

Syrian Arab Republic unrest

Situation Report # 5

Date: 12 April 2012

Highlights

- WHO is working with the Ministry of Health and the Syrian Family Planning Association to post mobile clinics in areas with non-functioning health facilities.
- WHO and health partners met with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) to identify urgently needed health projects.
- The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has allocated US\$ 1 million to WHO for its ongoing work in the Syrian Arab Republic.



The Syrian Arab Red Crescent has turned a hospital under construction in Damascus into an emergency operations centre.
Photo credit: SARC

Health situation

- There is a demonstrated need for urgently establishing systems to provide primary health care services where they do not currently exist. Populations living in Homs and other affected areas are in need of primary health care, surgery and trauma care and consumables.
- Areas receiving displaced Syrians from affected areas are experiencing overburdened health care systems due to an increased patient workload and are in need of medicines, medical equipment and maintenance services.
- According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 1240 Syrian refugees have been registered in Iraq. A health team operating in a newly-established border camp receives up to 50 cases a day; many patients have been diagnosed with skin diseases and allergies, and two cases of chickenpox were identified among children in the camp. There are 8594 registered people in North Lebanon, with approximately 1500 more receiving assistance from UNHCR and partners in other areas of Lebanon.

Coordination

- WHO and the UN Country Team in the Syrian Arab Republic are working to finalize the 180-day response plan. The plan is intended to replace the 90-day contingency plan which was drafted in March.

- WHO and health sector partners met with the SARC to identify and review all humanitarian activities that will be implemented in coordination with them. Each agency outlined its specific activities, and collaboration and coordination regarding the management of supplies was discussed, as well as establishing a monitoring and evaluation mechanism.
- WHO is seeking local partners to support the Ministry of Health and SARC in the delivery of health-related aid.

WHO response

- WHO is working with the Ministry of Health and the Syrian Family Planning Association to post mobile clinics in areas with non-functioning health facilities. Initially, three mobile clinics will be posted in Homs. The clinics will be equipped by WHO and staffed by volunteers from local nongovernmental organizations.
- In coordination with the Ministry of Health, WHO has finalized the tools for its health facilities assessment, and is in the process of identifying the areas that will be surveyed. WHO is also working with local nongovernmental organizations to identify volunteers that will be recruited as field workers.
- WHO is deploying an emergency health coordinator to its Syrian country office. The coordinator will lead the planning and implementation of WHO's response operations and coordinate with partner agencies to identify health-related needs and funding gaps.

Donors and funding

- CERF has allocated US\$ 1 million to WHO for its ongoing work in the Syrian Arab Republic.

For more information, contact:

WHO Country Office

Dr Ibrahim Betelmal, WHO Representative

wrosyr@syr.emro.who.int

WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean

Dr Assaedi Abdullah, Deputy Regional Director

drd@emro.who.int