Syrian Refugee Health in Jordan and Turkey

Eleanor Franks

Global Health Panel
Health Care and Refugee Policy in Turkey

- Ministry of Health regulates healthcare and social welfare with the aid of organizations such as The Red Crescent during times of conflict or natural disasters.

- Majority of asylum seekers are placed under temporary protection with goal of resettlement elsewhere.
Legal Status Limits Access to Health Care

**Turkey:** 50% of refugees unregistered. Limited access to care outside of camps (Amnesty International/Brookings)

**Lebanon:** 30-70% unable to access health care for fear of arrest at a checkpoint (Norwegian Refugee Council)

**Iraq:** Registered refugees access healthcare (UNHCR)

**Jordan:** Residency requirement limits location where refugees access care (UNHCR/MOH)
Health Care and Refugee Policy in Jordan

- 1998 Memorandum of Understanding between Jordan and the UNHCR
- They are not a part of the 1951 Convention on Refugees or its 1967 Protocol
Prevalent Issues in Turkey

- Focus on trauma care leaves people unable to attain adequate primary care
- Increase in Infectious and Chronic diseases
Prevalent Issues in Jordan

- Lack of education
- Higher percentage of crude birth rates
- Strains on water supply
Services Offered Now in Turkey

- Social Integration Support: work permits, temporary education centers
- Initial creation of 25 refugee camps by Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management Authority of Turkey’s Prime Ministry and the Turkish Red Crescent
Services Offered Now in Jordan

- Focus on selective health issues such as vaccinations, sanitation, and primary health care
Future Aims

- stabilize healthcare systems & establish ways to track and monitor health of refugees stuck in temporary asylum
- assess and temporarily license trained Syrian health professionals to care for refugee patients


Hannon, Mohammad. *Times of Israel*, Associated Press. 8 Jan 2013


