

Meeting Minutes

Health Working Group - Displaced Syrians

May 26, 2017

The central Health Working Group met, as planned on a bi-monthly basis to discuss issues and plan actions for follow up concerning the displaced Syrians crisis in Lebanon. The meeting was held at the premises of WHO – Museum Square, Glass Building, floor -1 on Friday May 26th, 2017 between 9:00 AM and 10:15 AM.

Topics of Discussion

1. Field news and information on outbreaks
2. Reproductive health
3. Mental health and psychosocial support
4. Child health/vaccination
5. Nutrition
6. LCRP updates
7. AOB

Main Discussions

Topic 1	Field news and information on outbreaks
<i>Topic Details</i>	No updates since no one from MOPH –ESU team attended the meeting to update partners about outbreaks.

Topic 2	Reproductive health
<i>Topic Details</i>	<p>UNFPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In partnership with the MOPH, UNFPA is procuring all RH related commodities, including FP commodities, which can be received by any partner offering FP services, even MMUs and centres that are not within the MOPH PHCs network. - UNFPA will be procuring equipment for maternity and neonatal wards at public hospitals. - UNFPA will train a focal point on the surveillance system and update the neonatal birth and death documentation and online system. - A consultancy was advertised (on UNFPA website and daleel madani) to identify and review all RH resources available and analyse their gaps. - UNFPA is starting a pilot project in collaboration with the MOPH and the Lebanese Order of Midwives in which more than 20 centres (hospitals and PHCs) will be targeted. Midwives will be trained on FP and will be appointed by the MOPH as FP focal points. The referral system between hospitals and PHCs will be strengthened in regards to FP. - UNFPA and partners are conducting an outreach program, they are now in the process of developing a manual (two thematic areas: early marriage and FP) targeting adolescent girls, women, and men. - CMR refresher training sessions are being conducted for centres identified by GBV working group. An advocacy meeting with the MOPH is planned; to start nationalization of CMR services. - Next SRH working group meeting will take place on the 31st of May and the CMR task force meeting will take place on the 1st of June. <p>MOPH- PHC department</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Circular number 42 regarding RH services and commodity fees was shared by MOPH. The circular states that pills and condoms should be dispensed to beneficiaries for

	<p>free, and a medical consultation (including IUD insertion and echo) is between 8000LL and 18000LL. All PHCs should abide by the circular.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MOPH developed a quarterly dashboard for RH data from the vital data observatory. The dashboard includes data on deliveries, births, neonatal and maternal death, birth defects, etc. Data is segregated by Lebanese and non-Lebanese nationalities. Every 3 months this dashboard will be produced and posted on the MOPH website. - The figures in the dashboard also cover deliveries in MSF Ersal but no data was obtained from the field hospitals in Ersal. This matter is being discussed at the MOPH. - The MOPH is working on the issue of the high rate of C-section deliveries in Lebanon, but this is a difficult issue to tackle and will take time. - So far there have been 10 maternal deaths: 2 Lebanese and 8 Syrians. - A neonatal committee will soon be established by the MOPH to investigate neonatal deaths. <p>UNHCR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MOPH circular number 42 can be posted on the interagency web portal too. - Each maternal death is officially investigated by the MOPH; the major causes of mortality are not direct obstetric causes. Most maternal deaths are due to previous medical issues (like cardiac disease) that can be detected during ANC visits and then treated. This raises a question about the quality and retention of ANC; for example if midwives and physicians are not checking high blood pressure or heart murmur to flag the issue. It is important to have an analysis to see if there really is a higher rate of preterm births among Syrians; to test for statistical significance. <p>SIDC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sexual and reproductive health services are offered at the SIDC centre for people from all nationalities and for vulnerable groups (testing for HIV and Hep C, distribution of condoms, distribution of needles for harm reduction interventions etc.) but a challenge is faced in reporting these numbers to the MOPH. <p>MOPH- PHC Department</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MOPH has noted the challenge faced by SIDC in reporting their numbers, and is now coordinating with UNFPA to prepare for training sessions for all centres that are not PHC centres, and the form for the reporting system is being updated. - All centres can obtain RH commodities and pregnancy cards from the MOPH.
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Topic 3	Mental health and psychosocial support
<i>Topic Details</i>	<p>MOPH- National Mental Health Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Celebration of the World Health Day took place on April 7; Lebanon was selected for the WHO regional launch of the campaign. The theme was depression and the slogan was Let's talk about Depression; the campaign included posters, flyers, TV spot, and radio broadcasting; the event was also broadcasted live; the aim was to encourage people to talk about depression, to seek help and to decrease stigma. The interesting in the event was a speech given by a person who suffered from a mental disorder. - NMHP currently working with RHUH, MDM, and ICRC to establish a community mental health team in the RHUH PHC centre which recently joined the MOPH network; will be launched in July. A multidisciplinary team (1 psychologist and 2 case managers) is already recruited by MDM and will be trained on the mhGAP. The psychiatrists are identified and discussions are ongoing around funding mechanisms for the psychiatric component; the link with the hospital will be piloted; a patient in the hospital with a MH need can be referred to the PHC. - The dispatch of the medication to the community mental health team started; Zahle received the first batch; we are also working with Makhzoumi; and Sarafand showed interest; and we are exploring in the North to assess which centre to select; we will start working on the referral system especially for medication; - The mental health law is currently being revised; the discussion is ongoing with the parliament. - There will be an Interpersonal Therapy (IPT) training between 17 and 21 July, the invitations have already been sent; - First pilot phase for the MH registry just ended now finalizing the report (to be shared soon); - mhGAP: reinforcing the mhGAP for current centres; training was already done in the first quarter of this year (for 30 selected centres); the next training is not yet confirmed; - Last year training was conducted with the support of WHO on management of psychiatric emergencies at ER; completed an evaluation for the training and based on the results we will decide how to move forward to strengthening management of psychiatric emergencies at ER.

Topic 4	Child health/vaccination
<i>Topic Details</i>	<p>MOPH- PHC department</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - World immunization week in April; stands, posters and brochures were distributed in malls (ABC and Citymall), awareness points were put in public spaces (Hamra, Ain Mreisi); puppet shows were done in some PHC centres (Sarafand, Barja, Hay el Sellom), school based activities were conducted (Batroun, Minyi Donniyeh) and Beyond NGO implemented awareness activities (Halba, Al Qaa). - On the 23rd of May, a stakeholder meeting took place in Beirut and was coordinated by WHO, UNICEF, UNHCR and the National Certification Committee. Stakeholders discussed immunization activities for the next 5 years. The meeting focused on the importance of keeping Lebanon polio free and increasing the routine immunization coverage. - EPI and UNHCR are closely coordinating to respond to the expected increase in registered children at the registration centres. - The EPI and the ESU departments at the MOPH are closely coordinating on all Communicable Diseases cases reported. EPI is tracking cases in the field where reported cases are followed to make sure they are vaccinated. - Collaboration with WHO and UNICEF in developing the communication plan is ongoing. - MOPH is coordinating with UNICEF to finish the installation of cold rooms and for the procurement of vaccines.

Topic 5	Nutrition
<i>Topic Details</i>	<p>UNICEF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focusing on capacity strengthening of governmental counterparts and partners in health and nutrition programming; and as such UNICEF supported MOSA, MOPH, and partners' staff to be able to attend the Nutrition in Emergencies training that was successfully carried out by AUB this month. UNICEF also supported 2 health staff from MOPH to attend the Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) in Emergencies training in Jordan last month. - Supporting MOPH to set up breastfeeding corners in primary care units where mothers can receive nutrition counselling around the issue of lactation and also spaces where they can breastfeed their children. - Ensuring that the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative is integrated in Lebanon; UNICEF is closely working with MOPH, IOCC, LAECD to ensure that selected hospitals are supported to adopt the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative. - Supporting the government to develop a national IYCF policy; UNICEF is in the process of recruiting a consultant to work on this activity. - Available data indicates that the nutrition situation remains stable, screening continues in PHCs, UNICEF is negotiating the possibility of screening to be also conducted in communities (in PHC catchment areas) to ensure early detection of malnutrition cases. - UNICEF partnered with Global Smiles to support reconstructive surgeries for children who have cleft lip and/or cleft palate. Information will be later shared for coordination and referral purposes. - The group was asked by UNICEF to share any information they might have about public hospitals conducting kangaroo mother care.

Topic 6	LCRP 2017-2020 updates
<i>Topic Details</i>	<p>Inter-Agency UNHCR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quarter 1 dashboard was disseminated. Partners are welcome to feed input into the dashboard. For the next dashboard a draft narrative will be shared with partners to make the process participatory. - A dynamic dashboard was presented during the CHWG meeting. It automatically calculates figures based on all the entries on activity info and presents consolidated information on the entered data. It is updated on a monthly basis. One can find information on percentage of subsidized consultations broken down by PHCs and MMUs, entries related to MH, NCD and ANC consultations and how they are broken down by governorates, consultations are disaggregated by gender and age groups, which outlets are providing certain medications (PHCs or MMUs), a summary of hospital care support, number of people receiving support in access to specialised diagnostics etc. This dashboard is available for different areas around Lebanon for comparison purposes. It will be shared with CHWG members and it will be shared on the portal for direct access. This dashboard is not representative of what is happening at a country level, it is only representative of what is being entered by partners on activity info. - Support to MMUs is still high and this support is costly and not sustainable. MOSA wants to launch an MMU project but we are advocating with them to refrain from launching such an initiative. Across the years we have mapped MMUs and areas covered but for this to be done again it requires joint collaboration from all partners in providing information about their MMU activities. - A THRIVE NGO consultation meeting will take place on the 2nd of June at WHO. NGOs are invited to attend this meeting to discuss activities related to the work that health and WASH NGOs are doing. - OCHA reserve allocation allowed for the support the treatment of 53 Syrian refugee

	<p>dialysis patients up until the end of September. Hopefully around that time a donor will be identified to support the patients' treatment beyond September.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a very low reporting of organizations on the assessment registry. Organizations that conduct assessments are encouraged to submit their assessments' final reports to the registry. - The PIST report is a UNDP-lead report that describes how actors have supported public institutions (staffing, capacity building, procurement of equipment etc.). In June, Hala will be reaching out to partners to gather information on how NGOs have supported the MOPH from January till June. - Last week, a steering committee meeting took place and the funding situation was discussed. All sectors except livelihood have received less funding compared to Quarter 1 of 2016. Health sector received 6% funding received 18.8 million dollars out of the appeal of 308 million dollars. Last year the amount received was almost double. Hala has prepared a presentation that will be shared with the meeting minutes. - In the steering committee meeting 3 different projects related to primary healthcare were discussed; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THRIVE • The World Bank project to expand the current EPHRP project to reach all 204 MOPH PHCs (150 million USD funding not yet secured and approval still not given by the government) • The IMC, PU AMI, FPSC project (EU MADAD fund) which is a 3-year project that secured 32 million USD. - The steering committee members discussed how these projects can be complimentary to avoid overlap at PHC level.
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Topic 7	AOB
<i>Topic Details</i>	No AOB discussions took place

Annex: List of Attendees

Central Health Working Group- Attendance List			
Friday 26 May 2017			
Organization	Name	Tel.	E-mail
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