SYRIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON

REFERRAL CARE AT A GLANCE

JANUARY- DECEMBER 2016

UNHCR
OVERVIEW

Secondary and tertiary health care institutions in Lebanon are mostly private and cost is a significant barrier to access. UNHCR has put in place referral guidelines and standard operating procedures (SOP) to support access to life saving and obstetric care and manage costs. The costs covered by UNHCR vary according to the type of service provided and the vulnerability status of the refugee.

UNHCR contracts a third party administrator (TPA) to manage and audit referral care.

In September 2016, 1,017,433 Syrian refugees and 22,007 refugees from other countries were registered with UNHCR. However, the referral care programme also supports access to life saving and obstetric care for unregistered refugees.

- The total number of referrals increased from 61,820 in 2015 to 76,535 in 2016. This is an increase of 24%.
- The number of referral requests covered financially by UNHCR has increased slightly from 95% in 2015 to 97% in 2016.
- In January 2016 the UNHCR network consisted of 56 hospitals. By the end of 2016 the number had been rationalized to 50. The majority (71%) of accepted referrals were treated in 20 of these hospitals.
- The majority (53.0%) of referrals were for maternity care, 32% of deliveries were by C-section compared to 34% in 2015.
- Of the approved referrals there were 869 deaths of which 52% were in children under one year of age, predominantly in the perinatal period.
- TPA financial audit of hospital invoices led to a 7.3% deduction of the overall total cost invoiced by hospitals.
- 33.8% of total expenditure was spent on maternity care compared to 40.1% in 2015.
- The average cost per referral was 586 USD compared to 544 USD in 2015.

DATA

UNHCR, through its TPA, collected data on requests for coverage for hospital referral. The data for accepted referrals included the diagnosis, care received, outcome and cost of the service.

IN NUMBERS

73,951 out of 76,535 referrals were financially supported by UNHCR in 2016.

67,431 beneficiaries had one or more referrals supported by UNHCR, 7.5% of these were referred twice or more.

A monthly average of 6,163 referrals were supported by UNHCR and 215 declined.

71% of accepted referrals were covered in 20 hospitals.

53.0% of accepted referrals were pregnancy related.

43.3 Million USD

Total UNHCR expenditure on referral care in 2016.
**SECTION 1: NUMBER OF REFERRALS (JAN-DEC 2016)**

**FIGURE 1: NUMBER OF REFERRALS PER MONTH BY COVERAGE STATUS**

- Accepted
- Declined

**FIGURE 2: NUMBER OF REFUGEES SUPPORTED AND FREQUENCY OF ADMISSIONS PER REFUGEE**

- Total number of refugees received UNHCR support for referral care: 67,431
- Admitted once: 62,360 (92.5%)
- Admitted twice: 3,936 (5.8%)
- Admitted thrice: 691 (1.0%)
- 4 times or more: 327 (0.5%)

**FIGURE 3: REFERRALS BY SEX AND AGE GROUP**

- Female: 74%
- Male: 26%

**Key findings**

Increasing number of referrals overall in 2015 and 2016. A seasonal pattern of more referrals during the winter months mainly due to higher respiratory morbidity.

- **74%**
  Proportion of referrals of female patients, reflecting the high proportion of obstetric care (75% in 2015).

- **24%**
  Proportion of referrals of children <5 years of age (23% in 2015).

- **24.2 years**
  Mean age in years at admission for females (24.3 years in 2015).

- **16.2 years**
  Mean age in years at admission for males (15.8 years in 2015).
**Key findings**

71% Proportion of referrals covered in 20 hospitals (70% in 2015), 29% of referrals covered at the remaining 30 contracted hospitals.

441 Number of referrals per month to Dr Hamed Farhat Hospital in the Bekaa.
SECTION 2: REASON FOR REFERRALS

FIGURE 6: ICD-10 DIAGNOSTIC CATEGORY ON DISCHARGE, AS PROPORTION OF APPROVED REFERRALS (N=73,951)

FIGURE 7: PROPORTION OF SPECIFIC DIAGNOSES WITHIN CATEGORIES

Key findings

39,223 (53.0%)
Number of accepted referrals requiring pregnancy related care (56.9% in 2015).

37,621 (50.9%)
Referrals for delivery.

32.3%
Proportion of deliveries by caesarean section (33.7% in 2015).

6.8%
Proportion of referrals for gastro-intestinal infections.

6.4%
Proportion of referrals for lower respiratory tract infections.
SECTION 3: MORTALITY

FIGURE 8: NUMBER OF DEATHS PER ICD-10 DIAGNOSTIC CATEGORY (N = 869)

- Conditions originating in the perinatal period: 370
- Diseases of the circulatory system: 168
- Diseases of the respiratory system: 82
- Symptoms, signs and abnormal findings: 49
- Certain infectious and parasitic diseases: 44
- Congenital malformations: 30
- Diseases of the nervous system: 29
- Injuries: 21
- Diseases of the digestive system: 22
- Diseases of the genitourinary system: 16
- Diseases of the blood & immune disorders: 13
- Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases: 12
- Neoplasms: 6
- Pregnancy, childbirth & the puerperium: 5
- Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue: 2

FIGURE 9: NUMBER OF DEATHS BY AGE AND SEX

- <1: 200
- 1-4: 100
- 5-11: 50
- 12-17: 50
- 18-59: 50
- 60+: 50
- Stillbirths / death after discharge: 50

FIGURE 10: MORTALITY PER REGION

- Beirut & Mt Lebanon: 1.2%
- Bekaa: 1.0%
- North: 0.8%
- South: 1.9%

Key findings

- 1.2% Mortality (unchanged from 2015).
- 869 of 73,951 referrals died before discharge. Another 186 deaths were recorded related to deliveries, mainly attributed to stillbirths.
- 52% of the 869 deaths were children under one, mainly in the perinatal period of which 26% were attributed to prematurity.
- 19% of deaths were due to cardiovascular disease.
- 5* maternal deaths in UNHCR supported deliveries.

*The Vital Data Observatory of the Ministry of Public Health has recorded 13 maternal deaths of about 42,000 deliveries in Syrians.
SECTION 4: FINANCE

FIGURE 11: TOTAL COST PER ICD-10 DIAGNOSIS CATEGORY (MILLION USD)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ICD-10 Diagnosis category</th>
<th>Average cost per case (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pregnancy, childbirth &amp; the puerperium</td>
<td>14.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conditions originating in the perinatal period</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the circulatory system</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the respiratory system</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the digestive system</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injuries</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certain infectious and parasitic diseases</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congenital malformations</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the genitourinary system</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the musculoskeletal system</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symptoms, signs and abnormal findings</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the nervous system</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the blood &amp; immune disorders</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Factors influencing health status</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neoplasms</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental &amp; behavioural disorders</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the eye and adnexa</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the ear and the mastoid process</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FIGURE 12: AVERAGE COST PER CASE PER ICD-10 DIAGNOSIS CATEGORIES (USD)

43.3 million USD
Amount paid by UNHCR to hospitals.

586 USD
Average cost to UNHCR / case (544 in 2015).

33.8% of expenditure was for maternity care which constitutes 53.0% of referrals. (Corresponding figures in 2015 were 40.1% and 56.9% respectively).

20.5% of expenditure was for neonatal care which constitutes 6.1% of the referrals. (Corresponding figures in 2015 were 16.6% and 5.6% respectively).
FIGURE 13: PROPORTION OF COST BY HOSPITAL (TOP 20 HOSPITALS)

FIGURE 14: AVERAGE COST PER CASE IN 20 HOSPITALS WITH THE HIGHEST TOTAL COST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospital</th>
<th>Average Cost / Case (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>La Paix</td>
<td>2587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rayak</td>
<td>1261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notre-Dame du Liban</td>
<td>941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rafik Hariri</td>
<td>809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bekaa</td>
<td>786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raee</td>
<td>725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kassab</td>
<td>688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tripoli</td>
<td>679</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elias Heraoui</td>
<td>595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sahel</td>
<td>585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iklim</td>
<td>581</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rayan Hospital</td>
<td>570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notre Dame de la Paix</td>
<td>548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Hamed Farhat</td>
<td>523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nabih Berri / Nabatieh</td>
<td>507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manara</td>
<td>461</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islamic - Tripoli</td>
<td>429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khair</td>
<td>323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al Mortada</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osman</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key findings

70.5 % Of expenditure was at 20 hospitals. Corresponding figure in 2015 was 85%.

2,587 USD Average cost of admission at Hopital de la Paix, Tripoli, which is contracted specifically to treat severe burns.