

## Lebanon Crisis

### Health Cluster Bulletin # 7

Friday 13 October 2006

*The Lebanon Crisis Health Cluster Bulletin aims to give an overview of the health activities conducted by the health cluster partners in the areas affected by the latest conflict in Lebanon. It compiles health information received from the different organizations working in Beirut, South Lebanon, South Beirut, and the Bekaa valley.*

*The Health Cluster Bulletin is issued every Friday.*



Picture: WHO/Lebanon

MOSA Health Center in Ramiyeh; one of the 9 centers to be rehabilitated by WHO through IMC.

September 2006

#### Highlights

- Two cases of suspected Hepatitis A were reported from Siddiquine. Investigation is being undertaken.
- Unexploded Ordnances (UXOs) still constitute life threat to the Lebanese population in the affected areas especially children and youth.
- OCHA is preparing the draft report on the various UN agencies' input concerning the United Nations response to the crisis. OCHA as well as other partners are considering various scenarios and responses concerning the emergency preparedness.
- Distribution of needed medications continues.

#### Situation Overview

- Preliminary results from the EWARS implementation show the results from 36 reporting sites (27 in Tyre, 7 in Hasbaya and 2 in Margeon), revealing 2 new suspected cases of hepatitis A in Siddikeen that are being investigated and diarrhea cases decreasing. Tests results of the main water source at the main water pump station in Siddikeen shows no contamination. Water sampling in Hasbaya was undertaken awaiting the results.
- According to the National Demining Office (NDO) and UNDP Mine action, the total number of military and civilians casualty figures due to landmines/UXOs/cluster bombs is 141 divided as follows: 111 injured civilians, 14 killed civilians and 16 military casualties as of October 9, 2006. Two new death cases among youth aged 13-18 years were reported this week.
- The various heads of UN agencies and cluster leads provided input at the half a day "After Action Review" workshop on interagency evaluation and lessons learned organized by OCHA. Four major aspects: challenges, successes, improvements and the way forward in relation to the response to the recent Lebanon crisis were discussed. The UN Resident Coordinator will seek separate feedback from government and donors.
- The first UN contingency planning meeting, called upon by OCHA, to discuss possible scenarios and responses concerning emergency preparedness took place. Agencies involved in health will meet next week to discuss the health related sections.

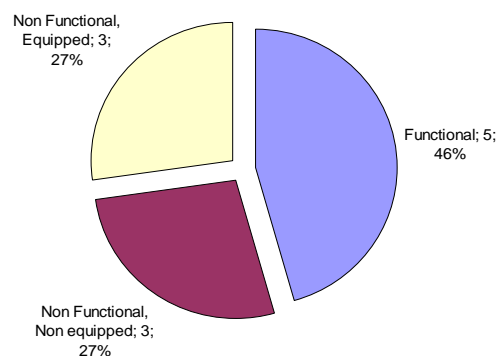
## Health Response to the Humanitarian Crisis

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

### 1. Assessment and monitoring

- UNFPA in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health conducted an in-depth inventory of Reproductive Health component in 11 Governmental Hospitals in post conflict areas namely Bekaa, South Lebanon, and Ba'abda. One of the major findings is related to the functionality of the maternity wards revealing that 27% are non functional and non equipped and another 27% are non functional but equipped. The report is available upon request.

■ Functional ■ Non Functional, Non equipped ■ Non Functional, Equipped



- UNFPA is currently carrying out a mapping of all women NGOs in order to determine potential NGOs to be involved in the response to the emerging needs resulting from the rapid assessment study. The preliminary report is expected end of October 2006.
- The Population and Development Strategies Programme at the Ministry of Social Affairs and UNFPA are initiating three studies aiming at assessing the impact of the conflicts on the elderly population, the persons with special needs and the women heads of households.
- WHO is sponsoring a research on needs assessment of impairments and disabilities amongst casualties suffered in the July-August 2006 hostilities in war-affected areas of Lebanon, to be conducted by the Lebanese Health Care Management Association.

### 2. Health coordination

- The weekly health cluster meeting in Tyre was held and attended by representatives of 11 agencies (UN, INGOs and national NGOs) working in Health.
- The second mental and psychosocial support coordination meeting in Tyre was conducted and attended by representatives from 4 agencies (UN, INGOs and national NGOs). The Next meeting will take place on Saturday October 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:00 a.m. at WHO office within the MOH office in Tyre
- The health cluster matrix and the mental health and psychological support matrix are regularly updated and disseminated to all health cluster partners in Tyre.
- WHO team in Tyre undertook a series of bilateral coordination meeting with representatives from Response International, CARE International, IMC and Lebanese Red Cross.
- The Tyre health cluster meetings will take place every Tuesday at 5:00 p.m., at WHO office within the Ministry of Health office.

### 3. Filling health gaps

- Response International will soon deliver medical and preventive services through its mobile clinic in five villages surrounding Kleileh in Tyre district. In addition to the general medical services, the mobile clinic team will provide gynecology, pediatrics, and cardiology care and free of charge treatment. Public health education is also planned.
- WHO second round of the vector control campaign in the South, Beirut suburbs and Bekaa Valley will start next week in coordination and collaboration with the Quaemmaquams and municipalities as well as the participation of the private sector namely Sukleen in the southern suburbs of Beirut. WHO provided the municipalities with safety instructions and equipments as well as the proper measurement for the dilution of the chemical products.
- The Imam Sadr Foundation mobile clinic at Imam Sadr Foundation provided free medical consultations and treatment to 80 beneficiaries at Maroun Al-Ras village. Two additional visits are planned for the coming two Saturdays to provide needed medical care.
- WHO Warehouse provided 5 cubic meters of essential and chronic drugs to INGOs and national NGOs and PHC affiliated to municipalities in the various Lebanese regions. In addition, 7 drums of chlorine (45 kg each) were delivered to the south water authorities by WHO.
- WHO installed 2.000 L water tanks in 4 clinics in Hasbaya (Khalwat, Mimes, kafar hamam and kafar shopa) and one clinic in Margeon (Souane).
- WHO commissioned International Medical Corps (IMC) to undertake the structural and WATSAN rehabilitation of 9 PHC centers in 9 villages in the districts of Bent Jbeil, Tyre and Margeoun. The WHO rehabilitation of the Naqoura Ministry of Social Affairs PHC ended and that of Srifa is planned for the end of this week.
- Terre Des Hommes (TDH) in collaboration with UNICEF will launch a mental health and psychosocial support program in psychosocial centers in schools and municipality in Alklayleh, Zebkin, Jbal Albottom, Srifa, Naqoura, and Deir Kanoun Naher. The program will provide community consultation, psychosocial support and protection needs for children and their families.
- WHO is dispatching 52 tones of supplies for renal dialysis to public and private hospitals providing Kidney dialysis services all over Lebanon. This will entail decrease in the fees of the dialysis session.

### 4. Preserving and supporting local health systems

- UNFPA organized a stakeholders brainstorming meeting on the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security. Seventeen representatives of governmental institutions, NGOs working on Women issues as well as UN agencies agreed on a set of interventions and mechanisms to make operational the UN resolution 1325 within the Lebanese context.
- WHO launched today in Sidon, the first of a series of 11 training workshops on Mental health and psychosocial support. The training workshops will take place in Sidon, Tyre and Nabattieh, targeting separately PHC personnel and physicians. A group of 25 trainers is involved and target group appropriate manuals are distributed to the trainees.
- WHO launched today the Emergency in Reproductive Health trainings targeting midwives, registered nurses as well as family and emergency doctors is starting tomorrow in Beirut Public Hospital. Ten training workshops will take place in Beirut, Margeoun, Tyre, Nabattieh, Sidon, Zahle and Baalbek.
- The Lebanese Health Society supported by WHO is conducting a project on HIV/AIDS awareness, knowledge, sexual attitudes and behavior among out of school youth in the war inflicted regions of Lebanon. The project covers an assessment of the needs of youth in regards to HIV/AIDS and STIs in addition to awareness raising among the target audience.

- WHO conducted a training of medical staff from health facilities in Tyre involved in the Early Warning and Response System (EWARS). This training is part of the reinforcement plan for EWARS.
- WHO is planning starting 26 October 2006, a series of trainings for national and province staff and public health inspectors at the Governorates and district level. These trainings are part of the establishment of a Water Quality Surveillance System.

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