“Support to the emergency/critical care services and maternal and child health in Duhok governorate”
(2016 -2018)

Funded by the European Union
EU Regional Trust Fund 'MADAD'

Implemented by
Duhok Directorate General of Health

Mدد" : الصندوق الانتماني الأوربي
DUHOK PROVINCE
KURDISTAN REGION OF IRAQ

“Iraq suffered from the effects of the Syrian crisis. With the Syrian war lasting for years, the inner Iraqi tensions, weaknesses and frictions increased and amplified the problems. Over one million IDPs and refugees have sought safety in the three Kurdish governorates since the start of the crisis. Close to 30% of Iraqi IDPs and nearly all of the 250,000 Syrian refugees in the country are living in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Pressures on local services, including schools, WASH, solid waste management, health facilities and competition for jobs have increased each year since 2013, contributing to a sharp decline in living standards across the three governorates.”

“Duhok is one of the smallest governorates in Iraq, yet hosts one of the largest displaced populations.”

Humanitarian Response Plan 2018

2013

TOTAL POPULATION in Duhok: 1,336,994

2017

TOTAL POPULATION: 2,151,326
HOST COMMUNITY: 1,511,858
IDPs (INSIDE and OUTSIDE CAMPS): 562,296
REFUGEES (INSIDE and OUTSIDE CAMPS): 77,172

OVER 50% OF THE POPULATION IS UNDER 18

The on-going crisis in Syria and Iraq is preventing IDPs and refugees to return. A UN survey (2017) suggests that 73% of IDPs and refugees do not intend to return home even after stability and peace are restored.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HEALTH STATISTICS</th>
<th>2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visits to health facilities</td>
<td>4,200,264</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hospital admissions</td>
<td>165,061</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lab tests</td>
<td>7,445,078</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total number of registered births</td>
<td>48,274</td>
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</table>
AISPO NGO in Duhok
AISPO is an Italian NGO dedicated to improving vulnerable health situations. From the beginning of its mission in the North of Iraq in 2013, AISPO has operated through independent needs’ assessments, implementing activities in order to meet the healthcare needs of Syrian refugees, IDPs and the host population, in strong partnership with Duhok Directorate General of Health.

PROJECT OVERVIEW
Project title: Support to the emergency/critical care services and maternal and child health in Duhok Governorate
Duration: 24 months (September 2016 – September 2018)
Total cost of the action: € 5,927,303.52
Objectives
1. Reinforce Mother and Child Health Services in selected health centers and in Maternity and Hevi Pediatric Hospitals (tertiary level)
2. Reinforce Medical Emergency Response in Akre Emergency Hospital (secondary level) and Duhok Emergency and Trauma Hospital (tertiary level)

PROJECT STRATEGY
The action aims at increasing access to quality and equitable health care for refugees and impacted local populations through strengthening the health system and capacities by improving infrastructure, medical equipment and quality of care.

THE PROJECT AT A GLANCE
• New surgical block, 4 operating theatres, at Akre Emergency Hospital
• New Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, 25 beds, at Duhok Maternity Hospital (co-financed by WHO)
• New surgical unit, 3 operating theatres, 50 beds in the medical and surgical unit, renovation of the Emergency Department and supply of an Oxygen Factory at Hevi Pediatric Teaching Hospital
• New surgical block, 3 operating theatres, at Duhok Emergency and Trauma Teaching Hospital
• Light renovation and furniture for 50 Primary Health Care Centers (in host community, IDP camps and Syrian refugee camps)
**Akre Emergency Hospital**

Located at the center of Akre city, in Akre district, established in 1953 and renovated several times, the hospital provides with its 75 beds 24/7 emergency health care, in addition to obstetric and delivery services. It serves more than 410,000 individuals, including: 87,000 IDPs and 16,000 Syrian refugees.

1 functional Operating Theatre built in 1995 was active for 5-10 emergency operations and 3-7 caesarean sections per day. This operating block did not cope with the demand and was not able to guarantee an adequate quality of care.
**Action:**
In consultation with DGOH-Duhok, a plan was developed for the physical expansion and the equipment of a **New Operating Block (about 600 sqm):**

- Dressing room
- Pre-anesthesia and post recovery room
- Sterilization
- 1 surgical block with 4 operating theatres, two of which have been equipped
- Link to the main hospital
Duhok Maternity Hospital – Neonatal ICU

The hospital is the only tertiary centre in Duhok Governorate that receives referrals of difficult pregnancies from all the other districts, which increases the risks of morbidities and mortality among newborns and their need to be admitted to a Neonatal ICU.

Over half of the deliveries registered in the Governorate occur in this hospital, according to Duhok Maternity Hospital official data. The daily birth rate is 60-100 babies/day, i.e. about 20,000 births per year, with around 2,000 premature babies per year (WHO estimates 1 in 10 infants is premature globally).

Due to the limited available space per incubator, putting more than a newborn in a single incubator was a common practice, leading to high rate of cross infections and deaths.
**Action:**

- Develop a general Master Plan
- Develop detailed plans for renovation and expansion works for the targeted areas
- Prepare the list of needed medical equipment
- Provide technical assistance to the staff
INAUGURATION: DECEMBER 2017
Hevi Pediatric Teaching Hospital

Over 40% of the population in Duhok Province is under 14. Hevi Pediatric Teaching Hospital is the only third level pediatric hospital in Duhok Province. In order to cope with the daily load and maintain quality services and free access to IDPs, refugees and host community priority was given to plan, expand and renovate the Hospital.
DECEMBER 2017 – MAY 2018 (IN PROGRESS)

Action:
Expansion and renovation works for a total of 1,300 sqm:
- A new surgical unit, with 3 operating theatres
- A new medical ward with 40 beds, a new surgical ward adding 10 beds
- Reorganization of the Emergency Department and ambulance area
- Supply of medical equipment and medical furniture
- Supply of an Oxygen Factory at Hevi Pediatric Hospital
Duhok Emergency and Trauma Hospital

Action:

- Renovation of an existing surgical unit, with **2 operating theatres**, at Duhok Emergency and Trauma Hospital (in progress)
- Supply of medical equipment
Light renovation of 50 selected Primary Health Centers

NOVEMBER 2017 – MAY 2018 (IN PROGRESS)

Light renovation, maintenance and medical furniture for Primary Health Care Centres in the districts
Training and technical assistance to the health personnel

Training of health staff in collaboration with the local counterpart
More than 40 trainers and 800 trainees trained in 2 years
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