

# SYRIA-IRAQ CRISIS UNIT

## NEWSLETTER



JULY-AUGUST  
2018



### Context



Few hundreds of [Syrian refugees returned to their country](#) from Lebanon, that hosts more than a million Syrian refugees, in convoys arranged by both governments, advancing an effort by Beirut to accelerate returns to areas where fighting has ended. Syrian state television reported that about 1,200 refugees were expected to cross back into the country from Lebanon before returning to their homes despite the UN warning that conditions for returns to Syria are not yet fulfilled.

Some 422 [volunteers and family members of the White Helmet](#) were taken to Jordan via the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights in July and were held in a restricted area of Jordan. They were assessed by the UN, pending resettlement in the UK and Canada.

[Idlib](#), which has been a haven for rebels and their families evacuated out of areas won back by the government, is bracing for a possible government assault. The battle Assad is expected to launch on Idlib will likely be one of the final showdowns against the embattled opposition, and possibly mark a bloody end to the civil war. The UN has expressed deep concern there could be a “humanitarian catastrophe”.



On July 8, waves of [mass protests](#) have engulfed several of Iraq’s southern governorates, spreading from Basra all the way to the capital, Baghdad. Protesters accused the government of failing to provide basic services, including electricity. Protests have spread to more Iraqi cities after a week of violent demonstrations in the oil-rich city of Basra where at least seven people were killed, dozens wounded, and hundreds arrested.

On August 10, Jordan was hit by [terrorist attacks](#) when assailants detonated a home-made bomb under a police car guarding a music festival in the predominantly Christian town of Fuheis, west of the capital of Amman, killing one police officer and wounding six others. The police traced the attackers in the nearby town of Al Salt. The suspects exploded parts of the building injuring at least 20 people including civilians. Four police officers were killed in the shootout, and two died later. Bodies of three suspected militants, who intended to attack security installations and other targets in the country, were pulled from the collapsed building, and five other suspects are now in custody.



# Our TEAMS in Action

## Jordan Mission

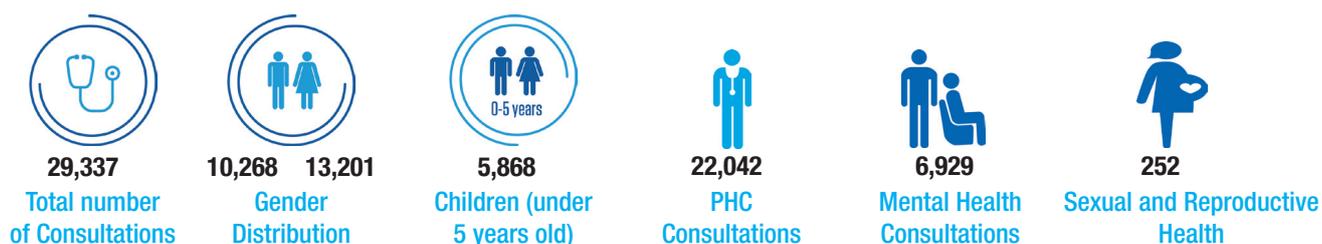
No major events occurred in Jordan on the political or social side. However, Jordanian and Lebanese authorities are increasing pressure on the **Syrian refugees to return** to their country, which is largely disregarded by the international community. Following the reduction of health cost cover for refugees by the public system in Jordan, international NGOs started releasing data and figures on the consequences on livelihood and access to health, confirming the predictions of a serious loss in financial means and thus a reduced access to health, particularly for the people suffering from NCDs (non-communicable disease). The WHO (World Health Organization) is also launching a similar survey at region level.

The submitted consortium project focusing on mental health for MdM still awaits feedback from the donor. The project offering targeted and specialized range of Trainings of Trainers for the health actors in Jordan was finalized and **opportunities for funding are being explored**, mostly targeting private foundations.

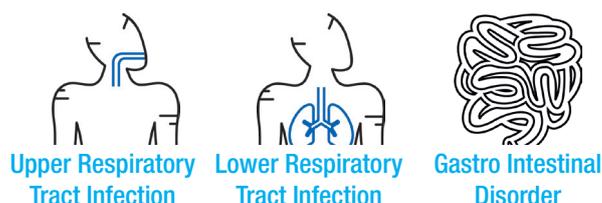
## Syria Mission

In July, the teams responded to Government of Syria **offensive in Dara'a**, through continuous support to health facilities and mobile units to respond to the needs of the population affected. In August, the mission completed **rehabilitation of 3 health facilities** in northern **Idlib** in order to increase patients privacy and space for the provision of psychosocial support services.

### July 2018 Indicators (North West Syria only)



### 3 main morbidities



## Lebanon Mission

Following the May elections, the period was marked by the turbulent process of the new government forming, not yet achieved end of August. Meanwhile, the **tension between some high Lebanese officials and the UNHCR** related to the refugees' return has been increasing. The Lebanese Humanitarian INGO Forum (LHIF) -of which MDM is member- prepared a briefing paper on this topic to be used during top donor meeting on Syria which was held in Amman on the 3rd and 4th of September.

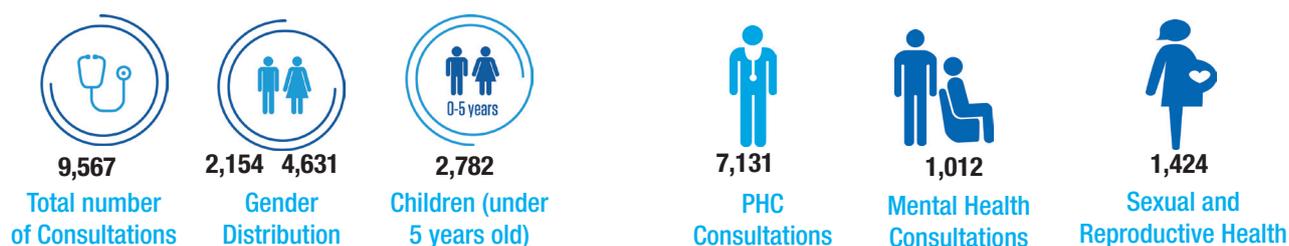
The Lebanon mission teams continued its support to the **5 Primary Health Care Centers (PHCC)** and increase again their efforts on the management of the community mental health center, located in Rafic Hariri University Hospital, in Beirut. Following discussions with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and in line with the new strategic directions of the Lebanon mission, an assessment was conducted by the mental health team to make decision about the most relevant location to develop a new community mental health center.



Staff members performing plays to present the different departments' activities

In June, the mission organized a **team-building day** in Tanaayel domain, a farm that pioneers sustainable agriculture in the regiDon and in Lebanon, and managed by Arcenciel, a Lebanese NGO. Activities of the day included the visit of the sorting center for recyclable waste, that led to initiatives aiming to organize better the recycling process at the office.

### July 2018 Indicators



### 3 main morbidities



## Iraq Mission

During the months of July and August, MdM did not waver in its commitment to **improving access to quality and consistent healthcare for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and host communities** in areas affected by displacement, by strengthening existing public healthcare facilities. As such, support activities including capacity building of local medical staff and provision of essential medical supplies persisted in MdM-supported primary healthcare centers (PHCC) in the governorates of Dohuk, Ninewa and Kirkuk, northern Iraq.

### Support Activities launched in Degure PHCC

On July 23, MdM launched support activities in the Degure PHCC, northern Sinjar. Current activities include **capacity building and on-the-job training** of local medical staff, as well as the **provision of medical supplies** to the PHCC. MdM's overall goal is to provide local staff with the tools and capacity necessary to effectively respond to the needs of returnees (previously displaced persons) in the area, who drastically lack access to healthcare.

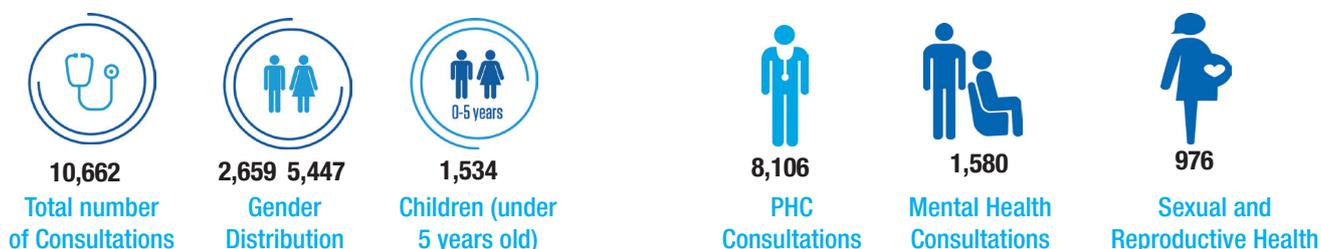
On August 12, the **PHCC was successfully inaugurated** in the presence of MdM Field Coordinator, local medical staff and authorities from the district's DoH (Directorate of Health).



### Rehabilitation of the Mahmoodiyah PHCC

MdM undertook **rehabilitation of the Mahmoodiyah PHCC in Hawija District, Kirkuk**, which was left in deplorable conditions after being used for months as an outpost for the Federal Police. Phase 1 of the rehabilitation project was successfully completed earlier this month, while phase 2, which includes restoring electricity supply to the structure, is currently ongoing. The rehabilitation process will culminate with a donation of medical and logistical supplies to the PHCC during Phase 3. Once fully rehabilitated, the local Health Facility Team will fully undertake all support activities, including further needs assessments, training plans, and provision of primary healthcare services.

#### July 2018 Indicators



#### 3 main morbidities



What's new on [mdm-me.org](http://mdm-me.org)



### Testimony from Iraq: Forgetting the atrocities we experienced is impossible

**Shames and Shirin** have been living in Chamesko camp, Northern Iraq, for four years. They are part of the Yazidi community who **were forced to flee the atrocities perpetrated by ISIS** (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant/ al-Sham) in 2014.

Full testimony: <http://bitly.com/2PnYTZh>

New Album from Northern Iraq **Chamesko Camp** is now on Our website

Album link: <https://bit.ly/2Q0gxmV>



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