



Health services for 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.

Vaccination. The second round of a vaccination campaign for refugee children was held in mid-May. WHO provided technical and logistical support to prepare for the campaign.

Vaccination is free and offered to all children regardless of their legal status. The vaccination campaign focuses on 20 provinces that host approximately 90% of the Syrian population in Turkey.



A refugee baby in a vaccination centre in southeastern Turkey. Photo: WHO/Sheahen

*“Sometimes parents don’t want to get a vaccination because of the language barrier. I remember a two-year-old boy. The Turkish government had been encouraging vaccination but the parent didn’t understand.”
Nurse trainee in WHO-supported adaptation programme that also trains medical translators*

More than 300 000 refugee children were vaccinated against diseases including measles, diphtheria, tetanus, poliomyelitis, and hepatitis B.

Primary care. In May, 156 Syrian doctors and 159 Syrian nurses completed the practical training component of WHO-supported courses in several of Turkey’s health centres for refugees. When

Syrian professionals successfully complete this **on-the-job training**, they receive a certificate of competence allowing them to be employed in Turkish health facilities serving refugees.

Mental health. In partnership with Turkey’s Ministry of Health, WHO trained more than 100 Turkish family physicians in its mental health programme, along with 100 registered Syrian doctors who are already in WHO’s training for refugee health workers. The doctors learned how to identify and treat **depression, schizophrenia, suicidal thoughts, dementia, substance abuse, epilepsy** and other conditions.



3 million Syrian refugees in Turkey



1500+ Syrian staff trained since 2016



300 000 refugee children vaccinated

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\$ 10 800 000**.

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 the People’s Republic of China, Kuwait and Norway.



Health services for northern Syria

Medical supplies. WHO shipped blood transfusion sets, insulin, blood bank test kits and more **supplies** worth US\$ 494 650 to be used by health facilities in northern Syria.

Vaccination. During a **poliomyelitis** campaign in late April and early May, teams vaccinated 659 253 children. A 10-day campaign in mid-May vaccinated more than 81 700 children in rural Aleppo against **measles, rubella, diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, hepatitis B** and **Haemophilus influenzae**.



At a camp in Jarablus, northern Syria, mobile clinics provide services to people who have been evacuated from besieged areas. Photo courtesy of IDA.

“Restarting regular vaccination is so important. With routine vaccination, we’ll save a lot of children’s lives.”
Dr Annette Heinzlmann,
WHO Emergency Coordinator

After years of erratic access to routine vaccination due to conflict, parents can now take their children to one of 23 routine vaccination centres that have restarted in

northern Syria since March. The centres, run by WHO partners and using UNICEF-provided vaccines, are situated in order of priority according to population density. The goal is to open dozens more centres by December 2017.

Trauma training. WHO arranged for the training of 120 health staff in northern Syria in the treatment of chemical exposure. WHO also trained Syrian doctors in clinical **trauma** management including treatment of airway obstructions, lung injuries and haemorrhage.

Noncommunicable diseases. WHO continued online training of doctors and nurses in hard-to-reach areas. More than 200 staff in 12 besieged areas updated their knowledge of how to diagnose and treat conditions including **diabetes, epilepsy and asthma**. WHO also shipped 100 000 vials of insulin for delivery to 183 facilities. These will treat 33 340 diabetes patients for five months.

Mental health. WHO trained community mental health workers (doctors, midwives and nurses) on how to diagnose and treat conditions such as depression, post-traumatic stress disorder. In late May, based on a survey about burnout among humanitarian workers, WHO held a staff care workshop to address Syrian health workers’ high **stress** levels.



19 tonnes of medical supplies sent



650 000+ children vaccinated



300+ health care staff trained

Funding

Out of a total of **US\$ 63 000 000** needed for its work in northern Syria in 2017, WHO has received **US\$ 11 000 000**.

Donors

WHO programmes in 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 the People’s Republic of China, Japan, Kuwait and Norway.