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### **THE REFUGEE CRISES AS A CURRENT HEALTH ISSUE IN TURKEY**

The number of refugees fleeing from the civil war in Syria to neighboring countries has exceeded 4 million. This number does not include more than 270,000 refugees in Europe and thousands of Syrians from the region accommodated in third countries. This number is expected to reach to around 4.27 million by the end of 2015. This situation is known to be the largest refugee crisis experienced on globe since World War II. The first haunt of migration wave was Turkey. Currently, Turkey is hosting about 45 percent (1,805,255) of Syrian refugees in the region.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports about the need existing for urgent international humanitarian aid for this refugee crisis. According to UNHCR, only 24 percent of such need could have been provided by June 2015. This situation constitutes an impediment for reaching food and urgent health care services provided for refugees themselves.

Tragically, the crisis becomes intense and the number of refugees increases, as ending the war in Syria does not seem as possible in its 5<sup>th</sup> year. The worsening situation causes increasing number of people to move towards Europe and further. Refugees who cannot get regular and effective health care services, and this turns into a health problem in these countries. And this heavy burden must directly shouldered by doctors.

There are several problems in the regulation and administration of health care services. Doctors are encountered with various health problems of children and pregnant women in particular, and are experiencing great difficulties. Problems about the migration dependent on civil war in Syria and health/health care services dependent on the migration keeps remaining on the agenda of Turkish Mediacal Association( TMA) and İMC. Studies carried out as required by TMA about the war were prepared in form of a report and sent to related institutions.

Because health care services for refugees are mostly intensified in camps, the situation is rather chaotic for those living out of camps. Outside of camps, the inefficacy of immunization services which are predominantly provided within camps, is seen, and as these service are only rendered when requested, it was observed that children are not been tracked in this respect. The living conditions and access to health care services of the refugees are prone to huge risks in terms of contagious diseases. For example, because Syrian babies and children out of camps are not vaccinated, they have been affected negatively from epidemic measles and became sick. A similar situation is expected for poliomyelitis, too.

The lack of a planned study of health care organizations drives the doctors working in the region to helplessness and despair. Then, the working hours of doctors have been extended to a great extent, and this extraordinary situation could not be overcome yet.

There is a need for an organized international cooperation and support in this issue. Not only refugees but also local residents and as always doctors pay the price for this.

In order for refugees to make use of health care services even at a minimum level, a more cooperated endeavor of both United Nations and also the countries in region by increasing the amount of resources is required. Also, it is clear that the best and the most indispensable health care aid for refugees is to end the war in Syria and Iraq immediately by international cooperation and peaceable politics.

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