

Health services for Syrian refugees in Turkey

As part of the whole-of-Syria approach, the WHO Country Office in Turkey and its field office in Gaziantep delivered the following support.

Engaging Turkish media in the integration of Syrian refugees in Turkey.

In December, the WHO Country Office in Turkey organized three media awareness workshops in Ankara, Gaziantep and Istanbul for different types of Turkish media. The workshops focused on the collective responsibility of the Turkish media in promoting intercultural dialogue, and on enhancing the reporting skills of media practitioners in Turkey with regard to misperceptions about refugees. Representatives of WHO and the Ministry of Health described the Syrian Refugee Health Training Programme, which had been developed to integrate Syrian health professionals into the Turkish health system. At the end of the workshops, most of the participants expressed their intention to report on the adaptation training for Syrian health professionals.

Supporting vaccination campaign for Syrian children.

With support from WHO, in November the Ministry of Health carried out the third round of the vaccination campaign for poliomyelitis (polio) targeting Syrian children all over Turkey. The campaign aimed to reach every child aged under 5 years and to vaccinate them for any missing doses. It also included checking vaccination status and registering the children in an electronic database for immunization follow-up. Vaccinations were given during household visits as well as in health centres. WHO coordinated the partners, supported them with resources, developed communication materials and vaccination cards, supported the central supervision teams and covered logistical needs for provincial health authorities as relevant. At the end of the campaign, WHO will support the assessment of the results.

Supporting management of communicable diseases among refugees.

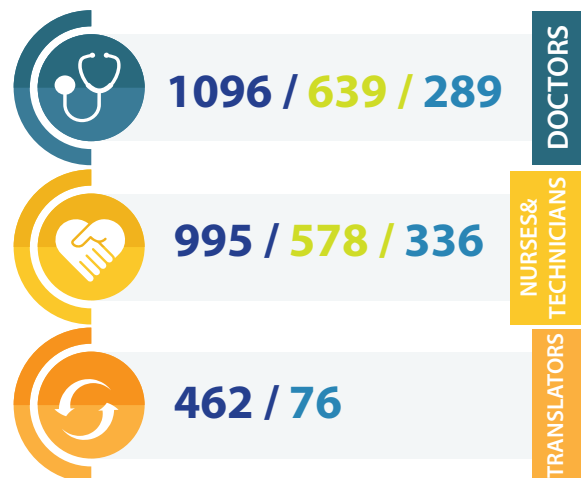
WHO supported the Ministry of Health in developing and strengthening human resources' skills within the Turkish health system so as to improve the protection of the health of both Syrian refugees and the host community. This included an increased number of training courses for nurses (over 70 hospitals provided training to nurses on infection control) and provincial and national vaccination managers. Participants from 81 Turkish cities were trained on infectious diseases and early warning, including Ministry of Health mid-level managers at provincial level.

Representing the UN on refugees and public health.

WHO represented United Nations agencies in the country at a debate on refugees in Turkey in a public health perspective at Hacettepe University in Ankara on 16 November 2017. In a session on what United Nations agencies do already and what more they can do, the WHO Country Office in Turkey presented its programme supporting the Turkish health system in coping with the high influx of people and extending the delivery of health services to the refugees.



Presentation by WHO on the Refugee Health Training Programme at the media workshop in Ankara. Photo: WHO/Emre Polatel



Syrian health staff trained from January to December 2017 under the Syrian Refugee Health Programme

- Staff who completed classroom training
- Staff who completed on-the-job training
- Staff hired by the Ministry of Health

Funding

As of December 2017, WHO had received US\$ 12.5 million out of a total of US\$ 19 million needed to help Syrian refugees in Turkey in 2017.

Donors

As of December 2017, WHO programmes in Turkey were funded by European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration of the United States Department of State, and the governments of the People's Republic of China, Kuwait and Norway.



Health services for northern Syria

As part of the whole-of-Syria approach, the WHO Country Office in Turkey and its field office in Gaziantep delivered the following support.

Vaccinating against polio. In November, more than 750 000 children in north-west Syria were vaccinated with the oral polio vaccine by partner teams in collaboration with the WHO field office in Gaziantep. At the end of 2017, 74 cases of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 were recorded in the north-east of the country.

WHO is planning additional campaigns in 2018 to further protect at-risk populations and prevent the disease from spreading to the north-west.

Training on infection control. Ninety doctors, nurses, midwives and surgical assistants learned methods to prevent infection on training courses organized by the WHO field office in Gaziantep. The courses covered best practices for hospital hygiene, wound dressing, avoidance of needle stick injuries and medical waste management.

Shipping medical supplies. In November, the WHO field office in Gaziantep delivered 100 tonnes of medical supplies, valued at US\$ 1 222 627, to hospitals and clinics in north-west Syria. These included anaesthesia and surgical equipment, specialized health kits for intensive care units, fluids for intravenous therapy, essential medicines, cholera central reference laboratory kits and insulin.

Meeting health care needs in eastern Ghouta. WHO is concerned for the nearly 400 000 people in besieged eastern Ghouta near Damascus. Since mid-November, civilians have endured severe airstrikes and continue to face significant shortages of food, medicine, and basic supplies. Hundreds of patients suffering from critical medical conditions are waiting to be referred out of eastern Ghouta to receive specialized medical treatment.

Supporting mental health. WHO provided video training and online clinical supervision in treating mental illnesses to Syrian health workers who cannot leave besieged eastern Ghouta.



A Syrian health care worker practises proper wound cleaning during a training course on infection control organized by the WHO field office in Gaziantep. Photo: WHO/Sheahen



Funding

As of December 2017, WHO had received US\$ 17 800 000 out of a total of US\$ 63 000 000 needed for its work in northern Syria in 2017.

Donors

As of December 2017, WHO programmes in northern Syria were funded by the Department for International Development (United Kingdom), ECHO, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs pooled funds, the United States Agency for International Development, and the governments of the People's Republic of China, Japan, Kuwait and Norway.