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WHO builds the capacity for the provision of care for childhood illness

Beirut, March 2- The MoPH in collaboration with WHO is working towards improving quality of health care services at the primary health care (PHC) level. The provision of integrated standardized care for childhood illnesses is a major step in this direction. For that, the WHO integrated management of childhood illness (IMCI) guidelines have been adapted to the Lebanese context. The adaptation exercise was coordinated by La Sagesse University in collaboration with the Lebanese Society of pediatrics, WHO and MoPH. Training workshops on the contextualized IMCI guidebook are ongoing. Core teams of 250 primary care facilities including a total of 1000 nurses and physicians will be trained across Lebanon between March and May 2015. Enhancing child health care based on IMCI principles is expected to standardize child care at PHC level, rationalize the use of drugs and reduce morbidity and mortality among most vulnerable children in Lebanon.



Training workshop on the IMCI guidelines

WHO conducts training sessions for schools on school-based surveillance

Beirut, February 24- WHO in coordination with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) and the MoPH, conducted 39 training sessions on school based surveillance for 1147 public schools health educators and coordinators appointed by the MEHE. The school-based surveillance system is a tool to detect alerts and outbreaks and monitor school absenteeism.



School based surveillance training session

WHO provides Emergency Obstetric Care Training

Beirut, February 19 – In order to strengthen the capacities of the Lebanese health care staff and improve delivery outcomes, WHO and the Ministry of Public Health, in partnership with the Lebanese Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and under the EU/IfS fund, implemented a capacity-building project on emergency obstetrics care targeting the concerned health care attendants; obstetricians, gynaecologists and midwives.

Ten workshops have been conducted in different regions across Lebanon to reach most of the health care providers working in health centres located in areas with high density of displaced Syrians. More sessions are planned for March and April.

Lebanon has experienced unprecedented influx of displaced Syrian that is putting severe strain on health care services, especially the obstetrics and gynaecology services. The high caesarean section rate that has been registered among pregnant refugees is reflective of delivery complications. Most of the maternal morbidities and deaths are preventable if diagnosed early and managed well. An essential component in this regard is the presence of competent skilled health care attendants in obstetrical wards and clinics. These trainings aim at improving the knowledge of the health care providers in complicated deliveries during times of conflict and emergencies.



During the EOC training in Beirut

WHO builds the capacity of healthcare providers in neonatal resuscitation

With the sharp escalation in population number due to the large influx of Syrian refugees, the number of deliveries taking place in hospitals has drastically increased. Moreover, the rates of C-section operations augmented, and a rise in the number of cases of neonatal complications have been recorded. In order to decrease neonatal mortality, high-risk pregnancy births must be treated in hospitals with neonatal units trained for this purpose. As part of the EU-IFS fund, WHO and the MOPH in partnership with the Lebanese Association for Early Child Development (LAECD) are implementing a capacity building project targeting healthcare providers working in neonatal wards to build their capacities in neonatal resuscitation and stabilization.

The NRT program aims at improving the knowledge and skills of medical staff working in maternities in concepts that are considered as key intervention for the resuscitation of the newborn. The S.T.A.B.L.E. Program focuses on the post-resuscitation care of sick neonates, including physical assessment, problem recognition and patient management. To be trained in S.T.A.B.L.E, a neonatologist needs to have previously been trained in NRT. That is why the LAECD first conducted 6 refresher NRT workshops in February and sent 4 neonatologists to be trained in S.T.A.B.L.E in Masqat, Oman. These trained



The S.T.A.B.L.E. program focuses on post-resuscitation care of neonates

WHO builds the capacity of health care staff in clinical case management

Beirut, January 16- There is an identified need to further strengthen the capacity of PHCs in the area of clinical case management –including acute conditions as well as chronic care. This was achieved by updating the existing guidebook and training of the health staff on these protocols and guidelines. WHO provided technical back up for the revision and development of the guidelines and protocols, in collaboration with the Society of family medicine. The final draft with algorithms was completed by the Lebanese Society of Family Medicine. Preparations for training PHC staff on the updated guidelines have been completed whereby around 1000 healthcare providers are expected to be trained between March and May 2015 from across Lebanon. The guidelines as well as the training modules are currently being translated to French.



During the training of the healthcare staff in clinical case management

WHO continues training on mental health GAP

Beirut, January 15 - WHO continued health care worker training on the mhGAP, finalizing in the South and Bekaa for 28 PHC centres and 62 health care staff. WHO provided technical and logistic support for the revision of the 'Situation assessment and strategy for mental health and substance use disorders in Lebanon', aiming at setting the ground to scale up the mental health integration within the health services available in Lebanon, in line with the WHO Global Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2020.

WHO and MoPH are currently preparing for Psychological First Aid (PFA) training for 30 PHC centres across Lebanon. This training is designed to orient helpers to offer PFA to people following a serious crisis event. PFA involves humane, supportive and practical assistance.



Participant in the mhGAP training

WHO trains public health inspectors on food safety

Beirut, January 12 - Lebanon is currently increasing its focus on food safety as a result of a drive by the Minister of Public Health. WHO organized a general introductory workshop on food sampling for more than 200 Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) staff. After which, the MoPH requested a more practical training for public health inspectors involved in food sampling. Subsequently, WHO organized two workshops in January on standard food sampling and inspection, based on good practice guidelines.



Health inspectors during the food safety training

WHO assesses midwifery practices in Lebanon

Beirut, January 2- In Lebanon, there are a few midwife-managed private clinics that are still functional. Given the influx of Syrian refugees, the number of women of reproductive age seeking or in need of antenatal and delivery services has increased substantially. It was therefore crucial to assess the capacity of midwife-managed clinics to deliver quality maternal care to pregnant women. In coordination with the Order of midwives and the Lebanese university, WHO and MoPH assessed the capacity and the quality of services provided by 38 midwife-managed clinics across Lebanon, and the needs in terms of training or equipment. The final report of the assessment was submitted in December and recommendations were suggested accordingly. Further follow up on the needed support will be done by the MOPH and the order of midwives to develop the plan of action.



Midwife-managed private clinics are still functional in Lebanon

WHO initiates an online disease reporting system: DHIS2

In order to strengthen the Epidemiology Surveillance Unit (ESU) at the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), WHO initiated a project to build an online disease reporting system, using DHIS2 web application. A two weeks workshop from 10 to 21 February 2015 was conducted for 28 participants from ESU unit, in order to optimize the DHIS2 to match the Ministry of Public Health ESU needs. By customizing the validation rules, indicators and reports. At the end of the workshop a site visit was made to the MOPH Qada health unit office in Saida, The customization should be tested and ready to use by mid of March 2015. The initial set up of DHIS2 was initiated in September 2014, where the ESU staff was trained and the project entered a pilot phase including three centers, the MoPH office in Beirut, the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) at Rafic Hariri University Hospital and the MoPH office in Tripoli Mohafaza.



During the DHIS2 training in the Emergency Operations Center at Rafic Hariri University Hospital.

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