



A WHO-supported mobile clinic provides daily medical consultations in Al-Hol camp.

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Consultations provided

2019

Beneficiaries reached with medicines

11

Tons of medical supplies delivered

1019

First-aid services provided

380

Mental health and psychosocial support services provided

Situation

- The number of new arrivals in the camp has decreased dramatically (222 over the last two weeks compared with over 37 000 between 1 December 2018 and 28 February 2019). However, it remains severely overcrowded. A total of 73 477 people are living in an area originally designed to hold 10 000.
- The severe overcrowding greatly increases the risk of communicable diseases. Compounding the situation, health care and other essential services are overwhelmed.
- Eight WHO-supported medical teams are working round the clock to provide health care services inside in the camp.
- The foreign annex still lacks adequate health care services (only one mobile clinic is operating in this area).
- During the reporting period 24 people died.

Coordination

- WHO is meeting regularly with health partners to discuss the overall health situation and review disease surveillance efforts and the response to cases of epidemic-prone diseases. WHO and partners are also mapping all health care services and patient referral mechanisms in the camp.
- The nutrition and health sectors are working with the WHO-contracted Al-Hikma private hospital in Al-Hasakeh governorate to improve follow up care for discharged patients and monitor patient admissions and discharges.
- The health sector coordinated the evacuation of injured people following recent security incidents in the camp.

Response

- WHO is supporting an ongoing immunization campaign in the camp. Over the next few days, vaccination teams aim to reach almost 25 000 children under five years of age. All children will be immunized against tuberculosis, pertussis, diphtheria, polio, tetanus, hepatitis B, haemophilus influenza, measles, mumps and rubella.
- Since the number of new arrivals has decreased dramatically, triage teams previously assigned to the reception area have been redeployed across the camp to reduce the pressure on other medical teams.
- WHO is working with the Directorate of Health of Al-Hasakeh governorate to monitor the incidence of communicable diseases including acute diarrhoea and tuberculosis (TB). Confirmed TB patients have been registered in the National TB programme and placed under treatment.
- A rapid response team is investigating five cases of suspected measles. Blood samples have been collected and sent to the reference laboratory in Damascus for analysis.
- Twelve trained health workers are providing counselling services and psychological first aid.
- WHO has delivered more than 11 tons of medicines and diagnostic, cardiac and surgical equipment to support health care services in the camp. The supplies are enough to provide almost 40 000 treatment courses and treat 600 trauma patients.

Priorities

- Raise camp inhabitants' awareness of the measures they can take to prevent infectious and waterborne diseases such as diarrhoea.
- Expand triage teams and train health staff on screening patients for diseases and following up on referrals.
- Collaborate with the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene and Nutrition sectors to improve coordination and scale up joint activities.
- Establish a system to improve the follow up of patients discharged from hospitals as well as those with chronic diseases.
- Deliver additional medicines, supplies and equipment to meet identified health needs.