UNHCR / E. Byun

# Annual Referral Health Care Report 2017

A summary report for secondary and tertiary health care provided to Syrian refugees in Lebanon in 2017

# OVERVIEW

Secondary and tertiary health care institutions in Lebanon are mostly private and cost is a significant barrier to access. UNHCR has put in place Guidelines for Referral Health Care in Lebanon and standard operating procedures (SOP) to support access to life saving and obstetric care and to manage the costs of care. The costs covered by UNHCR vary according to the type of service provided and the vulnerability status of the refugee.

Additionally, UNHCR contracts a third party administrator (TPA) to manage and audit referral care processes and costs.

In December 2017, **997,552** Syrian refugees and **20,500** refugees from other countries were registered with UNHCR. However, the referral care programme also supports access to life saving and obstetric care for unregistered refugees.

- The total number of approved referrals increased from **73,951** in 2016 to **82,894** in 2017. This is an increase of **12%**.
- In January 2017 the UNHCR network consisted of **50** hospitals. By 1st of January 2018 the number had been rationalized to **40**. The majority (**77%**) of accepted referrals were treated in **20** hospitals.
- A high proportion (**59%**) of referrals were for maternity care which was an increase from **53%** in 2016.
- The proportion of births performed by caesarean section was **34%** in 2017, showing a slight increase when compared to **32%** in 2016.
- Out of the total annual approved referrals there were **845** mortalities, of which **58%** were in children under one year of age, predominantly in the perinatal period.
- TPA financial audit of hospital invoices led to a **5.8%** deduction of the overall total cost invoiced by hospitals.
- **35.1%** of total expenditure was spent on maternity care compared to **33.8%** in 2016.
- The average cost per referral was **642 USD** compared to **586 USD** in 2016.

## DATA

UNHCR, through the TPA, collected data on the coverage of hospital referrals. The data for accepted referrals included the diagnosis, care received, outcome and cost of the service.

## IN NUMBERS

**82,894** referrals were financially supported by UNHCR in 2017.

**76,911** beneficiaries had one or more referrals supported by UNHCR.

A monthly average of **6,908** referrals were supported by UNHCR.

**76%**
Proportion of referrals of female patients, reflecting the high proportion of obstetric care (**74%** in 2016).

**77%** of accepted referrals were covered in 20 hospitals.

**53.1 Million USD** was total UNHCR expenditure on referral care in 2017.

# SECTION 1: NUMBER OF REFERRALS

FIGURE 1: NUMBER OF REFERRALS PER MONTH JAN 2015 – DEC 2017

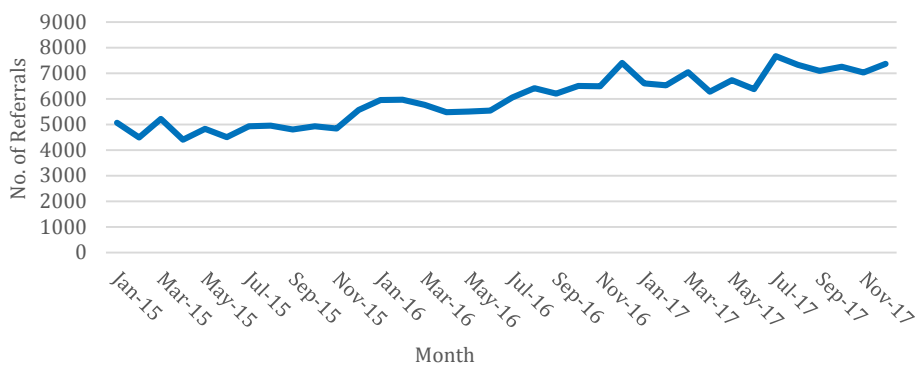



FIGURE 2: NUMBER OF REFERRALS PER MONTH BY COVERAGE STATUS in 2017

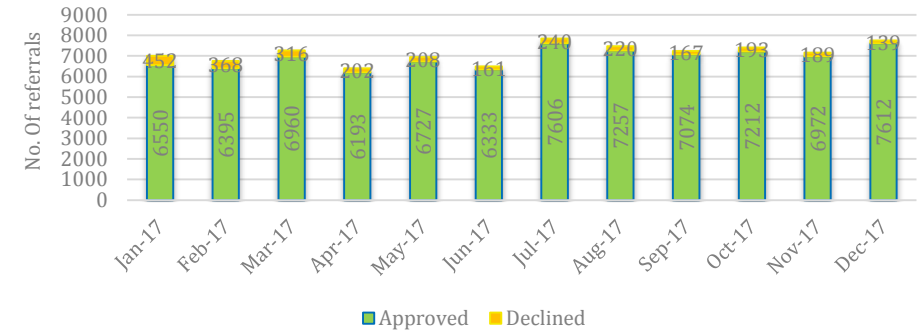
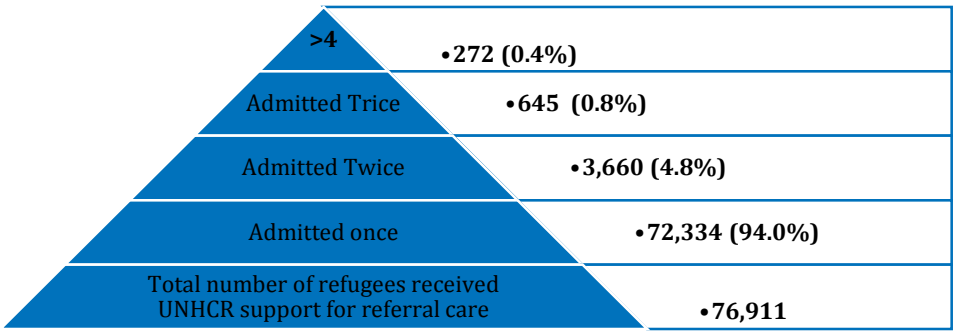



FIGURE 3: NUMBER OF REFUGEES SUPPORTED AND FREQUENCY OF ADMISSIONS PER REFUGEE




## Key Findings

Trend of increasing number of referrals since 2015 continues, however the increase between 2016 and 2017 was less when compared to 2015 and 2016.

**2,855** referrals were not approved.

**22 %**
Proportion of referrals of children <5 years of age (**24%** in 2016).

**5.9%** of these were referred twice or more.

FIGURE 4: REFERRALS BY SEX AND AGE GROUP

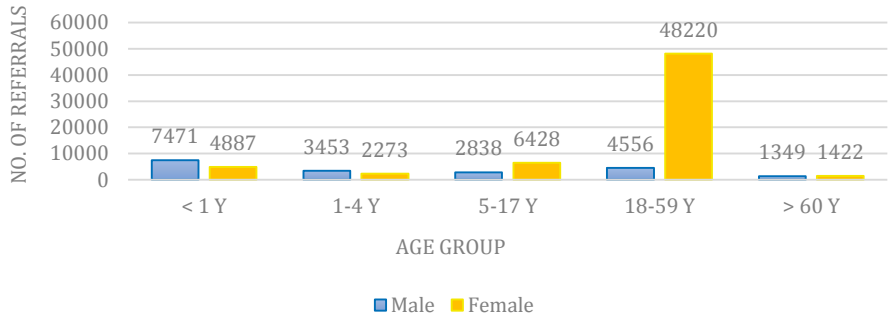



FIGURE 5: PROPORTION OF REFERRALS AT THE 20 MOST FREQUENTED CONTRACTED HOSPITALS

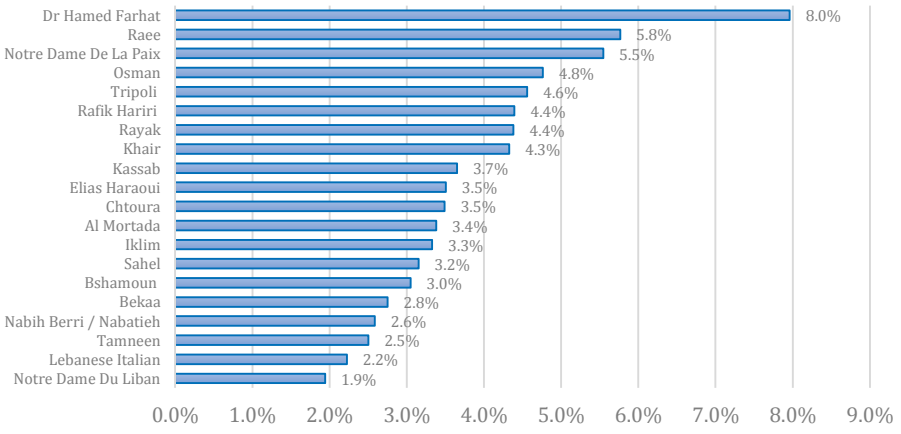
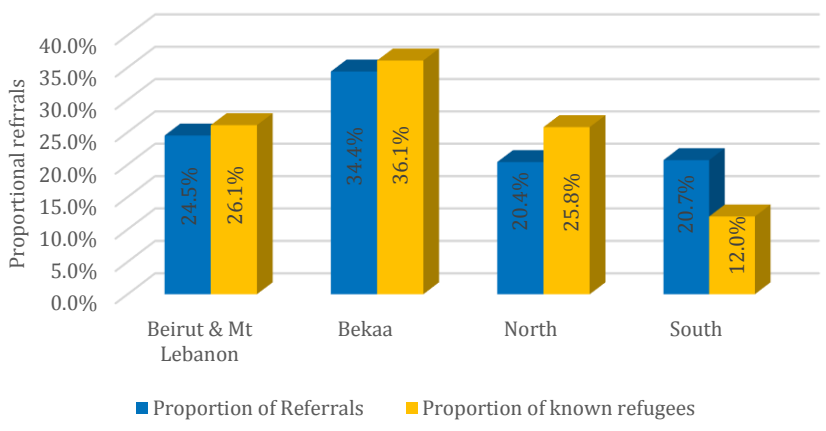



Figure 6: Referrals by region




## Key Findings

**59%** of accepted referrals were pregnancy related.

**76%**

Proportion of referrals of female patients, reflecting the high proportion of obstetric care (74% in 2016).

**24.4 years**

Mean age in years at admission for females (24.2 years in 2016).

**15.6 years**

Mean age in years at admission for males (16.2 years in 2016).

**77%**

Proportion of referrals covered in 20 hospitals (71% in 2016)

**550**

Number of referrals per month to Dr Hamed Farhat Hospital in the Bekaa.

# SECTION 2: REASON FOR REFERRALS

FIGURE 7: ICD-10 DIAGNOSTIC CATEGORY ON DISCHARGE, AS PROPORTION OF APPROVED REFERRALS (N=82,894)

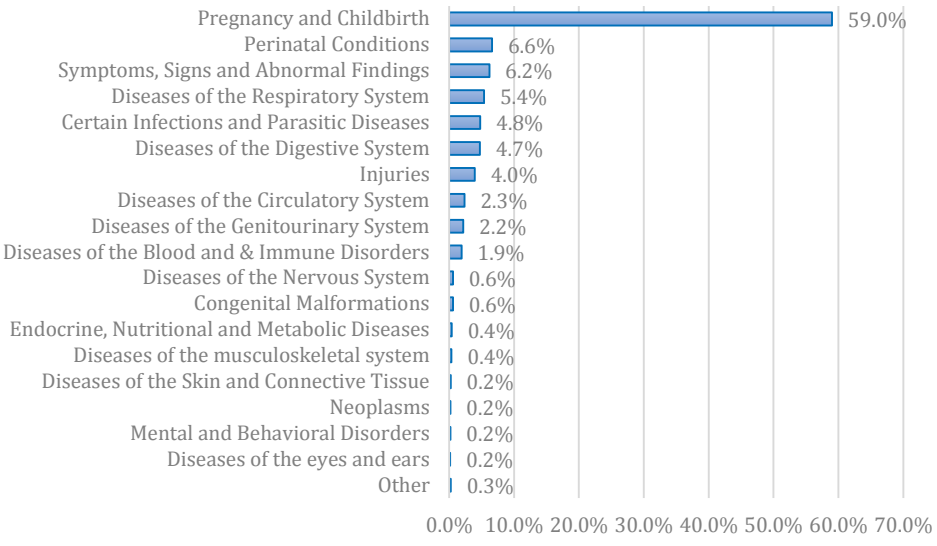



FIGURE 8: PROPORTION OF SPECIFIC DIAGNOSES WITHIN CATEGORIES

FIGURE 8.1: Pregnancy and Childbirth

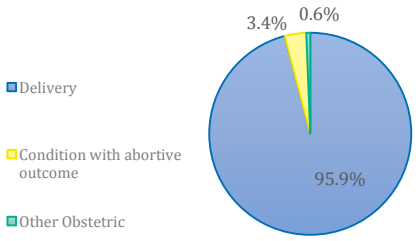



FIGURE 8.2: Respiratory Diseases

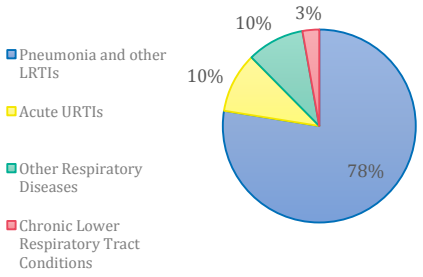



FIGURE 8.3: Symptoms Signs and Abnormal Findings

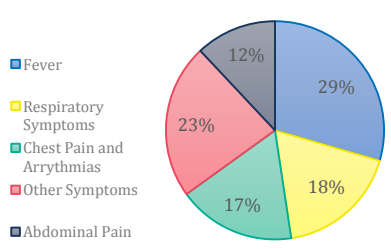
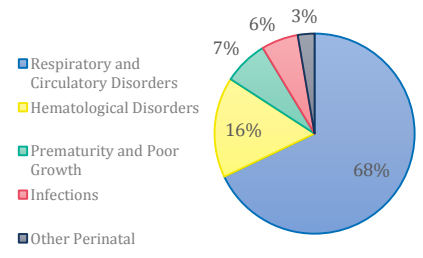



FIGURE 8.4: Perinatal Conditions




## Key Findings

**48,938 (59%)**

Number of accepted referrals requiring pregnancy related care (53% in 2016).

**46,397 (56%)**

Referrals for delivery (37,621/ 50.9% in 2016).

**33.8%**

Proportion of deliveries by caesarean section (32.3% in 2016).

# SECTION 3: MORTALITY

FIGURE 9: NUMBER OF DEATHS PER ICD-10 DIAGNOSTIC CATEGORY (N = 845)

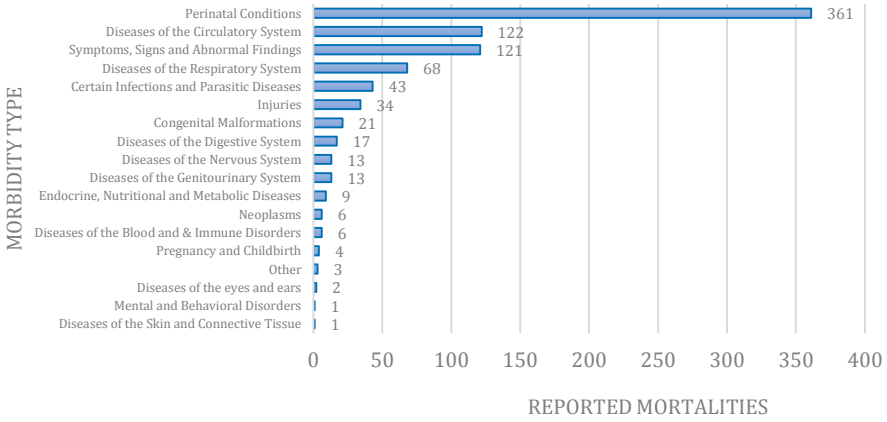



FIGURE 10: MORTALITIES DISTRIBUTION BY AGE AND SEX

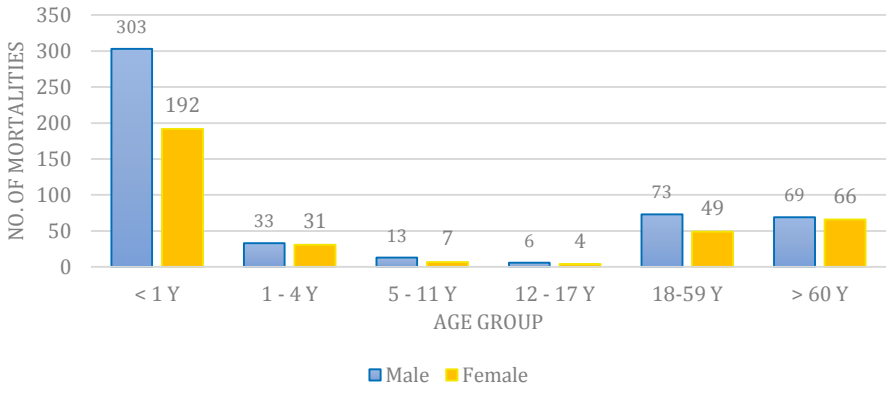
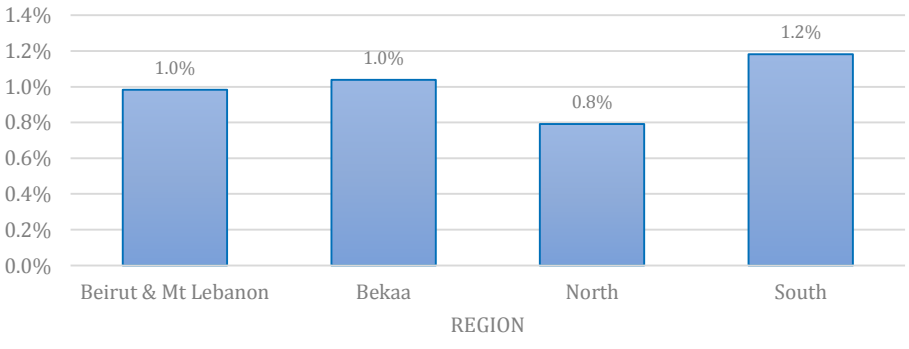



FIGURE 11: PROPORTIONAL MORTALITY PER REGION




## Key Findings

**1%**
Mortality (1.2 % in 2016).

**845** of 82,894 referrals died while hospitalized

**14%**
of deaths were due to cardiovascular disease (19% 2016).

**58%** of the 845 deaths were children under one (52% in 2016), mainly in the perinatal period of which 20% were attributed to prematurity.

**4***
Maternal mortalities in UNHCR supported deliveries (5 in 2016).

*The Vital Data Observatory of the Ministry of Public Health has recorded in total 14 maternal deaths (13 in 2016) for Syrians

# SECTION 4: FINANCE

FIGURE 12: PROPORTION OF COST PER ICD-10 DIAGNOSIS CATEGORY

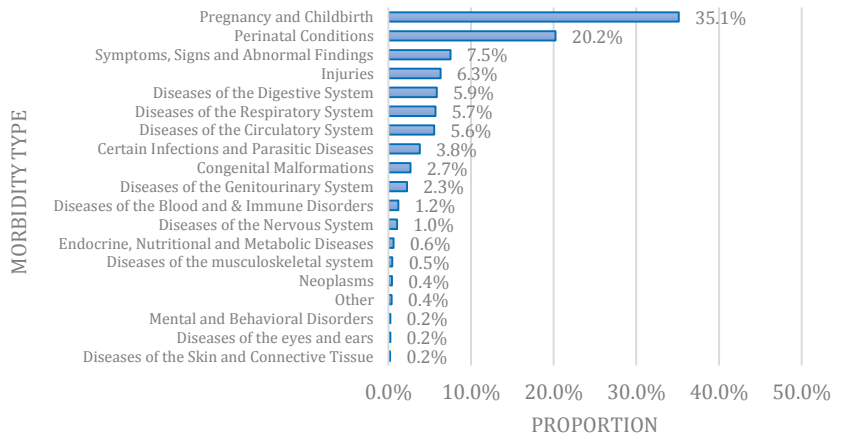



FIGURE 13: AVERAGE COST PER CASE PER ICD-10 DIAGNOSIS CATEGORIES (USD)

| ICD-10 Diagnosis Category | Average Cost per Case (USD) |
|---|---|
| Congenital Malformations | $3,058 |
| Perinatal Conditions | $1,963 |
| Neoplasms | $1,529 |
| Diseases of the Circulatory System | $1,523 |
| Diseases of the Nervous System | $1,179 |
| Injuries | $1,032 |
| Endocrine, Nutritional and Metabolic Diseases | $1,020 |
| Other | $999 |
| Diseases of the eyes and ears | $994 |
| Mental and Behavioral Disorders | $938 |
| Diseases of the musculoskeletal system | $876 |
| Diseases of the Digestive System | $794 |
| Symptoms, Signs and Abnormal Findings | $781 |
| Diseases of the Respiratory System | $680 |
| Diseases of the Genitourinary System | $667 |
| Diseases of the Skin and Connective Tissue | $637 |
| Certain Infections and Parasitic Diseases | $511 |
| Diseases of the Blood and & Immune Disorders | $405 |
| Pregnancy and Childbirth | $382 |

## Key Findings

**53.1 million USD**

Amount paid by UNHCR to hospitals.

**642 USD**

Average cost to UNHCR / case (586 in 2017).

**35.1%**

of expenditure was for maternity care which constitutes **59 %** of referrals. (Corresponding figures in 2016 were 33.8% and 53% respectively).

**20.2%**

of expenditure was for neonatal care which constitutes **6.6%** of the referrals. (Corresponding figures in 2016 were 20.5% and 6.1% respectively).