

Population Mobility and Health Crisis in Conflict Situation "Kuwait Experience"

Dr Mohammad A. al-Sharhan
Director, Department of EMS, MOH
Chairman, Patients Helping Fund
Kuwait



Options:

- *Health services for the people in their home land*
- *Health services for the people in their country of refuge*
- *Treatment of patients in the donor country*
- *Treatment of patients in a third country*



Health and Migration – Kuwait Experience
Geneva 18 June 2004



Health Services For The People In Their Home Land

Afghanistan
Bosnia
Palestinians
Iraq



Health and Migration – Kuwait Experience
Geneva 18 June 2004



Advantages

- Multiple health aspects
- More people will benefit
- **Improves the health system:**
 1. Improve the general health status
 2. New equipment
 3. Training of local staff
 4. Create job opportunities



Health and Migration – Kuwait Experience
Geneva 18 June 2004



Advantages

- Prevent or lower refugee situation
- **For individual medical problems:**
 1. No costly transportation
 2. No immigration procedures
 3. Respects family ties



Health and Migration – Kuwait Experience
Geneva 18 June 2004



Disadvantages

1. **Low security:**
 - Difficult delivery of donation
 - Difficult store keeping
 - Risk to the staff
2. **Limited Control:**
 - Donated medicine sold in the market
 - Improper distribution (politics)



Health and Migration – Kuwait Experience
Geneva 18 June 2004



Health Services For The People In Their Country Of Refuge

Pakistan
Sudan
Jordan & Lebanon
Azerbaijan



Health and Migration – Kuwait Experience
Geneva 18 June 2004



Advantages

- Local people will benefit from the refugee facilities
- Safer environment



Health and Migration – Kuwait Experience
Geneva 18 June 2004



Disadvantages

- Load on the health system
- Immigration difficulties
- Limited capacity of the health facilities
- Hidden cost of individual cases (!)
- Conflict with local people



Health and Migration – Kuwait Experience
Geneva 18 June 2004



Preparation for a Refugee Situation During the War in Iraq

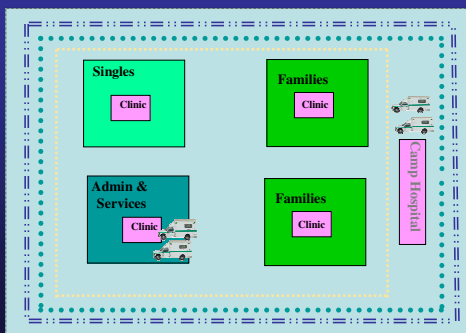
- Site for a refugee camp
- Health manpower allocated
- Large tents for the dispensaries and a camp hospital prepared.
- Equipment and medicine prepared and budget allocated
- Coordination with other governmental and non governmental agencies
- Coordination with international agencies
- Establishment of Humanitarian Operations Center (HOC)



Health and Migration – Kuwait Experience
Geneva 18 June 2004



Proposed Refugee Camp



Health and Migration – Kuwait Experience
Geneva 18 June 2004



Treatment of Patients in the Donor Country

Afghan
Bosnians
Lebanese
Palestinians
Iraqis



Health and Migration – Kuwait Experience
Geneva 18 June 2004



Advantages

- Good health system exists
- Safe environment
- Free



Health and Migration – Kuwait Experience
Geneva 18 June 2004



Disadvantage

- Away from Family



Health and Migration – Kuwait Experience
Geneva 18 June 2004



Treatment of Patients in a Third Country

Iraqis in UK and Jordan
Palestinians in Jordan



Health and Migration – Kuwait Experience
Geneva 18 June 2004



Advantages

- Specialty medical care
- Easy access
- Close culture & language
- Good alternative for (2)



Health and Migration – Kuwait Experience
Geneva 18 June 2004



Disadvantages

- Monitoring may not be feasible
- Not a comprehensive system
- Only selective cases



Health and Migration – Kuwait Experience
Geneva 18 June 2004



Kuwait Refugee Experience During the Iraqi Invasion

- Unique:
 1. Almost half the population
 2. refugees of a rich peaceful country
 3. People and Government
- Good accommodation (no camp situation)
- Good health coverage
- Choosing the country of refuge
- Good treatment by host countries
- No burden on the health system of the host countries
- No burden on IOM or UNHCR



Health and Migration – Kuwait Experience
Geneva 18 June 2004



Thank you **Merçi** Gracias شكرا



Health and Migration – Kuwait Experience
Geneva 18 June 2004



Health and Migration – Kuwait Experience
Geneva 18 June 2004

