acute diarrhoea (949). In addition:
 - 28.4% were influenza-like illness (823 cases)
 - 6% were hepatitis A (186 cases).
- 25 cases of measles were reported, 16 of which were in Aleppo.
- 29 cases of bloody diarrhoea; 22 of which were in Dar'a.
- 3 cases of meningitis.
- 327 leishmaniasis cases were reported, 71.5% were in Aleppo and 19% in Hama, 76% of the cases were reported among above 5-year age group.
- 112 cases of brucellosis were also reported, 69 of which were in Damascus, in addition to 9 tuberculosis (TB) cases and 4 pneumonia cases.

¹ Out of 14 governorates 13 governorates reported during this period (no data were received from: Ar-Raqqa).

- **In week 27 (30 June–06 July):** Out of the total 78 363 consultations, 2824 cases were reported to EWARS², of which 38% were acute diarrhoea (1066). In addition;
 - 25% were influenza-like illness (699 cases);
 - 8% were hepatitis A (234 cases).
- 30 cases of bloody diarrhoea cases were reported mainly from Dar'a and al-Hassakah.
- 14 cases of measles were reported; 8 of which were in Aleppo, 6 cases of meningitis, 3 of which were reported in al-Hassakah and 3 in As-Suwayda.
- 269 cases of leishmaniasis, 68% of which were in Aleppo and 26 % in Hama. 72% of the cases were reported among above 5-year age group.
- 109 cases of brucellosis, 67 of which were reported in Damascus.
- **In week 28 (07–13 July):** Out of the total 74 958 consultations, 2534 cases were reported to EWARS³, of which 43% were acute diarrhoea (1082 cases). In addition;
 - 27% were influenza-like illness (677 cases),
 - 182 cases of hepatitis A.
- 11 cases of bloody diarrhea (Figure1);
- 11 cases of suspected measles;
- 6 meningitis cases;
- 160 leishmaniasis cases were reported, 46% were in Aleppo and 39% in Hama. 72% of the cases were reported among above 5-year age group.
- 115 cases of brucellosis, 46 of which were in Damascus and 41 in Deir ez-Zor,
- 6 TB cases; 3 of which were in Aleppo.
- 4 pneumonia cases were reported.

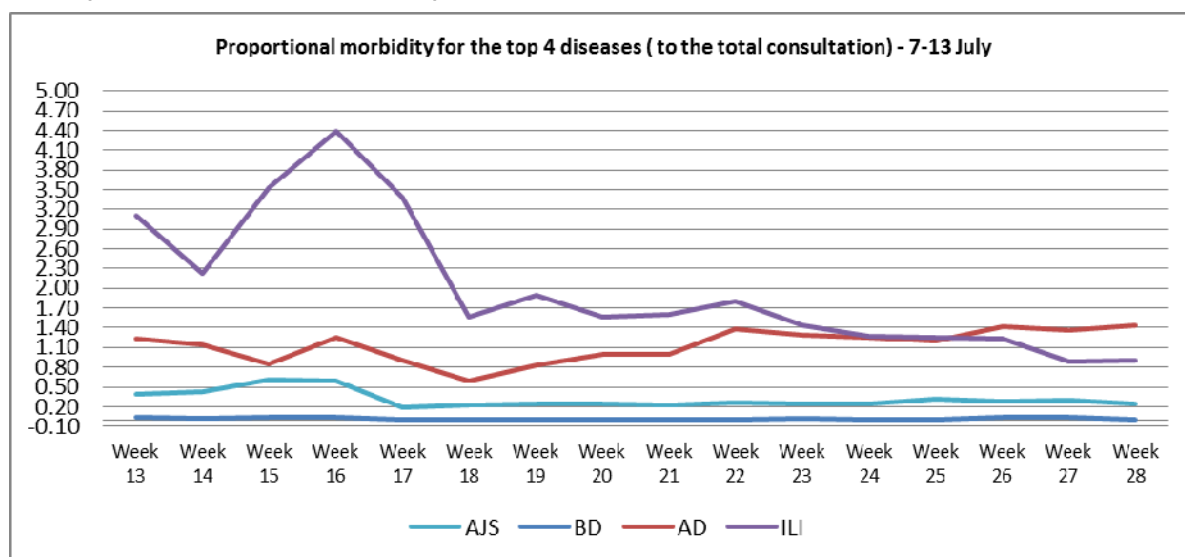


Figure 1. Proportional morbidity for the top four diseases in Syria

Iraq

² Out of 14 governorates 12 governorates reported during this period (no data were received from: Ar-Raqqa and Idlib).

³ Out of 14 governorates 13 governorates reported during this period (no data were received from: Ar-Raqqa).

- The total number of Syrian refugees registered in Iraq (during the reporting period) is 161 014.
 - 101 262 are in the Dukok (Kurdistan region);
 - 38 938 in Erbil (Kurdistan region);
 - 14 836 in Sulemaniya (Kurdistan region);
 - 5396 in Al Qa'im.
- On 7 July WHO Iraq met with refugee response experts to enhance the interagency response to emergency situations. From visiting refugees both inside and outside the camps, the expert assessment found that:
 - Syrian refugees in the Kurdistan region are mainly concentrated in Domiz camp;
 - A new camp in Erbil Dara Shakaran has been identified as a possibility;
 - The biggest issue for residents in the camps is poor water sanitation.

Lebanon

- In the month of July, the Ministry of Public Health reported that throughout Lebanon there were:
 - 17 cases of leishmaniasis;
 - 7 cases of meningitis;
 - 5 cases of viral hepatitis A;
 - 3 cases of dysentery;
 - 3 cases of brucellosis.
- 506 Syrians were admitted to UNHCR hospitals.
- 131 patients with cutaneous leishmaniasis we provided treatment by WHO-supported leishmaniasis clinics. 3 cases of visceral leishmaniasis are also under treatment (hospital care supported by WHO).

WHO Health response

Syrian Arab Republic

- **Week 26**
 - All bloody diarrhoea cases (29) were promptly managed with antibiotics, most of the cases were in Dar'a (22 cases, 17 of which reported in Izra'a Hospital).
 - All 4 pneumonia cases (As-Suwayda National Hospital) were promptly managed while infection control measures are being considered.
 - All 3 meningitis cases (As-Suwayda National Hospital) were promptly managed, investigation forms were filled and patients were treated with antibiotics.
 - Leishmaniasis, brucellosis, and TB cases were promptly managed, through procurement of medicines and implementation of sanitation measures.
- **Week 27**
 - All bloody diarrhoea cases (30) were promptly managed with antibiotics, most of the cases were in Dar'a (9 cases) and al-Hassakah (9 cases).
 - All 6 meningitis cases (3 in As-Suwayda National Hospital and 3 in al-Hassakah National Hospital) were promptly managed, investigation forms were filled and contacts were treated with antibiotics.

- All leishmaniasis, brucellosis, and TB cases were promptly managed through the procurement of medicines and implementation of sanitation measures.
- **Week 28**
 - All 11 bloody diarrhoea cases were promptly managed with antibiotics. Some of these cases were amoebic dysentery. The health authorities in governorates are investigating the water chlorination and testing water sample to detect water contamination, if any.
 - All 6 meningitis cases are being treated at national hospitals and investigation forms were filled in. This in addition to providing the preventive treatment for the contacts
 - All 4 pneumonia cases were promptly managed in As-Suwayda National Hospital while infection control measures were fully implemented.
 - All leishmaniasis, brucellosis, and TB cases (see page 1) were promptly managed through procurement of medicines and implementation of sanitation measures.
- WHO supported:
 - Health authorities and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) in Aleppo (in affected government- and opposition-controlled areas) with medical supplies and interventions to treat more than 35 000 beneficiaries, dialysis sessions for more than 200 beneficiaries, 2 defibrillator machines, and interagency emergency health kits (IEHK) basic and supplementary kits and midwife kits for more than 80 000 beneficiaries.
 - Health authorities in Latakia with medical supplies and interventions to treat more than 4000 beneficiaries, 2 defibrillator machines and midwife kits for more than 350 beneficiaries.
 - Health authorities and the SARC in Homs governorate (in affected government- and opposition-controlled areas) with medical supplies and interventions for more than 4500 beneficiaries, midwife, IEHK supplementary and basic unit kits and emergency kits type A and type B to treat more than 124 000 beneficiaries.
 - Health authorities in al-Hassakah with medical supplies and interventions to treat more than 7500 beneficiaries, 3 defibrillator machines, midwife and IEHK Basic Unit Kits for a population of 10 000 beneficiaries.
 - Health authorities in Damascus with medical supplies (dextrose (glucose) for I.V) to support more than 4200 beneficiaries.



WHO team visit to an IDP collection shelter in Aleppo city.



WHO Iraq team visits a primary health care centre in Domiz camp

Iraq

- A WHO Regional Office mission to collect information on disease outbreaks, outbreak preparedness and the overall national disease profile method included:
 - public health measures aimed at improving preparedness and readiness for epidemic detection and response need to be more inclusive, covering as much as possible the Syrian refugees outside the camp;
 - any epidemic that occurs inside the camp will have public health implications for spread and spillover to the Syrian refugees living outside the camps, as well as the host populations;
 - Cholera is endemic in the Kurdistan region with established foci in Erbil and Sulaimanya governorates;



WHO Iraq team visit the central public health laboratories

- Population movement across the governorates and the lack of immunity against cholera and *shigellae dysenteriae* among the Syrian refugees can cause these infections to rapidly spread and be transmitted among the immunologically naïve populations;

- Approximately 15% of the cases reported in the Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) clinic in Domiz camp are diagnosed as acute diarrhoeal diseases that can be regarded as proxy indicators for the presence of precipitating environmental health risk factors for epidemic diarrhoeal diseases.
- Findings of a recent WHO-supported field assessment carried out in Domiz camp were discussed with UNHCR, UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA):
 - One primary health care centre in Domiz camp is not enough;
 - WHO needs to strengthen to and support surveillance of the Syrian refugees;
 - There is an increased demand for cancer drugs from the Government of Iraq.
- WHO continues to initiate health sector-related workshops and trainings for Syrian refugees in Erbil and Duhok, these include:
 - workshop on infection control;
 - refresher training on EWARS;
 - workshop on case management and diagnosis of cholera and measles;
 - mental health training workshop.

Jordan

- The final report on the comprehensive measles campaign that was initiated in the northern governorates of Irbid and Mafraa found that:
 - WHO supported the Ministry of Health in the organization of the campaign, and the deployment of 647 health personnel into (208 fixed and 21 mobile) teams and overseen by 101 supervisors;
 - WHO supported the campaign's operational costs (Ministry's of Health team deployment, transportation, and operations of the measles control room);
 - UNICEF provided the vaccines and cold chain equipment;
 - UNHCR assisted in identifying nongovernmental organization sites for the campaign;
 - UNRWA vaccinated target groups at UNRWA facilities.
- Figure 2 shows the results of the campaign in Jordan.

	Jordanians	Syrians (estimated at beginning of campaign)	Other non- Jordanian	Total	Final coverage result after Post- campaign coverage evaluation survey (PCES)
Irbid measles vaccinated (children aged from 6 months– less than 15 years)	411 787	53 538	3813	469 138	89.7%
Mafraq measles vaccinated (children aged from 6 months–less than 15 years)	121 221	27 910	4476	153 607	89.6%
PCES-verified measles coverage by nationality	90.2%	85.6%			
Vitamin A coverage (children aged 6 months to less than 5 years; total for all nationalities and both governorates)					88.0%.

Figure 2. Measles campaign results in Jordan

Health sector partner response

Syrian Arab Republic

- **UNICEF**
 - The 51 mobile medical teams in the 14 governorates and the fixed centres in Damascus, Rural Damascus and Quneitra were able to reach 153 415 children with medical check-ups since the beginning of this year. The target is to reach 570 000 internally-displaced children by the end of this year.

- UNICEF continues to dispatch health supplies, 500 first aid kits dispatched to SARC Homs for the benefit of 5000 people, and the following items were dispatched to Lattakia: 30 IEHK for the benefit of 30 000 people, 3000 bottles of lice shampoo for the benefit of 6000 children, 3 diarrhea kits that are sufficient to treat 1800 diarrhea cases, and 3500 boxes of HEB for the benefit of 17500 children.
- **UNFPA**
 - UNFPA's response through the Syrian Family Planning Association (SFPA) and SARC has facilitated access of 11 600 women to reproductive health services, including emergency obstetric care in Damascus, rural Damascus, Hama and Aleppo.
 - UNFPA-assisted maternity hospitals in Damascus and Aleppo with emergency obstetric care services for 3800 women, including normal and C-section deliveries for 680 women.
 - UNFPA delivered 10 000 I.V fluids to Damascus Hospital, the main Ministry of Health hospital in Damascus serving internally-displaced persons (IDPs) and vulnerable populations.

Iraq

- **UNHCR**
 - Under UNHCR supervision, the United Iraqi Medical Society for Relief and Development, in collaboration with Al Qa'im hospital, arranged a first aid training course in Al Obaidy camp for 30 male and female Syrian refugees, which started on 5 July for one month.
 - UNHCR is providing legal aid to 23 Syrians held in Zerka prison in Dohuk. This week one detention case was settled and closed.
 - UNHCR provided cash assistance for three new Syrian extremely vulnerable individuals, two residing in Domiz camp and one inside Dohuk city centre.
- **UNICEF**
 - In collaboration with UNICEF and Islamic Relief nongovernmental organization, a health education team continued visiting tent to tent to promote appropriate hygiene practices among families. During the reporting period more than 804 tents/families were visited and hygiene/health-related messages were disseminated among them.
- **MSF**
 - A MSF team consisting of 30 community health educator continued their work with tent-to-tent visits to provide health messages.

Jordan

- **IOM**
 - Between 17 and 23, July IOM screened 763 refugees for TB.
- **International Rescue Committee (IRC)**
 - As part of their gender-based violence (GBV) prevention project, IRC started a series of training sessions to mainstream GBV into the multisectoral response. Two training sessions have already taken place for 22 participants, with one day focused on the health sector and one day on child protection and education.

- **UNFPA**

- Between 10 and 16 July, UNFPA supported reproductive health services for 1812 women
- 356 women received ante-natal services
- 88 women received post-natal care services
- 474 women received family planning services.

Lebanon

- **UNHCR**

- 3700 displaced Syrians have received primary health care services through the centres supported by the Ministry of Public Health, UNHCR and implementing partners.
- 900 mental health individual support sessions were attended by the International Medical Corps (IMC) and UNHCR-supported primary health care centres across the country.
- 506 Syrian displaced patients received hospital care through hospitals subcontracted by UNHCR/IMC and implementing partners.

- **UNICEF**

- In coordination with the Ministry of Public Health, UNICEF immunized a total of 2847 refugee children (less than 18 years old) with measles and polio vaccines at the two UNHCR registration centres in the Beqaa and Tripoli. The total number of refugee children receiving these vaccines in these two areas since beginning of January is now 39 793.

Coordination

Syrian Arab Republic

- H.E. the Minister of Health Dr Saad al-Nayef attended the Health Working Group held on 24 July, presenting the:
 - current health situation in Syria, including the level of damage inflicted on the health infrastructure (60% of public hospitals and 34% of public health centres have been affected), ambulances (92% of public ambulances have been affected), and workforce (87 public health workers were reported killed, 104 injured and 21 kidnapped), as well as the status of the pharmaceutical industry (65%–70% of pharmaceutical plants across Syria have been affected).
 - priority health needs: noncommunicable disease medicines, particularly for cancer and child health.
 - need to reinforce collaboration between the Ministry of Health and health-related UN agencies, with distribution of medicines and supplies going through the Ministry. UN agencies shared their concerns about access to affected areas across the country, increasing numbers of injured people, insufficient response to outbreak alerts and the significant decline in vaccination coverage.

- The need for increased number of international and local nongovernmental organizations operating in health; sustainability of basic health services, especially reproductive health services, and nutrition services.
- WHO signed a new memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the SARC to scale up and reinforce cooperation in areas of primary and secondary health care, and WASH, to increase access to hard-to-reach areas, building capacity of field personnel and monitoring and exchange of information in areas relevant to health and WASH.
- WHO signed MOUs with four new local nongovernmental organizations working in al-Hassakah, Ar-Raqqa, Hama and Homs governorates (in both affected government- and opposition-controlled areas) to provide primary health care services, including essential medicines. This raises the total number of local nongovernmental organizations in partnership with WHO to 36.

Jordan

- A joint Ministry of Health/WHO/UNHCR/UNICEF/UNFPA/Médecins du Monde (MDM)/Harvard/International Aid for the People of Syria (iAPS) rapid health facility assessment was completed.
 - A validation workshop held on 24 July 2013 at WHO, attended by over 80 participants (representing the Ministry of Health, UN agencies, governmental institutions, and national and international nongovernmental organizations) inaugurated jointly by H.E. the Minister of Health, UNHCR Representative and WHO Representative. The final report will be released mid-August 2013.

Lebanon

- A mental health needs assessment, carried out by the WHO Regional Advisor for Mental Health, was completed in Beirut. The main recommendations were as follows.
 - Proceed with training primary health care centres on the Mental Health Gap Action Plan (mhGAP);
 - Reinforce WHO country office capacity in human resources to monitor implementation of integration of mental health at primary health care level.

Donors and funding

Appeal document	Country of operations	Total requested by health sector US\$	Total requested by WHO US\$	Amount received by WHO (including pledges)** US\$	% of overall amount requested by WHO	WHO unmet requirements US\$
Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (1 January to 31 December 2013)	Syria	177 274 711	128 619 150	68 201 840	53%	60 417 310
Regional Response Plan 2013	Iraq	13 320 881	3 473 480	766 940	22%	2 706 540
	Jordan	87 431 984	9 200 000	8 282 682	90%	917 318
	Lebanon	367 655 865	30 962 000	4 023 489	13%	26 938 511
	Turkey	37 125 000	2 400 000	1 317 006	55%	1 082 994
	Egypt	10 297 366	500 000	214 000	43%	286 000
	Funds not yet allocated			1 988 863		

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

WHO Emergency Support Team for the Syria Crisis
emst@who.int

WHO Syrian Arab Republic country office
wrosyria@syr.emro.who.int

WHO Jordan country office
wrjor@jor.emro.who.int

WHO Lebanon country office
wroleb@leb.emro.who.int

WHO Iraq country office
wriraq@irq.emro.who.int

WHO Egypt country office
wregypt@egy.emro.who.int