



Right to Work for the Migrant Doctors in Turkey

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Information about the Syrian refugees living in Turkey



Turkey has opened its doors to Syrians fleeing war in their country since 2012. Since then many people had come to Turkey. According to 2017 data 3,208,131 of them Syrians, 3,500,000 refugees from different countries, mostly from Irak and Afghanistan are living in Turkey.

About 5,000 doctors came to Turkey from Syria since 2012 and it is estimated that around 2,500 Syrian doctors are still in Turkey. There were special organizations for Syrians to enjoy the rights for health and working as a doctor.

Information about the Syrian refugees living in Turkey



There are **155.410** Syrians living in camps. These camps are in Adana, Adıyaman, Gaziantep, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Kilis, Malatya, Mardin, Osmaniye and Şanlıurfa provinces.

There are approximately 3.350.000 Syrians are living out of camps in every city in Turkey.

(The Ministry of Interior - Directorate General of Migration Management / reported on 8 November 2018)

Information about the Syrian refugees living in Turkey



PROVINCE	POPULATION OF SYRIANS	RATIO OF SYRIANS
İstanbul	559.104	3,72%
Şanlıurfa	461.847	23,26%
Hatay	439.642	27,91%
Gaziantep	411.567	20,52%
Adana	227.254	10,25%
Mersin	206.700	11,52%
Bursa	160.204	5,46%
İzmir	140.141	3,27%
Kilis	123.290	90,25%
Konya	102.469	4,70%

Information about the Syrian refugees living in Turkey



47.39% (1.703.665) of Syrians is under age 18. There are 284,000 Syrians in the age group 0-5. Increase in population is continuing and 90.000 new births were expected for every year.

Ten years from now, the number of Syrians in Turkey will reach 5 million with additional 1 million born in Turkey.

Up-to Date Information about Syrians' Right to Health



1.Period: 2011-2014

- Temporarily charged Turkish doctors
- International Health Organizations:
International Medical Corps

Up-to Date Information about Syrians' Right to Health



2 . Period: 2014-2016

“Circular No. 2014/4 on Services to Foreigners Under Temporary Protection” dated 18 December 2014 issued by the AFAD on the basis of **“Temporary Protection Regulations”** and the **“Directive No. 2875 on Health Services Delivered to Persons under Temporary Protection”** issued by the Ministry of Health and updated on 4 November 2015.

To be effective in places where they are registered, **Syrians are covered by the General Health Insurance (GHI) system according to the Law No. 5510 on Social Security and General Health Insurance.** According to this new arrangement social security contributions of Syrian migrants are paid by the Migration Administration.

Up-to Date Information about Syrians' Right to Health



Syrians are entitled to direct access to first step health services by registering with family medicine doctors with identity documents they were given.

As to second step health services, Syrian migrants can access these services with the GHI system and benefit from services of university hospitals and private health facilities only when referred to by second step services where costs can be covered by second step health facilities.

Up-to Date Information about Syrians' Right to Health



In the second period, Turkish doctors are mainly served for the Syrians.

Language and cultural differences were the main problems.

There was Translation services but they weren't sufficient.

Due to reasons like language problems, cultural differences, registered places of residence, etc. **Syrians may apply to Syrian doctors and healthcare workers working informally. It is known that there are many health facilities incorporated as “association”, Syrian doctors are working related with them.**

Up-to Date Information about Syrians' Right to Health



3.period: 2017-...

In cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) and Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), the Ministry of Health is engaged in projects and arrangements to ensure Syrians' access to health services by employing Syrian doctors and healthcare workers in both temporary refugee camps and in migrant health centres opened in places where there is a large number of migrants.

Up-to Date Information about Syrians' Right to Health



One of these projects, **“Enhancing the Capacity of Syrian Health Workers within the Turkish Health System and Supporting Culture-Sensitive Service Delivery to their Population: Establishment and Administration of Migrant Health Centres”** is carried out by Provincial Health Directorates in provinces with high number of Syrians with the support of United Nations and WHO.

The project envisages

- 1) Training at these centres 300 Syrian doctors and 300 Syrian nurses for a period of 6 weeks and their employment at centres after training**
- 2) Delivering first step health services to Syrian migrants at Migrant Health Training Centres in four provinces.**

Up-to Date Information about Syrians' Right to Health



«MIGRANT HEALTH CENTRES»

4 Education Centers for doctors and other healthcare workers (nurses)

170 Migrant Health services in 10 provinces

790 Health Units (1 doctor/1 nurse /unit)

Strengthen Migrant Health centers

(Includes Pediatrics, Gynecology)

161 doctors and 214 other health workers majority of whom are Syrians in health centres in the camps

Steps of Enhancing the Capacity of Syrian Health Workers within the Turkish Health System



- 1 week orientation education,
- 5 weeks working with the Turkish doctors,
- Proficiency examination,
- Security investigation,
- Obtaining work permit,
- Sortition of working place,

Collaboration Problems between TMA, Ministry of Health and AFAD



No collaboration between TMA and Ministry of Health on equivalence statute

No obligation for being the membership of the medical chambers of provinces for the Syrian doctors

Collaboration Problems between TMA, Ministry of Health and AFAD



From the beginning of the war on 2012, TMA officially asked permission from both AFAD (Disaster and Emergency Management Authority) and Ministry of Health to visit the camps and then the Migrant Health Centers, but had been refused or couldn't get any answer.

TMA asked participants from AFAD and Ministry of Health for the workshop it held about the migration, but no one attended.

TMA couldn't get any answer when asked to visit the Syrian doctors



Position of WHO

AFAD and Health Ministry was always in collaboration with WHO.

WHO is the main actor in establishing Migrant Health Centers.

WHO didn't collaborated with TMA

- on dealing with Syrians access to health services,
- on the employment of the Syrian doctors.



Conclusion

We are sceptical about the efficiency of 1 week theoretical, 5 weeks practical education.

We couldn't have obtained any information about the quality of health service given in migrant health centers.

The health service presented to the Syrians in the Migrant Health Services must be guaranteed as same quality as to Turkish people have in Turkey.

TMA is ready for the collaboration

TMA Workshop on War, Migration and Health, 28 Oct. 2017

Türk Tabipleri Birliđi
Savaş, Göç ve Sađlık Çalıřtayı
28 Ekim 2017



TMA Workshop on War Migration and Health



Titles:

Up-to Date Information About Syrians' Right to Health

State of Syrian Doctors / Health Workers

Intercultural Sensitivity and Racism

State of Syrian Doctors/Health Workers



It is a problem for migrants who had to leave their countries in emergency situations to prove their level of education and professional skills. For doctors in this situation necessary measures should be taken to ensure the continuation of their training and start practising their profession.

About 5.000 doctors came to Turkey from Syria since 2012 and half of these doctors re-migrated to other countries. It is estimated that around 2.500 Syrian doctors are still in Turkey.

Suggestions Relating to Syrian Doctors/Health Workers



Facilities to access to recognition of professional qualifications and licencing procedures

It is known that membership to Syrian Medical Association is compulsory for doctors working in Syria.

There are 7 medical schools in Syria, two of which are older and deep-rooted institutions. The equivalence status of these institutions for the period until 2012 must be investigated by the Higher Education Board (YÖK) and necessary initiatives must be taken for the employment of Syrian doctors by solving their equivalence and language related problems.

Suggestions Relating to Syrian Doctors/Health Workers



Higher Education Board (YÖK) must:

- provide information about equivalence recognition and procedures to be followed,
- declare the names and curricula of faculties in Syria that had equivalence prior to 2012
- launch courses in professional issues and language for health workers to be successful in tests they take.

Suggestions Relating to Syrian Doctors/Health Workers



Doctors are employed on low remuneration in both units under the Ministry of Health and in health facilities run by associations. Syrian doctors must be paid the same as their Turkish colleagues doing the same work.

Migrants from other countries must also be entitled to rights suggested for Syrian doctors and health workers

Suggestions Relating to Syrian Doctors/Health Workers



Necessary arrangements must be made to ensure that doctors and health workers including those from Syria in the first place who had to leave their countries because of war **practise their profession in Turkey not through attachment to the system only in temporary programmes but with their full integration to the system.**

Suggestions Relating to Syrian Doctors/Health Workers



Efforts must be made to reach the records of the Syrian Medical Association, Dataflow and Syrian Ministry of Health to retrieve diplomas.

Information related to doctors from Syria and Iraq must be solicited from the Ministry of Health and arrangements must be made to register these doctors with chambers of medicine.

Commissions for foreign doctors must be established in medical chambers to follow their problems closely, to stay in communication.



Thank you

Wishes for peace in the World and
working in peace and equal conditions