World Health Day 2018

Libya celebrated World Health Day 2018 by holding a seminar at Tripoli University Hospital on ‘Universal health coverage: everyone, everywhere’, this year’s theme. It was organized jointly by WHO, the Ministry of Health, the National Centre for Diseases Control and the University of Tripoli.

Health Sector Coordination

A health sector meeting was organized on 10 April 2018 where extensive Nexus discussion with ECHO was the main agenda of the meeting, aiming to provide health sector inputs regarding restoration of sustainable access to essential health care in Libya that was presented in the Nexus workshop held in Brussels in 19 April 2018.
CCS Italia, Handicap International, MSF France, ICRC, UNFPA, IOM, Italian Cooperation, EU, ECHO and USAID. The main discussed topics were related to 4Ws report and the major gaps in health sector, the update on current and planned health emergency intervention to Tawergha IDPs and the update on the Nexus workshop in Brussels on 19 April 2018.

**Multi-Agency Assessment**

On 10 and 11 April, WHO participated in UN multiagency field mission to Tawergha city and Qararat Al-Qatef. The objectives were as follow: to meet with authorities in Bani Walid and Misrata; establish direct communication with the main stakeholders and present HCT position and the basic principle for safe and dignified return; assess the situation in Qararat Al Qatef and the Tawergha city. In Qararat Al-Qatef, the WHO supported makeshift clinic was visited by HCT team and also the Head of Local Council for Tawergha. The clinic provides medical services to 70 patients in average every day, and reports the status of important communicable and non-communicable diseases in an electronic platform on daily basis. The visit of Tawergha city affirmed that the damage to the health system is beyond repair so that it should be rebuild as the facilities are destroyed and the equipment are looted. This finding has already been reported in WHO initial assessment in early February 2018.

**Primary Health Care**

WHO continues the support of the mobile medical teams deployed to Qararat Al Qatef settlement, under the DFID fund. During April 2018, 546 Tawargha IDPs benefited from primary health care services through the makeshift clinic established since February 2018.

In April 2018, International Medical Corps (IMC) conducted activities in primary health care and provided referrals for patients under two different grants funded by OFDA and UNHCR. In April 2018, IMC delivered primary health care services to 3710 migrants in ten detention centers in 7 districts. IMC provides medical care in the two static community development centers located in Tripoli, Tajoura, Zawiyah and Misurata. For IDPs, IMC mobile medical teams provide medical care within the local polyclinics and inside the IDP camps for the host communities and IDPs in Tripoli, Misurata and Sabha.

**Specialized Health Care**

The World Health Organization financially supported a 4-week visit of a team of Pediatric cardiac surgery specialists to Libya in the time where no cardiac surgery services for children are available in the whole country. This team (Novick Cardiac Alliance) arrived on 25th March 2018 to Tobruk Medical Center, examined three hundred and forty seven (347) children from all over the country and including non-Libyans. The team performed life-saving heart surgeries for thirty four (34) children during this visit. This visit also included capacity building of the National health workers in the field.
Mobile medical teams supported by WHO, with the fund of France Government, continues for the sixth month in Ghat hospital with a team of specialized doctors from Ministry of Health. In April 2018, 876 people benefited from secondary and tertiary health care in Gynecology/Obstetrics, paediatrics and internal medicine.

**Reproductive Health Care**

In order to improve the accessibility to CEmONC and BeMONC including safe delivery and antenatal services for IDPs, non-displaced people, returnees, migrants and refugees in hard to reach areas in the south of Libya (Ubari), The Tripoli Crisis Management Team ensured the deployment of a mobile team in Fjij, Bint Baya and Khlf.

**Provision of Medicines, Supplies and Equipment**

With the financial support of ECHO, WHO delivered on 10 April 2018 two mobile medical clinics in the East of Libya to address the health needs of displaced populations. Furthermore, WHO provided forty-two thousand (42,000) blood bags to the blood transfusion centers in East Libya.

In partnership with National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and the Medical Supply Organization, UNFPA has continued supporting lifesaving emergency reproductive and maternal health services in 25 hospitals and primary health care centers, by the provision of Emergency Reproductive Health kits, responding to the needs of 6441 women of reproductive age over the month of April 2018.

**Assistance to persons with Disabilities:**

Handicap International outreach teams identified and assisted 319 persons with physical disabilities by the provision of Home-based physical therapy, guidance and PSS. Among them, 184 persons were referred to external health and rehabilitation services. Furthermore, 26 persons with physical disabilities were identified and assisted by the provision of assistive devices.

**Control of Communicable Diseases**

Ministry of Health, NCDC in partnership with WHO, UNHCR, IOM, IMC and STACO conducted lifesaving immunization campaign targeting children under 5 years in 5 detention centers in Tripoli.

WHO collaborated with the NCDC to respond to Measles outbreak in Al Gatroom by strengthening surveillance activities and search for more cases, conducting Measles awareness workshop targeting clinicians and healthcare workers, conducting measles/Vitamin A Supplementary Immunization Activities in the affected area and mass communication informing the population of the outbreak, risks and implications of contracting measles, and the need to take measles vaccine for individual protection to stop the outbreak. In addition, WHO national staff followed up the situation for further intervention.
Capacity Building

Workshop to install the WHO model system for computer-assisted drugs registration

As part of the European Union-funded Strengthening Health Information System and Medicines Supply Chain Management (SHAMS) project in Libya, WHO has conducted a workshop for the Pharmacy Administration, Libya’s drug regulatory authority, based in the Ministry of Health, to set up SIAMED, the WHO model system for computer-assisted drug registration. This was undertaken over a 10-day course held in Tripoli between 25 March and 6 April 2018. The main objective of SIAMED is to improve the efficiency of drug regulatory authorities, enabling them to assure that marketing authorizations are consistent with their national drug policy.

Review meeting of Libya Polio/Measles program

Review meeting of Libya Polio/Measles program activities was conducted from 3 to 6 April 2018 in Tunis, with the participation of 25 staff from Libya NCDC, WHO, IOM and UNICEF. The overall goal of the workshop was to review 2017 Measles surveillance road map implementation plan and EPI performance on the focus of improving the quality of AFP surveillance. This include integration and harmonization of EPI/ PEI activities in light of Global Polio Endgame. At the end, the participants reviewed 2017 polio and measles programs activities and assessed the strength and gaps in the program and have agreed to enhance the integration of PEI and Measles elimination road map plan.

PSS and Guidance to Caregivers

During April 2018, Handicap International provided individualized PSS and guidance for 350 caregivers on how to more effectively care for persons with disability and/or injuries.