

PHC IN ACTION

Official Newsletter of The Primary Health Care
Department at the Ministry of Public Health,
Lebanon



WORLD DIABETES DAY

November 14th marks the largest diabetes awareness campaign, World Diabetes Day (WDD). According to the International Diabetes Foundation, despite the global efforts towards early detection, one in two individuals living with diabetes are not adequately diagnosed. This necessitates a stronger commitment and partnerships of health systems to tackle this global public health issue. This is when and where Primary Healthcare Centers build on their ties with their surrounding communities to spread awareness on this silent killer and help people tackle its risk factors, mitigate its effects and decrease its growing burden.

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WORLD DIABETES DAY IN LEBANON

In Lebanon, a partnership was established between the World Diabetes Fund (WDF) and the PHC Department at the Ministry of Public Health. This partnership was commemorated by a symbolic planting of a cedar tree in the name of the WDF, Unicef, and the PHC Department to showcase an ever lasting commitment and resilience. As part of this renewed partnership, all entities involved will support the existing Non Communicable Disease (NCD) program at the MOPH in an effort to optimize the detection of new diabetes cases and reduce the burden of this disease on its patients. WDF also provided the PHC department with NCD screening kits which included a glucometer, respective testing strips and a blood pressure machine. The kits were distributed throughout the National PHC Network. All operations have been monitored by PHC field coordinators and NCD officers.

At the level of the PHCCs, several PHCCs supported their communities by increasing their knowledge and awareness through local Diabetes awareness campaigns. Some of the most prominent campaigns were offered by Salemtak PHCC in Akkar where the campaign provided free diabetes tests, free consultations with physicians and nutritionists; in addition to community awareness sessions.



Another successful campaign was offered in Ketermeya by Al-Sayer PHCC. The PHCC offered awareness sessions regarding the appropriate diet for people with diabetes and even offered attendees some healthy snacks and conducted a mental health support session that discussed living with diabetes. The feedback of these campaigns resonated well with their communities and made the people aware about the unique readiness and availability of PHCCs in supporting them and catering to their health needs in times of crises.



We salute all PHCCs that participated in the activities held on the World Diabetes Day and thank them for their relentless efforts in aiding their communities.

2022 TRAINING PLAN

The PHC department assessed the training needs of the PHCC staff during November 2021 with the aim of updating the training plan for 2022. A total of 784 participants in 250 centers across the National PHC Network filled the survey. Following data analysis, the following topics were identified as the top 5 training topics to be addressed in 2021.

Each of our PHCCs supporting partners received a tailored report of the training needs of their respective supported centers. It is the PHC Department's aim to cover the identified gaps via continuous education and capacity-building workshops with the support of our partners.

- 1 Leadership
- 2 Soft skills
(Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Email)
- 3 Quality and Accreditation
- 4 Effective communication
- 5 PHENICS training

PREPARING OUR PARTNERS FOR THE LPSP



With the approaching launching date of the Long term PHC Subsidization Protocol LPSP, IMC and PUI were two of the first international NGOs to venture into the capacity-building sessions. The sessions were led by experts in the PHC field and delivered high-quality training material, tailored to the needs and expectations of the audience. The latter were coached on the new health benefits packages developed under the LPSP, all the operational activities were further guided through the results framework. The coming milestone will focus on sensitizing Primary Healthcare Workers at nominated PHCCs on all the clinical guidelines and packages they will be delivering to their beneficiaries to optimize the quality of services at PHCCs.

RETROSPECT: A LOOK BACK AT 2021

IMMUNIZATION DROP-OUTS

 **2.3/10**
PENTA 3 DROP OUT RATE



TOP AREAS THAT NEED INTERVENTION:

AKKAR- BAALBEK- ZAHLE- MINNEH
DONIEH- BAABDA- TRIPOLI- ALEY-
TYRE- BEIRUT

MIDWIVES IMPACT ON REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

THE PRESENCE OF MIDWIVES SIGNIFICANTLY
INCREASED THE UPTAKE OF :

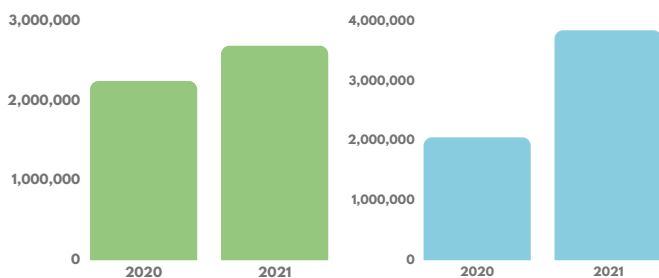


FAMILY PLANNING VISITS



CONTRACEPTIVES AND
DIFFERENT FAMILY PLANNING
METHODS

NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES AND SERVICES PROVIDED 2020 VS 2021



20%

INCREASE IN THE
NUMBER OF
BENEFICIARIES

87%

INCREASE IN THE
NUMBER OF SERVICES
PROVIDED

WAY FORWARD

In collaboration with UNICEF and LRC we have already started conducting targeted immunization interventions to the identified areas that have the highest rate of drop-outs.

The presence of midwives, provided by UNFPA, had a positive impact on the family planning service uptake. To be able to achieve goals 3 and 5 of the SDGs, the PHC department will be working towards a solid collaboration with its partners that ensures the continuity of this project and the enhancement of the quality of Reproductive Health services

Due to the expected increase in the utilization of primary healthcare services, the primary healthcare department's strategy is to expand the PHCC network by recruiting additional eligible centers in the most deprived areas

The PHC department is planning to continue collaborating with its partners, aiming at introducing new projects that enhance the centers abilities to serve the influx of beneficiaries and match the supply and demand

To new beginnings!

Indeed 2021 has been a challenging year, but with the support of our partners and all members of the Primary Healthcare Network, we managed to stand our ground and serve our people. Going into 2022, several challenges await us but we intend to strengthen our partnerships and make new ones, to be able to cater to the needs of all our beneficiaries.