

Lebanon Crisis

Health Cluster Bulletin # 27

Wednesday 1 August 2007

The Lebanon Crisis Health Cluster Bulletin aims to give an overview of the health activities conducted by the health cluster partners in relation to the latest Lebanon conflict as well as the crisis in the Palestinian camps. It compiles health information received from the different organizations working in the most affected areas.

The Health Cluster Bulletin will be issued every other Wednesday.



Participants at "First AID course" by UNICEF

Picture: UNICEF

July 2007

Highlights

- No outbreak was reported through the Early Warning and Response system (EWARS).
- Two New landmines/UXOs/cluster bombs' casualties were registered last week as per the National Demining Office (NDO) and UNDP Mine action report.

Nahr El-Bared Crisis

- The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) is leading the Humanitarian and Relief interventions in response to the Nahr El-Bared Crisis.
- Severe fighting continues as the Lebanese Army enters into the last positions of the Fateh al-Islam group in the Nahr El-Bared Camp.
- Katyusha rockets are being fired from Nahr El-Bared on surrounding areas in the North of Lebanon.

Situation Overview

- According to the National Demining Office (NDO) and UNDP Mine action, two new casualties were registered during the last week, bringing the total number of military and civilian casualty figures due to landmines/UXOs/cluster bombs to 250.

Nahr El-Bared Crisis

- Fighting continues in Nahr El-Bared camp. The Lebanese Army death toll rose to 122 as of July 30.
- The situation in Beddawi camp has been quiet with no reported incidents in the past week.
- The Lebanese Army is continuing de-mining operations inside Nahr El-Bared camp.
- Fateh Islam is continuing to fire Katyusha rockets from Nahr El-Bared camp into adjacent villages in North Lebanon.

Health Response to the Humanitarian Crisis

National and international Health Cluster partners are providing support in four core areas:

1. Assessment and monitoring

- Terre des Hommes (TDH) has identified children in need of medical support and special devices (wheel chairs, hearing aids, etc.) through its social workers who are providing psychosocial and social activities to children under 18 years old in 25 villages in the South. Referral to specialized services providers is needed.

Nahr El-Bared Crisis

- According to UNRWA, reports from Beddawi and Mina clinics as well as the mobile clinic showed no changes in the incidence of communicable diseases.
- UNRWA Medical Doctor will be visiting Beddawi agency school on a daily basis to check on hygiene and other health issues.

2. Health coordination

- The Health Cluster meeting took place in Tyr on Tuesday July 31 and was attended by 3 partners. The Health Cluster meeting will be held on a monthly basis, and the next meeting will take place on Tuesday August 21 at 3:00 pm, WHO office-Tyr.
- The Mental Health and Psychosocial Support sub-cluster coordination meeting took place on July 23 and was attended by 5 partners. The next meeting will take place on Monday August 27 at 12:00 pm at the WHO office in Tyr.
- The WATSAN sub-cluster meeting is taking place every other Thursday at 12:00 at the Water Authority in Saïda.
- The Health Cluster and Mental Health Matrices are regularly updated and shared with partners.
- The United Nations Resident Coordinator Office (UNRC) is in the process of updating the Sector Working Groups activities' maps, which will be published on the UNRC website.
- UNICEF organized a mid year review on its ongoing projects with its more than 25 partner national and international NGOs in Tyr, to assure better coordination of its activities.

Nahr El-Bared Crisis

- The tenth Health Cluster meeting chaired by UNRWA took place on July 31 at UNRWA-Lebanon Field Office in Beirut. The next meeting will be held at the same venue on Tuesday August 7 at 11:00.
- An updated Humanitarian intervention matrix of the various partners acting in response to the Nahr El-Bared crisis is available on www.lebanon-support.org.

3. Filling health gaps

- INTERSOS launched the project "Facing the challenge ahead: from Child Protection to Social Sustainability", aiming to empower local communities in addressing child protection issues in coordination with municipalities, social development centers, and NGOs. The project starts August 1 and ends in December 2007, and will be conducted through the three INTERSOS youth centers in Maaraka, Bint Jbeil, and Nabatiyeh.
- Imam Sadr Foundation Specialized Mobile Clinic in collaboration with the Sovereign Order of Malta conducted its medical visits to "Marun Ras - Aynata" and "Qsaybeh -

Brayqih" villages, providing ophtalmic screening, ophtalmic and orthopedic consultations in addition to qualitative chronic and essential drugs.

- Imam Sadr Foundation Health Department ended its Summer Camp program supported by UNICEF at Siddiqine village, reaching 300 children aged 6 to 12 years. The next health summer camp will start on August 6 at Ayta Chaab village.

Nahr El-Bared Crisis

- UNRWA is still providing medical services through the Beddawi clinic on a double shift, except on Saturdays and Sundays. The laboratory at Beddawi clinic will be closing in the afternoons due to the low rate of tests performed, and the tests will be referred to Palestinian Red Crescent Safad Hospital.
- The post-delivery center at the Beddawi Governmental School for Boys is operational and has started receiving delivering women as of July 19.
- UNRWA is covering IDRs outside North Lebanon at its contracted tertiary care hospitals such as the Rafic Hariri Governmental Hospital, the Labib Medical Center, Dalaa' General Hospital in Saida, and Dar El-Amal University Hospital in Beqaa.
- UNRWA is providing patients in need of life-saving medications unavaible at UNRWA clinics with free of charge medications from a private pharmacy in Beddawi camp.
- Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP) is providing indoor disinfection for 35 shelters hosting displaced families in Beddawi camp daily.
- UNRWA is supporting maintenance services to an average of 10 to 15 IDRs shelters in Beddawi camp daily.
- UNRWA is pumping an average of 3,500 cubic meters of potable water to Beddawi camp and is disposing of an average of 100 cubic meters of refuse daily.
- UNRWA and the Agency for Technical Cooperation and development (ACTED) are providing adequate quantities of water to Beddawi camp and the displacement centers.
- UNICEF has supplied the PRCS Safad Hospital at Beddawi camp with a 150 KVA electric generator.

4. Preserving and supporting local health systems

- International Medical Corps is conducting the "16 hour – First AID course" under UNICEF's "Child Friendly School Project", targeting teachers and head counselors in 25 schools all over Lebanon. Lebanese Red Cross volunteers have trained more than 110 teachers and health educators so far in Akkar, Bent Jbeil, and Tyr.
- The Ministry of Public Health with the support of UNICEF organized three workshops targeting more than 150 paediatricians and private hospital directors in Beirut and Saida on the importance of the Expanded Program for Immunization (EPI) and Hepatitis B.
- The Institute for the Development Research Advocacy and Applied Care (IDRAAC), with the support of WHO, conducted a series of workshops on "Mental Health in Emergencies" targeting medical doctors working in Primary Health Care, reaching so far 182 practicing physicians from the public and private sector in Beirut, Kesrouan, Byblos, Metn, Zahleh, Baalbeck, El Shouf, Hasbaya, Nabatiyeh, Jezzine, Marjeyoun, West Bekaa, and Tyr.

Nahr El-Bared Crisis

- UNICEF organized in collaboration with PARD 5 lectures so far targeting over 75 women on health awareness and promotion of infant breastfeeding in Beddawi camp. The lectures will continue for a 3-month period to reach a target of 500 women.
- WHO supported a one-day workshop on First AID to four doctors and five nurses at the PRCS laboratory, facilitated by the LRC.

World Health Organization

<http://www.leb.emro.who.int/>

<http://www.virtualhic.org>

All inputs are welcome on:

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