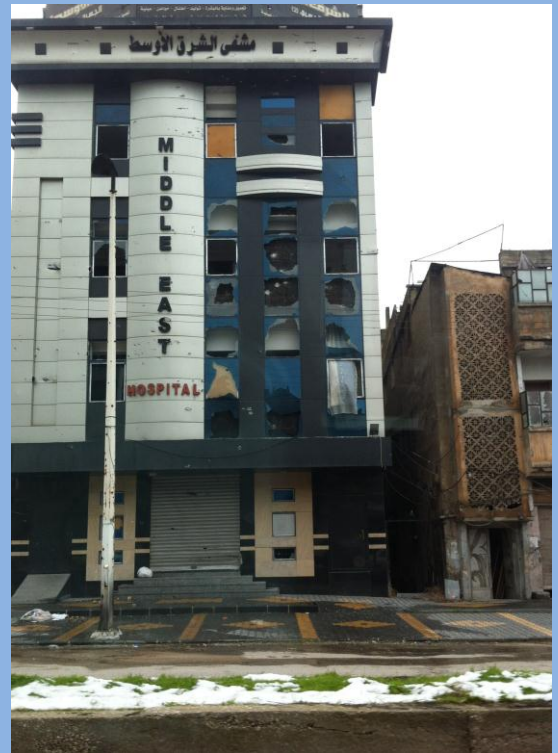


Highlights

- WHO has established an emergency support team in Amman to provide technical and operational support to its offices in the Syrian Arab Republic and the neighbouring countries of Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt and Turkey.
- 6 out of 13 public hospitals (46%) in the Syrian Arab Republic governorate of Homs are out of service, including the main public hospital.
- WHO has signed memorandums of understanding with four additional nongovernmental organizations in Idleb, Homs and Rural Damascus in the Syrian Arab Republic to further support the implementation of health care activities in these areas for three months.
- 20 000 Lebanese who have returned from the Syrian Arab Republic are in urgent need for shelter and humanitarian assistance, according to the Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs.
- WHO has completed a rapid assessment for people with disabilities in Al-Qa'im and Domiz camps.



Private hospital in Homs affected by the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic Photo: WHO

Health situation**Syrian Arab Republic**

According to the latest report for December 2012 of the Ministry of Health:

- 48 out of a total of 88 hospitals (55%) around the country have been damaged, of which 27 (31%) are out of service.
- 198 out of a total of 1919 health centres (10%) around the country have been damaged, of which 117 (6%) are out of service.

UN mission to Homs

A joint UN mission led by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) visited the Homs governorate from (3 to 17 January). WHO participated in the mission to assess the health situation, monitor partner nongovernmental organizations and expedite the implementation of the planned health response in the governorate. The main findings of the mission are:

- 6 out of 13 public hospitals (46%) in Homs are out of service, including the main public hospital.

- 25 out of 220 health centres (11%) in Homs are out of service. This is double the amount of out-of-service centres on a national level. Due to the non-functional health centres, the local population is facing great difficulty in obtaining essential health care assistance.
- Ibn-Al-Waleed maternal and child hospital is assisting the overflow of medical emergencies by providing limited services.
- Al-Birr hospital, a private hospital operated by a local charity, is fully functional and serving poor and internally displaced people free of charge. This is currently the only functional hospital in Homs.
- Despite the efforts of the Syria Health Authorities, children in the conflict-affected areas of Baba Amr and Asheria were not reached by the recently conducted national measles and polio vaccination campaign.
- 2500 out of 7500 displaced families have returned to Bab Amr (Homs City).
- Al-Birr hospital has reported that it is in severe need of resources. It is also facing difficulties in the procurement of laboratory reagents, equipment spare parts, medicines and supplies due to the embargo.

Jordan

WHO mission to Al-Zaatari Camp

- Bad weather conditions and flooding have caused two out of six health facilities to temporarily shut down. However, health services continue to be provided within the camp.
- Three new cases of tuberculosis (TB) have been detected in Al-Zaatari Camp -- 1 extra-pulmonary and 2 pulmonary cases (which are being treated and clinically inactive). The total number of cases as of 16 January 2013 is 33 (7 are extra-pulmonary and 26 are pulmonary, of which 2 cases are multidrug-resistant).

Lebanon

- 20 000 Lebanese who have returned from the Syrian Arab Republic are in urgent need for shelter and humanitarian assistance, according to the Ministry of Social Affairs.
- Approximately 1000 consultations were provided to Syrian refugees at 7 primary health care centres and one mobile clinic over a period of month.
- Pregnancies/deliveries among women of childbearing age, premature births, and war trauma among adult males remain top conditions for hospital admissions. 23% of all hospital admissions are pregnancy-related conditions.

Iraq

- Around 45 000 refugees living in camps are treated through 4 health centres established within the camps.
- Refugees living outside the camps receive health services from the Directorate of Health medical centres and nearby hospitals. However, health service delivery to populations outside the camps remains a challenge, especially for patients with chronic illnesses since these patients require longer-term treatment.

Health response

Syrian Arab Republic

- To reinforce and expand the Early Warning and Response System (EWARS) the Syria Health Authorities and WHO are organizing a workshop from 28 to 29 January to strengthen the capacity of the EWARS health focal points and the network of sentinel sites.
- WHO has signed memorandum of understandings with four additional nongovernmental organizations in Idleb, Homs and Rural Damascus, to further support the implementation of health care activities in these areas for three months.
- The Ministry of Health has reported that 1 300 000 children under 5 years were vaccinated against measles and 1 500 000 children under 5 years were vaccinated against polio during the national campaign in 13 of the Syrian Arab Republic's 14 governorates.

Jordan

- The second phase of the polio vaccination campaign in Irbid and Mafrq targeting 80 000 Syrian and Jordanian children under the age of 5 took place from 13 to 17 January, 2013.
- Routine vaccinations by the Ministry of Health are ongoing twice a week in Al-Zaatari camp and on a daily basis for refugees outside the camp. 180 children were vaccinated in the first two weeks of January 2013.

Lebanon

- The Ministry of Health, with technical support from WHO, continues to provide primary health care services through the existing national network of 3 primary health care centres in Bekaa and 5 in the North in addition to 1 medical mobile unit in the North. The most common causes for consultation are: upper respiratory tract infections; ear, nose and throat conditions; musculoskeletal diseases; gastrointestinal conditions; obstetric/gynecological consultations, and well-baby/vaccinations.
- Vaccination activities have been intensified and vaccine stocks increased by 10% in primary health care centres in areas with high concentrations of displaced Syrians (Akkar, Tripoli and Bekaa).

Iraq

- WHO has completed a rapid assessment for people with disabilities in Al-Qa'im and Domiz camps. 107 people with physical disabilities were registered, including 45 adult / elderly men, 38 adult / elderly women and 19 children. The assessment revealed that all 107 people required wheelchairs rather than any other assistive device. Based on these findings, WHO provided 100 wheelchairs to the camps. In addition, WHO provided reading glasses to a total of 42 children identified as having problems with their eyesight.
- WHO is providing medicines for chronic and acute illnesses to the Directorates of Health in Al-Qa'im and Domiz camps. The medicines will meet the needs of patients for three to five months.

Coordination

Regional coordination

WHO has established an emergency support team in Amman to provide technical and operational support to its offices in the Syrian Arab Republic and the neighbouring countries of Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt and Turkey. As outlined in WHO's Emergency Response Framework, the emergency support team will provide a consolidated, dedicated response to the crisis at the regional level by back-stopping WHO's four critical functions: 1) coordination; 2) information; 3) technical expertise; and 4) core services. The emergency support team comprises international experts in public health, epidemiology, information management and logistical support. It will be operational for 3 months and its function will be periodically reviewed with the possibility of an extension. [Read more about the EST.](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

- The Health Working Group meeting was held on 15 January 2013 to prepare the upcoming Emergency Directors' visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. Information to be shared with the Directors was prepared. Based on the Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan the planned activities for the next six months were mapped into a matrix per agency for each governorate.

Jordan

- Under the patronage of the Ministry of Health, WHO and IMC organized the release of the mental health and psychosocial support interagency guidance note for Syrians in Jordan. This is endorsed by 17 UN agencies, international nongovernmental organizations and local community-based organizations.

Lebanon

- WHO's Director of Emergencies in Geneva Dr. Richard Brennan visited Lebanon as part of a fact-finding mission. This mission included meetings with WHO staff, government officials from individuals from the Cabinet of the Prime Minister, as well as UNHCR and UNICEF. During his visit, Dr. Brennan was briefed on the situation in Lebanon regarding the political and health implications of the Syrian crisis.

Iraq

- WHO and the Director of Health, Dohuk are co-chairing the Health Working Group and coordinating the health response plan for the Syrian refugee crisis.

Donors and funding

Appeal document	Country of operations	Total requested by health sector (US\$)	Total requested by WHO (US\$)	Amount received by WHO (including pledges)** (US\$)	% of overall amount requested by WHO	WHO unmet requirements (US\$)
Draft Syrian Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan	Syrian Arab Republic	81 905 133	48 465 000	16 352 481	34%	32 112 519
Syrian Regional Response Plan	Iraq	2 089 000	1 350 000	–	0%	1 350 000
	Jordan	15 625 999	2 650 000	803 701	30%	1 846 299
	Lebanon	6 613 440	400 000	149 800	37%	250 200
	Turkey	2 089 000	1 200 000	248 668	21%	951 332

For more information, contact:

WHO Emergency Support Teamemst@emro.who.int**WHO Iraq Country Office**

Dr Syed Jaffar Hussein, WHO Representative

wriraq@irq.emro.who.int**WHO Jordan Country Office**

Dr Akram Eltom, WHO Representative

wrjor@jor.emro.who.int**WHO Lebanon Country Office**

Dr Hassan El Bushra, WHO Representative

wroleb@leb.emro.who.int**WHO Syrian Arab Republic Country Office**

Ms Elizabeth Hoff, acting WHO Representative

wrosyria@syr.emro.who.int