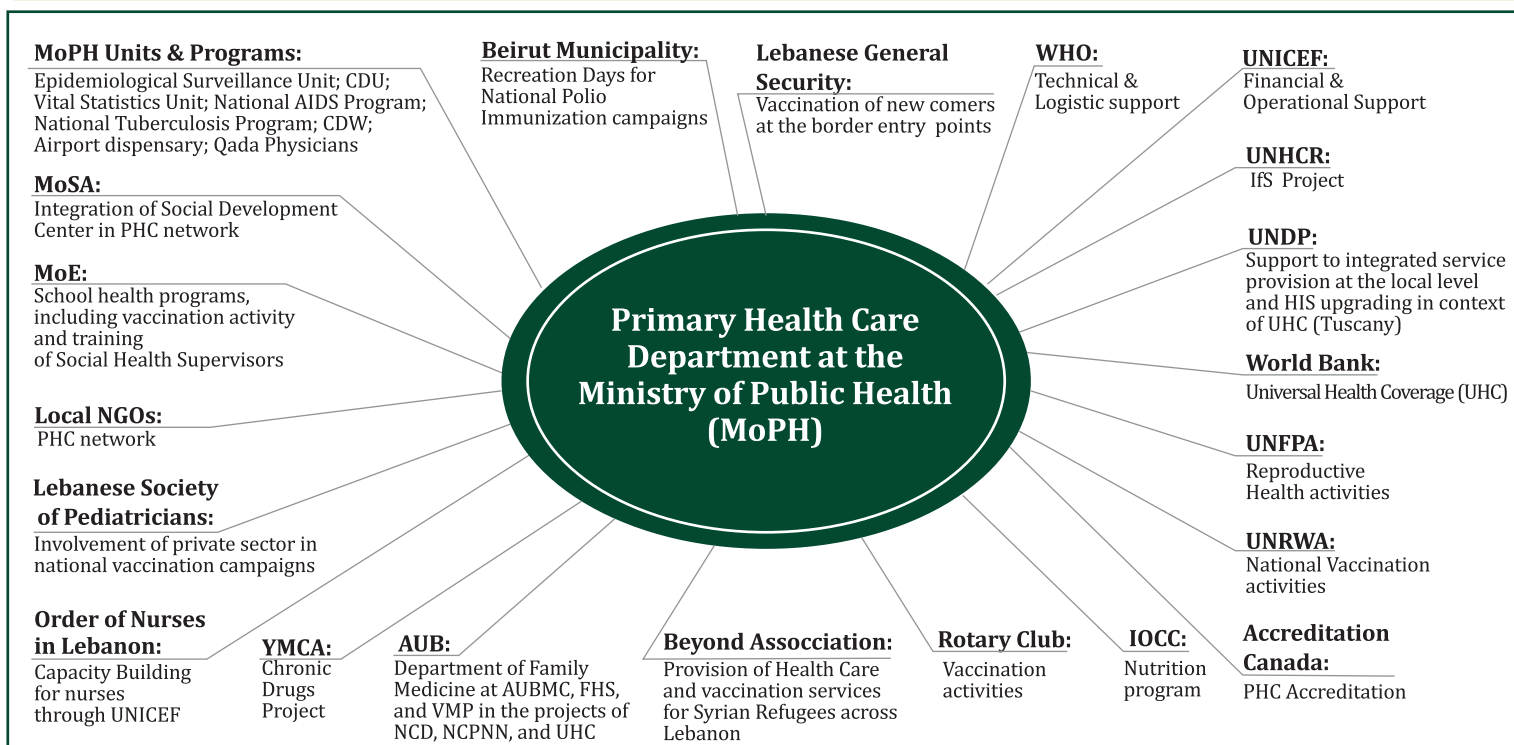




Networking with other Ministries, UN Agencies, International & National NGOs for Year 2014



MoSA: Ministry of Social Affairs; CDW: Central Distribution Warehouse; CDU: Communicable Disease Unit; MoE: Ministry of Education; UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; WHO: World Health Organization; UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund; UNRWA: United Nations Relief and Works Agency; UNFPA: United Nations Population Fund; UNDP: United Nations Development Programme; FHS: Faculty of Health Sciences; VMP: Vascular Medicine Program; UHC: Universal Health Coverage; HIS: Health Information System; NCD: Non-Communicable Disease; NCPNN: National Collaboration Perinatal and Neonatal Network; IfS: Instrument for Stability; IOCC: International Orthodox Christian Charity; PHC: Primary Health Care; YMCA: Young Men's Christian Association; AUB: American University of Beirut; AUBMC: American University of Beirut Medical Center

National Polio Immunization Campaigns

Lebanon has been classified as being Polio free for the past 13 years. However, with the influx of Syrian refugees into the country, Lebanon was exposed to a significant threat for the recurrence of Polio risk. In response, MoPH in coordination with UNICEF and WHO has been trying to prevent the emergence of this disease and maintain the declaration status since 2012. During the year 2014, 3 Mop-up and 4 National Immunization Campaigns with Recreation Days were held covering all Lebanese districts, with 96% coverage achieved in the last campaign. Among the successful Recreation Days held across Lebanon, Riyadi Sports Club featured one of these events in collaboration with Beirut Municipality.

It is worth mentioning the important role NGOs are playing through their valuable contribution and the role of Beyond Association to cover the Syrians displaced all over Lebanon, including those at UNHCR Registration offices. In addition to the impact of the coordination with the Lebanese General Security to secure provision of mandatory vaccination services at border entry points (Masnaa, Bkayah, Aboudieh, Arida) and at the airport.



Table 1. National Immunization & Mop-up Campaigns for year 2014

| Month (Year 2014) | Type of Campaign | Target Reached | Proportion of Syrian and other nationalities among the total vaccinated children |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| March | National Immunization Campaign | 84% | 46% |
| April* | National Immunization Campaign | 94% (Polio) 80% (MR) | 52% |
| July | Mop-up Campaign | 78% | 55% |
| August | Mop-up Campaign | 80% | 54% |
| September | Mop-up Campaign | 87% | 72% |
| October | National Immunization Campaign | 91% | 48% |
| November | National Immunization Campaign | 96% | 45% |

* On April 2014, the National Immunization Campaign targeted immunization against Polio, Measles and Rubella (MR). While the rest targeted immunization against polio only.

Table 2. Number of vaccinated children during 2014

| | Polio | Measles [^] | Total # of vaccinated children |
|--|---------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| At Registration offices (MoPH & UNHCR) | | | |
| Beirut/ Mount Lebanon* | 11110 | 14744 | 18665 |
| Tripoli | 58110 | 127719 | 140437 |
| Zahle | 87908 | 133848 | 144034 |
| Tyre | 24594 | 41025 | 50838 |
| Total | 181722 | 317336 | 353974 |
| At Border Check Points | | | |
| Abboudieh/ North | 16217 | 4221 | 17913 |
| Aarida/ North | 12873 | 3181 | 14094 |
| Bkayah/North | 8917 | 4817 | 12896 |
| Masnaa/ Bekaa | 41819 | 21208 | 53406 |
| Airport [~] | 53623 | - | - |
| Total | 133449 | 33427 | 98309 |

* Vaccination at registration offices in Beirut/Mount Lebanon was initiated in February 2014.

[^] Measles vaccination at border check points was initiated in April 2014.

[~] Vaccination at the Airport was initiated in July 2014.

Universal Health Coverage

During the last trimester of 2014, MoPH and in line with the strategic directions of the Health System in Lebanon embarked on a project with the support of World Bank in a step towards achieving "Universal Health Coverage" in Lebanon. The objective of this project is to restore access to essential health care services for poor Lebanese individuals that have been affected by the influx of Syrian refugees to Lebanon. An essential health care package (EHCP), developed by the Department of Family Medicine at AUBMC, will be provided to the eligible beneficiaries of the National Poverty Targeting Program (NPTP) living in areas most affected by the crisis. Delivery of this package will be facilitated through the MoPH Network of PHC centers and Outpatient Departments (OPD) of public hospitals.

Integration of Non-Communicable Diseases within PHC services

In 2012, a joint initiative with WHO was launched for the integration of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) program, which was then included as a sustainable service into the package of the health care services provided by selected PHC centers across Lebanon. The program started with 26 PHC centers by 2012 and reached 124 centers by year 2014. The program aims at the early detection of diabetes, hypertension, and dyslipidemia and the risk assessment of cardiovascular diseases by screening visitors who are 40 years and above to these PHC centers. It further aims at disease prevention, health awareness promotion, management, and surveillance. To ensure continuity, NCD trainings and refresher sessions were organized for year 2014 and will continue throughout 2015 for health care providers from different regions across Lebanon.



Diabetes Awareness Day

"Diabetes Awareness Day" was held on October 23rd at Saida Municipality in collaboration with Patient Awareness Care and Treatment (PACT). This public event aimed at increasing awareness about the importance of screening and prevention of non-communicable diseases through a healthy diet



and lifestyle change. It was a starting point to schedule similar activities throughout PHC network during 2015.

Conflict Reduction through Improving Health Care Services for the Vulnerable Population in Lebanon

In July 2014, MoPH formally launched the project, "Conflict Reduction through Improving Healthcare Services for the vulnerable population in Lebanon" to help reduce tensions between Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese host communities who are using the Lebanese public healthcare system. The project, which is implemented under the leadership of MoPH and funded by the European Union's Instrument for Stability (IFS), aims to strengthen the public healthcare system's capacity to manage communicable diseases and to improve primary healthcare services (including the provision of vaccines and medications) to vulnerable populations across Lebanon using a conflict sensitive approach. This project is implemented by UNHCR, in partnership with the WHO, UNICEF, IRD, and International Alert.

Training Workshop for PHC's Nursing Staff

Over a 3 month period extending from October to December 2014, 225 nurses from PHC centers across Lebanon were trained through a project implemented by the Order of Nurses in Lebanon and funded through UNICEF. This workshop aimed at enforcing the Nurse's essential role in health care practices, patient education and public awareness through tackling 3 topics, including: Infection Control



and Vaccination, Professional Issues, and Health Assessment. Similar activities will follow during 2015.

Cold Chain Training Initiative

By the end of year 2008, Lebanon was granted an International Cold Chain Certification award from WHO and UNICEF, becoming among the 5 countries worldwide to hold this certification. In November 2014, MoPH in collaboration with UNICEF under IFS project launched the first phase of training to ensure safe storage and handling of vaccines at the districts level. This training targeted 15 Logistic Officers from 15 Qadas to train them on the installation and maintenance of solar system refrigerators in PHC centers. The remaining Qadas will be targeted during 2015.

