

# Implementing Immunization Services for Syrian Refugees in FHA

Western Canada Immunization  
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**fraserhealth**

Better health.  
Best in health care.

# Background



- Federal Government Announcement
- Settlement Patterns
  - BC: 2,507
  - FH: 1,504
  - Surrey: 1,078
- Family Structure



What's  
the  
plan?

# Planning for Immunization Services

- Partnerships: ISS of BC, Bridge Clinic (VCH), Provincial Language Services, Muslim Food Bank, Local community organizations, Physicians, Other government organizations – School District, Municipalities
- Resources for Immunizers:
  - Robust immunization program in Syria until 2010
  - BC CDC Immunization Manual/ MHO direction – Hepatitis B and Polio vaccine

# The rubber meets the road...



- Mass Clinics setting
- Collaborated with Bridge Clinic
- Refugee Response Leadership Committee
- Subsequent Clinics led by FHA in Surrey and Abbotsford

# Immunization at Health Units

- Led by Refugee PHN Teams –Surrey and Abbotsford
- Mass Immunization Clinics in community sites – Recreation Centres, Gyms
- Full day Clinics



# Immunization Clinics

- Initial Immunization assessments
- Immunizations provided to family unit
- Documentation of Immunization
- Series completed at local Health Unit



# “A-HA” moments



- Be Relational: relationships with the community reduces red tape for getting venues
- Be creative: Translate name tags for staff and volunteers, poster boards are great privacy screens
- Be resourceful: Clients will discuss other health needs and other issues
- Be aware: Clients are used to waiting, so will not inquire why their turn has not come yet
- Be patient: Getting consent for immunization was sometimes challenging



# Ongoing Refugee Response

- Refugee Response Operations Committee



# Acknowledgments

