Situation report # 5
SEPTEMBER–OCTOBER 2019

SYRIA CRISIS
Whole of Syria response

Turkey update
- Refugee Health Program
- Cross-border operations

FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD

3.7 MILLION SYRIAN REFUGEES ARE LIVING IN TURKEY
132,056 HEALTH CONSULTATIONS WERE PROVIDED TO SYRIANS IN REFUGEE HEALTH TRAINING CENTRES
2.9 MILLION PEOPLE WERE IN NEED OF HEALTH CARE
THERE WERE 1.8 MILLION INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE
81 ATTACKS ON HEALTH CARE WERE VERIFIED

KEY FIGURES

REFUGEE HEALTH PROGRAMME IN TURKEY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3.7 MILLION</th>
<th>REFUGEE POPULATION</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>WHO-SUPPORTED REFUGEE HEALTH TRAINING CENTRES (RHTCS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>HEALTH SECTOR WORKING GROUP PARTNERS (INCLUDING DONORS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94%</td>
<td>FUNDED OPERATIONS IN 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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| 17,487,000 | USD$ REQUESTED FOR OPERATIONS IN 2019 |

CROSS-BORDER OPERATIONS TO NORTHERN SYRIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4 MILLION</th>
<th>ESTIMATED POPULATION IN IDLIB, WESTERN ALEPPO, AFRIN AND EASTERN LATAKIA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>452,732</td>
<td>NUMBER OF TREATMENT COURSES PROVIDED BY WHO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>MOBILE TEAMS SUPPORTED BY WHO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>HEALTH CLUSTER PARTNERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43%</td>
<td>FUNDED OPERATIONS IN 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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| 39,045,000 | USD$ REQUESTED FOR OPERATIONS |

HIGHLIGHTS

In response to the humanitarian crisis in Syria, WHO and partners provide life-saving health services to Syrian refugees in Turkey and to populations in northern Syria from Turkey under the Whole of Syria approach.

Refugee Health Programme
- WHO continues to increase capacity of health workforce in Refugee Health Training Centres, and by the end of October a total of 260 community health workers and 222 psychologists, social workers and other support staff are providing nursing care at patients homes, as well as psychosocial support and other health related consultations at the centres.
- In October 2019, home care provision was launched in Gaziantep and Sanliurfa.
- From the start of the project and by end of July 2019, seven refugee training health centres provided 487,000 medical consultations to Syrians.
- WHO continues with its leading role in the inter-agency coordination in the Health Sector in Turkey. Two regular coordination meetings were organized with partners in September. In addition, WHO is leading the Emergency Response Preparedness group as mandated by the RC and the UNCT.

Cross-border operations
- WHO delivered medical supplies from Turkey to north-west Syria that will provide 452,000 treatments to people in need.
- A quality improvement task team provided recommendations to improve quality of care and medicine assurance in the northwest.
- WHO’s assessment of health facilities in northwest Syria found; e.g. overserved areas, a number of primary health care centres that’s below minimum standards, poor hospital infrastructure and low capacity and inadequate infection prevention.
Situation overview

Turkey hosts 3.7 million Syrians, more than any other country in the world. Since the beginning of the crisis, the Government of Turkey has offered to protect and assist all Syrians in need under a temporary protection regime. Registered Syrians are eligible to receive the same health services and quality standards as Turkish nationals. To strengthen primary health care for this population, a network of 179 active refugee health centres has been established where Syrian health professionals trained by WHO provide linguistically and culturally sensitive health care services to their fellow nationals. Since 2016, these centres have provided over 8 million health consultations. As of other more specialized health care services, Turkish health professionals provide care, supported by interpreters.

Reportedly, approximately 1 million of Syrian refugees in Turkey will be resettled to the safe zone established in north-eastern Syria, stretching from the Euphrates River to the Iraqi border. According to the plans, Government of Turkey aims to build infrastructure worth 27 billion USD to accommodate housing needs and basic agricultural employment.

Istanbul Governorate is implementing new policy to relocate Syrian refugees residing in Istanbul without registration or registered elsewhere in Turkey. Reportedly, 4,606 Syrian without registration were sent to temporary accommodation centres for registration procedures while approximately 35,000 Syrian registered in cities other than Istanbul were sent back to their cities of registration. Approximately 65,000 Syrians applied to authorities to initiate the process, in addition to 1,300 voluntary returnees to Syria.

In September 2019, 11,673 irregular migrants were rescued in sea operations, representing a fourfold increase compared to the same month in 2018. In addition to that, 9,517 irregular migrants were captured by joint operations of gendarmerie and national police heading for the sea. Increasing numbers may be attributed to stronger measures against irregular migration and relocation of Syrians to their registration cities.

In October, more than 90,000 irregular migrants were held by Turkish security forces during the first nine months of 2019 in north-western Turkey, according to data compiled by Anadolu Agency from security sources. The migrants were held in Edirne province, which shares borders with Bulgaria to the north and Greece to the west. http://bit.ly/31N21nj

Leadership

WHO continues its leading role in the inter-agency coordination in the Health Sector in Turkey. As the health sector lead under the 3RP framework, WHO has started the field consultation process for the 2020-2021 period. The consultation process will update strategic objectives, activities, and agree on the financial appeal of the health sector partners. WHO continues with its leading role in the inter-agency coordination in the Health Sector in Turkey. Three regular coordination meetings were organized with partners in October, focused on the finalization of the health sector strategy for 3RP health sector plans for 2020-2021.
**Partner coordination**

WHO continues leading the inter-agency coordination in the Health Sector in Turkey. In addition, WHO is leading the Emergency Response Preparedness results group as mandated by the RC and the UNCT Turkey. Two regular coordination meetings were organized with partners in September and three regular coordination meetings were organized with partners in October, focused on the finalization of the health sector strategy for 3RP health sector plans for 2020-2021.

**Information and planning**

**Information**

From the start of the project and by end of October 2019, seven refugee training health centres provided 540,725 medical consultations to Syrians with EUTF funding and 613,480 consultations with German Government funding provided through KfW Development Bank.

**Planning: surveys and assessments**

WHO and IOM signed an agreement to jointly implement a Health literacy and health communication needs assessment among Syrian refugees in Turkey, in partnership with MoH. The study is aimed at establishing the health literacy level and health communication needs of Syrian refugees, and to develop recommendations for culturally sensitive interventions to improve health literacy and health communication. In total, 17 studies were selected to be conducted under Refugee Health Programme, two of them were competed, six are being implemented and other four are at the advanced stages of planning. Another five studies were dropped due to the lack of support from stakeholders or limitation in time and budget.

**Health operations and technical expertise**

**Delivering health services to those in need**

As part of the Turkish health system, the seven WHO-supported RHTCs provide refugees with access to high-quality and affordable health services. In September and October, 132,056 health consultations were provided in the centres, located in Istanbul, Izmir, Ankara, Mersin, Hatay, Sanliurfa and Gaziantep.

Medical teams based in these centres also reached out with mobile clinics to communities or patients with reduced mobility in need of professional check-up by doctors and nurses. Currently, total of 260 community health support staff is working to provide regular home care to older and disabled Syrian patients experiencing hardships in reaching health care centres.

Currently, 561 Syrian patients are enrolled and receive much needed support every week. In September and October, community workers conducted 981 home visits and delivered 2008 various home care services such as active and passive exercises in and out of bed; bathroom (Bed bath, bath and shower help, bed-dependent patient head bath, moustaches and beard shaving); bed wound control; bedding, linen, and change of clothes; control of expiry dates of medicines and follow up of the regular use of medicines; detection of nutrition problems and referral to a doctor; elimination and cleaning of toilet needs / Changing diapers / Ducks, changing sliders; feeding the patient; genital care, hand, foot and nail care; measurement of blood pressure; oral and dental prosthetic care; organizing and sterilization of living space; simple wound care.

As part of a comprehensive response, centres in Izmir and Hatay are also offering psychosocial support groups to the relatives of these patients so they can share their concerns and find relief in a safe space. In these centers, psychologists, social workers, health educators and nutrition specialists also offer specialized counselling to Syrian refugees in a wide range of areas, e.g. social and legal counselling, mental health and psychosocial support and health promotion. In September and October, over 13,912 both...
Psychosocial and health related and psychosocial consultations were provided in the seven RHTCs.

**Operation support and logistics**
In September and October, WHO continued supporting the operational costs of seven RHTCs, including consumables, furniture, medical supplies and salaries for all facility health support staff (centre managers, translators, psychologists, social workers, etc.).

**Situation Update**
Following a recent intensification of violence in northwest Syria, triggering new waves of displacement, the humanitarian situation remains dire. Health facilities continue to be impacted. Since the end of April, more than 400,000 people have been displaced, many of them multiple times; and more than 1,000 have lost their lives. The majority of the displaced are living in informal settlements in northern Idlib along the Turkish border, where humanitarian assistance is overstretched. Out of the 2.8 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, some 76% are women and children. Plummeting temperatures pose a serious threat to those living in make-shift shelters and tents.

**Leadership and coordination**
WHO and the health cluster it leads, continue providing guidance for the prioritization of activities, based on rapid needs assessments. The 2nd standard allocation launched by the Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF) is ongoing. The developing humanitarian situation in north-east Syria is being closely monitored to identify needs and possible impact on the north-west.

**Partner coordination**
**Health coordination**
To ensure access to health care for all the newly displaced and the host communities, WHO and its partners are coordinating efforts and scaling up existing health facilities and mobile clinics, based on needs assessments.

**Intersectoral coordination**
In September and October, the Inter Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) enhanced coordination at the local level and information-sharing among clusters to identify and respond where needs are increasing due to displacement patterns. In September, the Global Health Cluster created a Quality Improvement Task Team, consisting of health cluster partners, coordinators and WHO staff, intended to improve quality of care and medicine quality assurance. The team has already provided recommendations to address challenges and existing gaps.

**Information and planning**
**Information**
Out of the total of 73 attacks on healthcare in Syria in the first 10 months of 2019, around 9 out of 10 have taken place in the northwest. A total of 12 attacks on healthcare were reported in all of Syria in September and October this year, killing 10 people and injuring 13.

**Planning**
WHO is preparing for capacity building of 200 paramedics in Idlib, based on a Turkish Ministry of Health basic emergency training curriculum adopted to the North Syria context by WHO earlier this year. At least one additional bOPV campaign is planned for accessible parts of north-western Syria from Gaziantep this year, pending availability of resources and vaccine. WHO is continuing a pilot of 15 hospitals in northwest Syria, on infection prevention control. WHO is also developing a project to strengthen NCD at the secondary healthcare level. A 6-day November 2019 polio campaign in Idlib and Aleppo will target 815,000 children aged 0-59 months.
Health operations and technical expertise
Prevention and control
At the end of October, 94 out of 98 routine immunization centres continue providing services, to prevent spread of childhood diseases. WHO finalized a service mapping of mental health and psychosocial support; revealing a total of 20 NGOs working on MHPSS in northwest Syria in more than 70 communities. An August 2019 assessment of health facilities, covering 81 health facilities, found e.g. general lack of essential equipment, absence of basic medicine in almost all facilities and insufficient numbers of staff. Also, that the number of primary health care centres is below minimum standards while the number of secondary care health facilities is above standards. WHO completed an EWARN Emergency Risk Communication Training inside Syria for more than 430 participants. Some 426 doctors and nurses were trained on leishmaniasis case management; currently there are around 155 health facilities in northwest Syria providing leishmaniasis case management. WHO also mapped hospitals that can treat victims of chemical exposure and is finalizing an ambulance referral network map. World Mental Health Day was marked on 10 October by WHO and eight partners, focusing on suicide prevention.

Delivering health services to those in need
WHO completed the review of the August 2019 report of non-communicable disease integration in nine primary healthcare facilities, and renewed the support for Sarmada children’s hospital in Idleb. WHO also assessed dialysis machines in all functional dialysis centers in accessible areas of north-western Syria. Results and a map of needs in terms of maintenance or replacement are forthcoming. WHO continues monitoring chemical preparedness and emergency prepositioned stockpile, consisting of 2,500 treatment courses. The number of measles cases remains stable to positive.

Skills building for Syrian health-care workers
A number of trainings were carried out in the reporting period. In September 2019, WHO organised an advanced training for Syrian doctors as part of the tuberculosis program; on tuberculosis definition, prevention, control, treatment and assessment. During the month of October, WHO carried out a training on chemical preparedness and responses for 628 doctors, nurses and paramedics working in north-western Syria. Together with partners, WHO trained 122 community health workers on key health messages and home visits. WHO also supported a training for 535 community health workers on psychological first aid as well as three courses of training for tuberculosis lab technicians, in collaboration with Gaziantep University.

Operation support and logistics
Every month, WHO transports medical supplies and equipment across the border from Turkey to north-western Syria, as part of the United Nations convoy. In September 2019, WHO delivered medical supplies worth USD 600,000, enabling 398,000 treatments. In October, WHO distributed supplies to health partners in north-western Syria, providing 73,652 treatments. Supplies included items for specialized emergency care, non-communicable disease care, secondary health care and trauma and surgical care.
During the reported period, the Refugee Health Programme was supported by the generous contributions of Germany through KfW Development Bank; the European Union Trust Fund; the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration of the United States Department of State (BPRM); and the Governments of Norway and Japan. With the new 3RP plan 2019-2020, WHO is reaching out to these and other donors pledging in the last Brussels Conference to support activities envisioned for 2020 and beyond in support of Ministry of Health of Turkey.

Under the Whole of Syria approach, the cross-border operations have requested a total of USD 39,045,000 million to assist the affected population in north-west Syria. Currently, there is a funding gap of more than USD 22 million, with 43% of funds received. Under the humanitarian response plan for WoS, WHO has requested USD 140,914,950. All the activities described in this report have been made possible through the generous support of the following donors: the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), the Governments of Norway, Japan and Sweden and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) pooled funds.