

Lebanon Crisis

Health Cluster Bulletin # 24

Wednesday 11 July 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 Wednesday.



Picture: World Vision

World Vision distributing child hygiene kits in El Buss Palestinian Refugee camp

July 2007

Highlights

- No outbreak was reported through the Early Warning and Response system (EWARS).
- Three 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.

Situation Overview

- According to the National Demining Office (NDO) and UNDP Mine action, three 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 244.

Nahr El-Bared Crisis

- According to UNRWA, the clashes in Nahr El-Bared have claimed as of 9 July at least 173 lives, including 85 soldiers from the Lebanese Army.
- One refugee was injured in an incident at Beddawi Governmental School for Girls on July 8th, and was transported to Safad Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) hospital in Beddawi camp where he was treated for superficial injuries.
- According to UNRWA, reports from Beddawi and Mina clinics as well as the mobile clinic showed no changes in the incidence of communicable diseases.
- The Islamic Welfare Hospital capacity to admit referred refugee Palestinian patients from Beddawi camp reached its maximum. UNRWA is exploring the possibility of concluding a contract with an alternative hospital.
- According to the Palestinian Popular Committees of Nahr El-Bared, some children are still living in Nahr El-Bared shelters under heavy bombardment.

- The International Committee for Red Cross (ICRC) has been unable to deliver any food, water, or medicine into Nahr El-Bared camp since June 22 because of the deteriorating military situation.
- According to the de-mining agency (MAG) the removal of immediate UXO threats in Nahr el-Bared Camp will take at least one month.
- As of July 10, 2007, UNRWA reported the numbers of IDRs to be 31,993.

Health Response to the Humanitarian Crisis

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

1. Assessment and monitoring

Nahr El-Bared Crisis

- UNRWA Water and sanitation Coordinator in North Lebanon visited the six public schools accommodating IDP families in Beddawi town. Four schools were found in good hygienic conditions without need for maintenance. Minor repairs will be made by UNRWA.

2. Health coordination

- The next Health Cluster meeting will take place on Tuesday July 17 at 3:00 pm, WHO office-Tyr.
- The next Mental Health and Psychosocial Support sub-cluster coordination meeting will take place on July 23 at 12:00 pm, WHO office within the Ministry of Public Health premises-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.

Nahr El-Bared Crisis

- The seventh Health Cluster meeting chaired by UNRWA took place on July 10 at UNRWA-Lebanon Field Office in Beirut. Five partners from UN agencies, national and international Non Governmental Organizations operating in the North area attended the meeting. The partners discussed the overall situation and needs of the IDRs, and coordinated efforts towards their assistance. The next meeting will be held at the same venue on Tuesday July 17 at 11:00.
- UNRWA held a meeting with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) to discuss the needs of IDRs in Beddawi camp. As a result, NRC will be providing the 6 governmental schools with shower cabinets and will carry out maintenance of sanitary facilities.
- UNRWA held a meeting with UNICEF, ACTED, and Islamic Relief at a main water plant in Beddawi camp to discuss trucking water to displacement centers inside and outside the camp.
- The Resident Coordinator Representative (RCO) and UNRWA representative are attending, on behalf of all UN agencies, a daily meeting with the Prime Minister to coordinate and update on relief actions for the crisis in the Palestinian camps.
- 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

- Amar International Charitable Organization has established two health facilities in Kafarkela and Qlayleh. Services will include integrated management of childhood illnesses.
- Imam Sader Foundation summer camp targeting 100 children from 6 to 12 years is held from July 2 to 20 at Siddiqine. The camp has many activities covering different topics in health, nutrition, and psychosocial issues.

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- UNRWA provision of medical services and vaccination of children to displaced families continues through its mobile clinic as well as at the Beddawi and Mina clinics.
- UNRWA amended its contract with the Safad PRCS Hospital in Beddawi Camp to increase the ceiling of contracted bed-nights to cater for the increased needs of IDRs and to facilitate hospitalization of persons unable to leave Beddawi Camp. UNRWA will cover patients treated at this hospital.
- UNRWA made repairs to the sanitary facilities at Beddawi Governmental School for Girls. The repairs included replacement of damaged water taps and valves.
- The Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) is providing adequate quantities of water to the tanks in the lanes of Beddawi camp and the Governmental schools in Beddawi town daily. Two rigid water tanks of (5000 liters capacity, each) were installed at the roof of the Beddawi Governmental School for Girls to provide water for the 24 previously installed shower units.
- The Beddawi Municipality will provide a water tanker (capacity 20,000 liters) to the Beddawi Governmental School for Girls to supply the school's 600 hosted IDRs.
- UNRWA sprayed all Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) refuse bins in Beddawi camp and in two shelters hosting IDR families with insecticides, as part of its vector control measures.
- UNICEF provided UNRWA with 40 vaccine carriers, 20 large vaccine old boxes, 5 vest frost refrigerators, and 10 foetal dopplers with LCD.
- UNRWA has completed the rehabilitation of the postnatal section at the Beddawi Governmental School for Boys to accommodate newborns and mothers after delivery. The different partners including UNICEF, PRCS, Future Movement, and HRC will be supplying the section's needs.
- World Vision provided 6342 baby hygiene kits during the past two weeks to the IDRs in the Baddawi, El Buss, Bekaa, South gatherings, Borj El Barajneh and Shatila Palestinian refugee camps. To date 12, 982 baby hygiene kits were distributed.
- The Lebanese Red Cross Society (LRCS) Emergency Medical Services (EMS) teams maintain their status of readiness. The teams performed as of July 9 various missions transporting 486 wounded, 65 corpses, 1,021 civilians from the camp's entrance, 410 ill persons in medical emergency.
- UNRWA supported maintenance services to 43 IDRs shelters in Beddawi camp last week.
- UNRWA is distributing garbage bags to IDR families on a daily basis.
- UNRWA is pumping an average of 3,000 cubic meters of potable water to Beddawi camp and is disposing of an average of 100 cubic meters of refuse daily.
- UNRWA resumed the garbage collection from areas adjacent to Beddawi camp because the Beddawi Municipality stopped its activities in these areas due to security reasons.
- UNRWA carried out flushing and clearing the sewer system in UNRWA schools at Beddawi camp and Lukman governmental school.
- Popular Aid for Relief and Development (PARD) installed 8 rigid water tanks (2000 liters capacity) at the roofs of UNRWA schools in Beddawi camps.

- Saudi Arabia is providing cash assistance to around 10,000 families in Beddawi camp as well as Lebanese families affected by the conflict.
- Qatar Red Crescent is providing an average of 280 consultations for IDRs in its field clinic in Beddawi camp.

4. Preserving and supporting local health systems

- WHO supported rehabilitation works for the Emergency Operation Room at the Rafic Hariri Governmental Hospital (RHGH) are completed, and the procurement of necessary equipment is under process.

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- International Committee for Red Cross (ICRC) resumed the two days seminar about War Surgery for general surgeons working in hospitals in Beirut. The seminar was led by 2 ICRC surgeons as well as 6 lecturers from the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and the American University Hospital (AUH), and the Rafic Hariri Governmental Hospital (RHGH) and attended by 40 surgeons from 26 hospitals in 14 cazas.
- UNRWA, UNICEF and the International Committee for Red Cross (ICRC) have launched campaigns to raise awareness of the dangers posed by UXO. Several hundreds of volunteers were trained to teach young people about what to expect when they return to their homes, and thousands of leaflets, banners and posters were distributed in Beddawi Camp.

World Health Organization

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

<http://www.virtualhic.org>

*All inputs are welcome on:
health@leb.emro.who.int*