

# HEALTH



The Lebanese health sector is characterised by a **dominant private sector, very active NGOs and a public sector progressively regaining its leadership and regulatory role over the past two decades. The public health sector was already facing major challenges before the Syrian crisis.** The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) manage the primary healthcare system through 218 Primary Health Care Centres (PHCCs) often run by Lebanese NGOs and 57 **Social Development Centres (SDCs)** countrywide. These centres provide a range of primary health care services, counselling as well as referrals to secondary health care. However, **affordability is a primary barrier to health for vulnerable populations:** user fees, which range from approximately USD3.30 to USD5.30 per visit. Particularly when coupled with the cost of medication and travel, this places health care out of reach for many.

**Approximately 15% of Lebanese need financial support to access minimum levels of care.** Long queues in public health centres are also limiting access to public health care for Lebanese. **At least 60% Syrian refugees need to utilise some level of humanitarian assistance for health care.** Vulnerable families, including Syrians, report being turned away from hospitals and health centres or charged unaffordable rates. An estimated **54% of Syrian refugees borrow money to pay medical bills,** further depleting savings.

## EU SUPPORT TO THE HEALTH SECTOR AND RESULTS

EU-Funded programme **“Support to conflict reduction through improved primary health services for vulnerable populations”** (December 2014 – December 2015); €20 million under the Instrument for Stability (IfS); Contribution Agreement with UNHCR.

The substantial assistance provided under programme represented the first major joint exercise with MoPH in response to the consequences of the Syrian crisis in Lebanon. **The programme contributed to reducing tensions between Lebanese vulnerable communities and Syrian refugees by supporting the Lebanese authorities’ ability to meet basic health needs of the vulnerable population in host communities.**

## SELECTION OF RESULTS ACHIEVED UNDER THIS EU-FUNDED PROGRAMME (NON-EXHAUSTIVE LIST)

- 6200 medical equipment provided to 180 PHCCs, to enable 40 % increase in the utilisation of health services representing around 400,000 patients;
- 8 negative pressure rooms in 4 public hospitals and 2 isolation rooms in the Rafik Hariri University Hospital rehabilitated.
- 190 Solar fridges purchased and installed.
- 8 laboratories provided with reagents, equipment and supplies
- 500,000 medical files, 20,000 vaccination cards and 100,000 pregnancy cards and 100,000 student medical files printed and distributed.
- Medications for chronic diseases provided to 435 PHCCs serving 150,000 patients suffering from non-communicable diseases.
- Medications for acute diseases provided to 214 PHCCs for around 800,000 consultations.
- 3,732,600 vaccine doses provided for immunising around 600,000 children.
- Around 4,000 health staff trained on various healthcare issues (i.e. PHC clinical management, Neonatal resuscitation, emergency obstetric care, rational use of medications, surveillance and response, food safety...).
- The “Mother and Child Health Care” Initiative expanded to 3 new regions; Tripoli, Rashayya, and Beirut.
- 8 water testing laboratories established in Rafik Hariri University Hospital, Dahr El-Bachek, Tripoli, Halba, Zahle, Baalbeck, Saida and Marjeyoun.



# HEALTH



## ONGOING PROGRAMMES

### EU-Funded programme “Vulnerable children and their families access fully equipped medical services and have received routine immunisation”

(September 2015 - August 2017)

€6,262,994 (Implemented by **UNICEF**)

UNICEF will support this intervention through the provision of adequate medical supplies to 218 PHCCs. UNICEF’s Health Action will support 206,113 consultations at these PHCC facilities, and educational material in support of health awareness sessions for 75,774 people. Additionally, routine vaccines and related medical equipment sufficient to immunise 310,000 children (**170,500 persons displaced from Syria and 139,500 vulnerable Lebanese**) will be purchased. The medications that UNICEF provides to MoPH under the EU support are for distribution at the PHCC facilities of the ministry network, supporting all those who seek care **regardless of nationality, gender or age.**

### EU-funded programme “Supporting the capacity of MoPH staff and health staff at PHCCs”

(December 2015 – December 2017)

€2,048,112 (Implemented by **UNHCR**)

This health action will continue to support the capacity of the MoPH, both at the central level as well as local level. The staffing support at central and peripheral levels is especially focused on strengthening the capacity to manage disease control and response activities as well as improve health information systems and data management. This is essential to monitor, detect and respond to any outbreaks of potential importance.

### EU-funded programme “Enhancing Access to Non-communicable Diseases and Mental Health Services at the level of Primary Health Care in Lebanon Response to the Syrian crisis”

(January – December 2016)

€2,308,000

This programme supports the existing chronic medications programme by supplying the additional quantities of chronic medications to ensure continuous access to non-communicable diseases care at the level of PHCCs. As a result of the programme, sufficient supplies of chronic medications should be available at 490 PHCCs that participate in the MOPH / Young Men Christian Association (YMCA) operated programme of chronic medications.

## HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT TO THE HEALTH SECTOR

Since 2014, the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) contributed with **€56 million to the health sector by supporting access for Syrian refugees to secondary health care and covering lifesaving medical and surgical cases.** Other interventions include support to PHCCs and **Mobile Medical Units** and the provision of **first aid and transport to health care facilities to Syrian refugees and host communities through the Lebanese Red Cross.** Finally, ECHO supports Handicap International to provide specific care to people suffering from injuries.

