

Highlights

- As of July 2013 more than half of the 91 public hospitals in Syria have been affected, with over a third being out of service (source: Ministry of Health). The number of public health centres that are out of service has increased by 4% since June 2013, most of this increment was in Homs.
- 339 566 direct beneficiaries were supported with medicines and medical supplies and distributed kits covering a population of 329 000 in Dar'a, Ar-Raqqa, Aleppo, Homs, al-Hassakah, Lattakia and Damascus in affected government- and opposition-controlled areas.
- 8302 Syrian refugees attended health centres, in Irbid governorate, Jordan.
- Waterborne diseases, especially typhoid and cholera, remain of concern in Lebanon, aggravated by the suboptimal water and sanitation conditions, particularly in the informal tented settlements.



Syrian refugees waiting to enter one of the new temporary refugee camps

Health situation

SYRIA

- The Early Warning and Response System (EWARS) reported a total of 9425 cases¹. Among the most concerning were meningitis cases (22), suspected measles (91), bloody diarrhoea (104), leishmaniasis (400), brucellosis (476), and acute flaccid paralysis. The most common diseases among the under-5 year age group were acute diarrhoea and influenza-like illness.
- 193 public health system workers have to date been reported as directly affected, of whom, 68 were killed and 21 kidnapped (source: Ministry of Health of Syria).
- More than a third of the 1724 public health centres across the country have been affected, of which almost a quarter are out of service².
- In three governorates, namely Deir-ez-Zor, Idleb and Aleppo, 70% of health centres are either damaged or out of service.
- Out of a total of 520 public ambulances, 93% have been affected, of which more than two thirds have been damaged/stolen/burned³.
- In addition, 212 other health service vehicles have been affected, of which 91% have been damaged/stolen/burned⁴.

¹ For all footnotes kindly consult the corresponding number set out in the separate annex (issue number 18)

IRAQ

- 25 000 new arrivals were accommodated within host communities in the three governorates.

JORDAN

- 8302 Syrian refugees sought assistance from health centres in Irbid governorate in August, 5521 from hospitals⁵.
- Although acute jaundice continues to be a problem in the Al Zaatari camp, the number of hepatitis A cases has decreased in Al Zaatari, likely agreement of effective health and hygiene awareness campaigns⁶.
- The presence of rats and mice in Al Zaatari is of growing concern (there as an increasing number of bites and fear that the rodents are attracting snakes). Multi-stakeholder meetings have taken place on how best to combat this issue.

LEBANON

- The total number of displaced Syrians in Lebanon (registered or awaiting registration with UNHCR) reached 722 871, leading to an increased need of primary and secondary health care services, together with monitoring of communicable disease trends.
- Eight cases of severe acute malnutrition in Akkar and Bekaa were reported in August.
- The number of cesarean sections remains elevated, constituting 40% of all deliveries among displaced Syrians in Lebanon probably due to increased stress and also fear to not having access to health facilities.
- The number of measles cases decreased significantly, from 18 in July to 0 in August.
- A reduction in leishmaniasis cases was also noted in August, down to 20 from July's 94 reported cases.
- One case of acute flaccid paralysis was reported to the Ministry of Public Health.⁷

HEALTH RESPONSE (technical, operational, and funding)

SYRIA

WHO

- Lattakia: provision to health authorities with medical supplies and interventions for 23 510 direct beneficiaries, Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK), Supplementary and Basic Units for 42 100 beneficiaries, in addition to a surgical instruments module and three defibrillators.
- Damascus: provision to health authorities of medicines and medical supplies to support 117 415 beneficiaries⁸ and the Al-Afia Fund with dialysis sessions to treat more than 125 direct beneficiaries.
- Dar'a: Health authorities and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) with medical interventions for 23 956 beneficiaries and IEHK Supplementary and Basic Unit Kits for 30 000 direct beneficiaries.



The newly established burns unit, Damascus

- Deir-ez-Zor: The Islamic Charity Organization (operating in the Aicha Charity Hospital in Alboukamal) provisioned with oxygen cylinders, defibrillator, ultrasound imaging machines, generator, medicines and I.V. fluids, permitting treatment of 13 000 beneficiaries for three months.
- Responding to the reported chemical incident in rural Damascus, WHO supported the UN mission to probe the Syrian chemical weapon incidents with technical equipment⁹, providing medicines and medical supplies. Critical gaps were mapped and technical information published on chemical exposure, as was guidance in English and Arabic on protection from aerial attacks. WHO continued to advocate for access for patients, health workers and medical supplies to enable health response. Guidance on clinical case management for chemical weapons exposure was finalized and disseminated.
- Addressing brucellosis diseases enhanced via forum for 40 doctors from brucellosis management centres in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Dar'a, As-Suwayda and Quneitra together, with measures to reinforce the surveillance system.
- The newly established burns unit at al-Mouwassat Hospital in Damascus was supported with six intensive care unit (ICU beds) and two ICU ventilators, in addition to medicines and medical supplies for 14 850 beneficiaries.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, WHO focal points from six governorates (Dar'a, Homs, Aleppo, Idlib, al-Hassakah and Deir-Ez-Zor) were trained on vaccination and EWARS¹⁰.

UNICEF

- One cold room in place in Ministry of Health central vaccination stores, and 3 cold rooms are under installation in Deir-ez-Zor.
- 3312 cans of Phenylketonuria milk were delivered for the University Children Hospital through the Ministry of Health.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

- Approximately 6200 women accessed reproductive health services, including emergency obstetric care, through the UNFPA-assisted maternity hospitals and mobile teams operating in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo and Homs. Reproductive health vouchers provided to 1200 women for them to obtain free-of-charge quality emergency obstetric care.

International Medical Corps (IMC)

- In coordination with SARC:
 - Static clinics (Barzeh and Jaramana): A total of 2245 consultations were provided, of which 619 were for internally-displaced persons (IDPs).
 - Two medical mobile teams: A total of 580 consultations were provided to IDPs in nine group shelters in Damascus.
 - A total of 695 consultations were provided through two medical mobile units, of which 531 were for IDPs¹¹.

IRAQ

WHO

- Provision of assistance to 32 736 refugees accommodated in four temporary camps in Erbil (Kawergosk, Bahrka warehouse Qustapa and Basirma), the temporary camp in Arbat (Suleiymaniyah) and the three new temporary camps in Dohuk (Akra Badarash and Qasrook). Essential health services continued in the permanent refugee camps in Domiz (Dohuk) and Al-Qaim (Anbar).
- Medicines, emergency health kits and water quality testing/monitoring kits for diarrhoea delivered to the Department of Health, Dohuk.
- 68 different medicines and one basic emergency health kit provided to the Department of Health, Erbil.

- One Inter Emergency Health Kit-Supplementary unit supplied to Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Switzerland (via Dohuk Department of Health).
- One Inter Emergency Health Kit-Supplementary unit together with one Inter Emergency Health Kit basic unit provided to MSF, France.

Office for the Commission for Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

- CERF allocated funds – US\$ 10 million were allocated to Iraq (a total of US\$ 2 500 000 for the health sector) for rapid response.

JORDAN

WHO

- The Ministry of Health provided with 37 boxes of Cary Blair swab media for diagnosis of diarrhoeal outbreaks.
- Four skills-building workshops for mental health beneficiaries targeting 95 vulnerable Jordanians and Syrians held.
- A 6-day training, in collaboration with Columbia University, held on 'Interpersonal Therapy' for 21 mental health professionals from Ministry of Health, WHO, IMC and the Jordanian Nursing Council.

MSF

- Began working in Al-Ramtha hospital, primarily in surgery.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

- Medical team delivered tuberculosis (TB) awareness sessions for 1 073 refugees and members from the host community; screened 880 refugees for TB (48% males and 52% females); and administered vaccinations against polio, measles and with vitamin A¹².

LEBANON

WHO:

- Reference material addressing chemical hazards, including on the triage of exposed patients administration of antidotes by kind of chemical and the proper use of personal protective equipment, compiled for distribution to health care providers throughout Lebanon based on WHO guidelines.
- Training on clinical management of casualties exposed to chemical hazards provided to emergency department team.
- 40 000 doses of 1ml vials of Atropine, 5000 doses of naloxone and 500 sets of PPE (level C) provided to the hospital staff of 17 designated hospitals.
- 11 specialized leishmaniasis hospitals supplied with 10 000 doses of antimonials (Glucantime) and 7000 doses on pentostam for treatment of leishmaniasis cases.

United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

- Providing primary and secondary health care services in the field in Bekaa continued through 24 primary health care centres, 6 secondary health care centres, and 6 mobile medical units (MMUs). In coordination with International Orthodox of Christian Charities (IOCC) and UNICEF, a rapid assessment was conducted in Fayada, Bekaa, to identify the level of malnutrition of children between the ages of 6 months and 5 years residing in the informal tented settlement (ITS)¹³.
- Two cases of severely acute malnutrition (2%) and four cases of moderately acute malnutrition (4%) were identified.

- Primary health care services provided to 19 200 displaced Syrians through implementing partners (IMC, MSF-Swiss, AMEL, PU-AMI, CLMC).

UNICEF

- 96 000 doses of measles and polio vaccine and vitamin A supplements provided.

MULTI-PARTY PARTNERSHIPS

SYRIA

- In Idleb (both in affected government- and opposition-controlled areas) health authorities and SARC supplied with medical supplies and interventions for more than 4375 direct beneficiaries and IEHK Supplementary and Basic Unit Kits for 45 650 beneficiaries.

IRAQ

- Interagency joint assessments in Erbil conducted by UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA, IOM, MSF and WHO to address the lack of Obstetric Care and immunization services, as well as the low quality of sanitation in the camp¹⁴.
- A three-day training on protection, health, nutrition and food security services held for refugees was in Erbil by UNHCR, Ministry of Health and WHO.

LEBANON

- The Ministry of Public Health, UNHCR and WHO developed a contingency plan to address a health medication, kits, equipment, and reagent needs in Lebanon in a scenario of sudden influx of Syrians.
- UNICEF, UNHCR, the World Food Programme (WFP) and WHO planned for the second nutrition assessment in Lebanon for refugees and host communities.

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