



Highlights

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

Mental health: In late March, WHO supported the training of more than 100 Turkish family physicians in the Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP). The medical doctors updated their knowledge of clinical management of depression, self-harm/suicide, child and adolescent mental and behavioural disorders, psychoses and more.



A Syrian psychiatrist with an Arabic-language poster about depression. WHO is raising awareness about ways to get help for depression through community events for Syrian refugees. Photo: WHO/Sheahen

“When patients come to me with psychological problems, I usually refer them. But I know sometimes people can’t go to where I am referring them – they don’t even have the money to take a bus. After this training, I decided that I would try to help them.”

– Family physician trained in mhGAP working near the Syrian border

“In this training, it became more clear to me how to act before prescribing any medication for the patient.”

– Turkish doctor trained in mhGAP

For World Health Day on 7 April, the theme of which is depression, WHO worked with Turkey’s Ministry of Health to prepare materials about depression in Turkish and Arabic. The materials will be distributed throughout Turkey, giving guidance to health care workers on how to handle depression in children, adults and the elderly.

Primary care: In 7 of Turkey’s health centres for refugees, 225 Syrian health care workers were enrolled in the 6-week practical training component of WHO-supported courses on adapting to the Turkish health system.

When Syrian professionals successfully complete this **on-the-job training**, they are eligible for employment in Turkish health facilities serving refugees.

WHO is also supporting medical equipment, furnishings and additional staff for some refugee health centres.



2.95 million Syrian refugees in Turkey



225 Syrian staff in practical training



100 doctors trained in mental health care

Funding

Out of a total of **US\$ 11.8 million** needed for its lifesaving work to help Syrian refugees in Turkey in 2017, WHO has received **US\$ 800 000**.

Donors

WHO programmes in Turkey are funded by European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), the United States Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM), and the governments of China, Kuwait and Norway.



Aid to evacuees: Responding to the late-March evacuation of the besieged neighbourhood of Al-Wa'er, WHO worked with its health partners to mobilize **treatment for evacuees**. Ambulances accompany each convoy and transport critical cases to referral hospitals, while mobile health units provide primary care. WHO is shipping and pre-

positioning additional medical supplies at hospitals in areas where the evacuees are arriving. Partners are providing vaccinations for children upon arrival.



WHO donated 5 mobile clinics to its health partners in northern Syria. Photo: WHO/Tembo

“When the population is evacuated, we’ll make sure that ambulances and health facilities have sufficient drugs and medical supplies at their destination.”

– Dr Jamshed Tanoli, Health Cluster Coordinator

Medical supplies: WHO began shipping an expanded variety of medicines, including more **drugs for chronic conditions**, to northern Syria. WHO delivered these supplies to 25 facilities. In total, the supplies are worth US\$ 205 401 and will support 142 953 treatments.



**30 tonnes of
medical
supplies sent**



**85 635
children
vaccinated**



**4 verified
attacks on
health care**

Primary care: WHO donated **5 mobile clinics** to health partners in northern Syria so they can reach people close to their homes.

Vaccination: WHO partners finished a **polio vaccination** campaign in Idleb and Aleppo, vaccinating 58 903 children in March. In western rural Aleppo, they also vaccinated 15 153 children with the pentavalent vaccine and 11 579 children against **measles/rubella**.

Preparing for outbreaks: WHO is pre-positioning **cholera kits** – including oral rehydration salts, zinc, intravenous fluids and antibiotics – in warehouses in Idleb and Aleppo.

Training: WHO trained Syrian doctors in **hospital management**, including proper management of laboratories, pharmacies, equipment, and medical waste.

Noncommunicable diseases: In late March, WHO began an online training for doctors and nurses in besieged areas. The health workers update their knowledge of how to diagnose and treat **diabetes, cardiovascular disease, asthma** and more.

Funding

Out of a revised total of **US\$ 63 million** needed for its work in northern Syria in 2017, WHO has received **US\$ 7 924 739**.

Donors

WHO programmes for northern Syria are funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) (United Kingdom), European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) pooled funds, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the governments of China, Kuwait and Norway.