EGYPT: RRP5 Update - November 2013

PUBLIC HEALTH

NEEDS
The decision of the Egyptian Government to allow Syrians in Egypt to access public health facilities and hospitals on an equal footing with Egyptian nationals has been a positive move. However, this access is constrained by the limited availability and capacity of the national public health system. The joint health sector strategy is thus predicated upon the principle of access to public health services as are available to the host population.

To ensure this strategic goal, UNHCR and its partners are working to:
(1) support Ministry of Health public health system especially the primary health facilities through need assessment and procurement of equipment and supplies;
(2) expand the capacity and geographic coverage of primary health care and referral care for Syrian patients;
(3) improve the quality of health care services available to Syrian refugees through capacity building of health care workers on reproductive health; and
(4) raise awareness among Syrians about availability and accessibility of public health services, taking into account the specific needs of the conflict-affected population, children, women and other groups.

OBJECTIVES
• Health status of the Population improved.
• Population has optimal access to reproductive health and HIV services supported.

ACTION/OUTPUTS (as per RRP5)
• Access to primary health care services, including women and child health care
• Access to mental health and psycho-social support
• Access to preventative health care, community-based health education and access to routine EPI vaccination services
• Establish presence at point of entry to assist Ministry of Health in receiving and screening Syrians
• Establish HIS system and share monthly update on refugee health status
• Establish referral mechanism to secondary and tertiary health care services, including emergencies
• Access for women of reproductive age to comprehensive reproductive health

KEY DEVELOPMENTS
• As a part of co-operation among partners, Caritas Medical Director will be supporting “Resala” UNHCR’s implementing partner in Damietta, in the northern of Egypt for one day a week to improve the process of health service provision, record keeping, health information system and referral pathway.
• UNICEF is continuing to support the Ministry of Health primary health care facilities and train their staff.
• WHO finished their early warning (EWARN) system training at governorates and districts levels. WHO is planning to begin EWARN system and management training of non-communicable diseases at primary health care facilities level

TARGETS
As specified in the RRP5

60,000 Syrian refugees have access to primary health care services

20,000 Syrian women of reproductive age have access to comprehensive reproductive health care

6,000 Syrian refugees are referred to secondary and tertiary health services

5,500 Syrian refugees benefit from mental health and psycho-social support

ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

34,550 (5,796 during November) visits to primary health care, including child health

15,286 (4,136 during November) visits to secondary health care, tertiary health care, including emergencies

240 (29 during October) individuals benefited from mental health

2,092 (391 during November) antenatal care visits

10 million USD required

Leading Agencies: UNHCR - Sector Lead: Mamoun Abuarqub - abuarqub@unhcr.org
Reporting Agencies for this month: