

Treatment of malnutrition in Lebanon: institutionalisation within MOPH - Lessons learned from the Syria crisis - International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)

International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) started its nutrition programme in Lebanon in 2011, focusing on emergency preparedness that mainly involved capacity building activities for health care providers. From 2011 to 2014, as the number of refugees increased and cases of acute malnutrition started to appear, there was a need to provide case management. IOCC started providing treatment of malnutrition through primary health care centres in addition to contributing to capacity building of the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) staff.

The ensuing acute malnutrition treatment programme was implemented by IOCC with support from UNICEF and UNHCR and in partnership with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) in vulnerable localities in all six of Lebanon's governorates.

As of 2015, IOCC implemented a phase out of the program by contributing to institutionalisation of the management of acute malnutrition through:

- 1) training of trainers,
- 2) training of staff,
- 3) coaching and mentoring,
- 4) monitoring of implementation.

The program was accompanied by an IYCF component.

The poster session highlights the timeline of the program and emphasizes lessons learned that can be used for similar contexts (countries similar to Lebanon that have not experienced a high rate of acute malnutrition but are also not equipped to treat malnutrition in case of a nutritional emergency).