

8. Heevie response and intervention after Shariya IDPs camp fire accident

On Friday, 4th of June 2021, a big fire accident took place section B of Shariya IDPs camp in Semel district of Duhok governorate. The fire destroyed about 300 tents, affecting an overall number of 187 families. The fire was controlled in hours and there were no serious casualties among the affected people other than 4 burn injuries, three of them were treated easily, and one needed special attention as the injury was in the face region.

The affected people were moved to two new locations to be settled temporarily until new solutions will be found, one was a kindergarten inside the camp, in which 15 families were settled, and the other one was a community center inside the nearby Shariya town. Other families moved to live with other families inside the camp and others with the host community.



HEEVIE INTERVENTION

As a health partner providing the 24/7 healthcare services in the camp, by the support of WHO, and with the initial few minutes of the accident, Heevie teams arrived immediately to the location to provide the necessary assistance and to treat and manage any possible casualties. The intervention was done in multiple steps, as described below:

A. Immediate steps

As an initial response to the accident, Heevie moved a medical team with an ambulance vehicle near the fire location in order to deal with any emergency cases either through immediate management on the field or moving to Heevie clinic inside the camp. From the four injured people, three had simple burn injuries, received the necessary treatment, and one was taken as a serious condition as his injury was in the face. Dressing was done for the wound in the field, and the next day the patient was referred to Duhok Burn and Plastic Surgery Hospital and later on to the Dermatology department in Azadi General Hospital through direct coordination with the head of the department.



B. Supporting the locations specified for the affected people

Two locations were specified for the affected population to be settled in temporary, the kindergarten inside the camp and a community center in Shariya town, around two kilometers distance from the camp. In order to provide the people with the healthcare services, Heevie allocated two medical teams to stabilize them in each of the two locations, each team consisted of a medical doctor, a clinical nurse, a health promoter and an assistant pharmacist.

The team specified for the community center attended the location daily from 8:00 to the midnight, and the one determined for the kindergarten location existed daily in the location in two time period, from 8:00 – 14:00, and from 16:00 – 20:00, the patient were later on treated by Heevie PHCC in the camp. When the patients from both temporary locations were moved to new tents inside the camp, Heevie located a team in one of the tents to receive the patients mainly during the morning hours, and in the remaining time the patients had the opportunity to seek the services in heevie clinic in the camp.

From the beginning of the event till the time this report was prepared, Heevie teams were so far able to treat and manage:

- Total number of patients treated: 334
- Male above 5 years: 70
- Female above 5 years: 153
- Male below five years: 53
- Female below 5 years: 58



C- Health awareness and promotion

Heevie health promotion teams visited the two locations regularly in order to deliver the necessary health awareness messages, paying more attention to the health subjects related to the common conditions and diseases in such situations like the personal hygiene, diarrheal diseases, dermatological diseases and upper respiratory tract infections.



D. Psychosocial Support services

As a part of the support provided for the affected population, and getting the opportunity from Heevie specialized MHPSS center in Shariya camp, Heevie provided the necessary psychosocial support through regular visits from the teams with interviews with the people in the field.



E. Providing the Personal Protection Equipment

Due to the special conditions resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic and in order to prevent the diseases transmission between the affected population, Heevie teams distributed the Personal Protection Equipment among them, like the surgical masks, the gloves and the sterilizing and disinfection solutions.



F. Coordination with the different parties

From the early beginning of the accident, WHO area coordinator in Duhok governorate was in direct contact with Heevie to teams to assure the on-time provision of the services for the affected population and avoid any gap in this regard. The coordination was continuous with the directorate of health in Duhok governorate and the camp management to coordinate the activities and respond to the different needs of the population. As a result of the coordination and cooperation between the different parties, multiple decisions were taken in order to better control the situation and avoid the spread of the communicable diseases, multiple decisions were taken, involving the below actions:

- 1- Taking random PCR samples from selected number of the affected population each day as screening for the COVID-19 infection, and thankfully no cases was recorded among the affected population.
- 2- Strict follow up and management of the cases with the gastrointestinal and diarrheal diseases, in this regard the decision was made to take more V.C samples from the patients covering 100% diarrheal cases.
- 3- Coordinating with the Directorate of Environment in Duhok governorate to perform more frequent examination for the drinking water in the two locations gathering the affected population.
- 4- Better coordination between Heevie and DoH Duhok for the optimum management of the patients, especially in the community center in Shariya town, in regard to the medical treatment, admissions and referrals to the higher health facilities.
- 5- Assuring the safety of the space, the health situation, the safe storage and distribution of the food, the waste management, the WASH services, the protection regulations... etc

