

Lebanon Crisis

Health Cluster Bulletin # 12

Friday 15 December 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 will be issued every other Friday.



Picture: QRCS/Lebanon

Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) donating Anastasia machine to Nidaa Insani

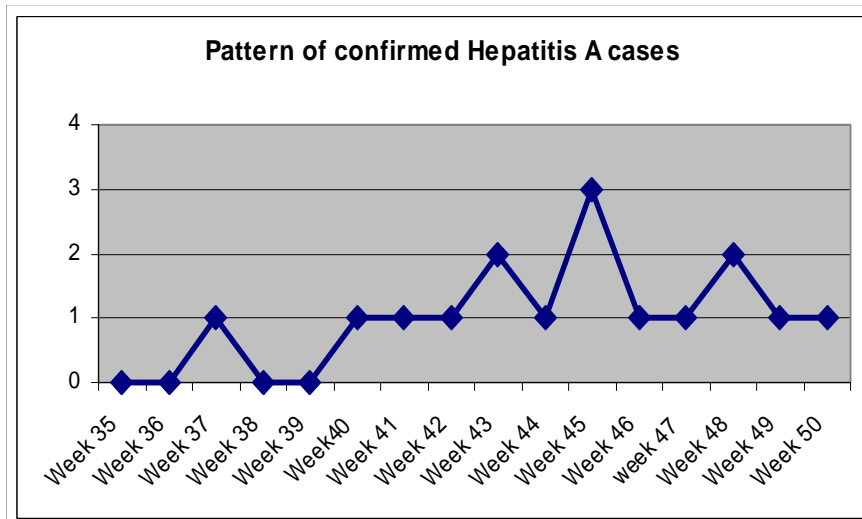
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Highlights

- Eight new cases of Hepatitis A and 1 new case of Typhoid fever were reported and confirmed through the Early Warning and Response System (EWARS).
- Medical services and projects of some International NGOs are ending.
- War remnants still affecting the various life aspects of the Lebanese population in the affected areas.

Situation Overview

- Reports from the EWARS revealed that 8 new cases of hepatitis A (3 in Tyre, 1 in Bent Jbeil and 4 in Kasmieh Palestinian camp) and 1 new case of Typhoid fever in Bent Jbeil were reported and confirmed by serology. Two additional cases of Typhoid fever in Bent Jbeil are suspected and being investigated by the district Doctor. The authorities are undertaking field investigation of close contacts with the provision of health education sessions in collaboration with WHO in Tyre as well as WHO and UNRWA in Kasmieh camp. WHO is providing continuous follow up, technical support and activation of the EWARS is being done by WHO focal points in the south governorates. The following graph shows the pattern of the reported confirmed Hepatitis A cases in the south:



- According to UNMACC, the grand total of civilians and de-mining accidents casualty figures due to landmines/UXOs/cluster bombs as of December 13 is 182 divided as follows: 143 injured civilians, 18 killed civilians and 21 de-mining casualties.
- According to the government of Lebanon Higher Relief Council, 200.000 IDPs remains as of 8 December 2006. Most of them are staying with host families.

Health Response to the Humanitarian Crisis

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

1. Assessment and monitoring

- WHO Tyre team conducted field visits for the health facilities in Taibeh, Deir Sirian, kabrikha, Majdel selem, Kafra LRC clinic, Beit leef, Yater and Deer Aamiss. The health facilities are functioning and providing health services, immunization and some of them are reporting through the EWARS.
- WHO WATSAN and Technisches Hilfswerk (THW) assessed the water sources in Kasmieh Palestinain camp awaiting the results. Assessment of the sanitation issues is in process.
- The Australian Governmental Aids Organization is conducting an evaluation regarding the funding provided to organizations following the recent crisis. The program manager for the Humanitarian and Emergency Section was briefed by WHO on the use of the Australian donations through the flash appeal and early recovery. He also visited WHO premises and sites.

2. Health coordination

- Two health cluster weekly meetings were conducted and attended respectively by 10 and 9 UN agencies, International and national non-governmental organizations. The health cluster meeting will take place every Tuesday at 3 p.m., at WHO office within the Ministry of Public health office in Tyre.
- The Mental Health and psychosocial support sub cluster coordination meeting in Tyre will take place on Monday 18 December at 12:00 at WHO office within the Ministry of Public health office in Tyre.
- The Health Cluster and Mental Health Matrices are regularly updated and shared with partners.
- The second livelihood cluster meeting in Tyre chaired by UNDP took place with the participation of 14 national and international agencies and organizations.
- The WATSAN sub cluster meeting will be held every two weeks. UNICEF is handing over the coordination role to the South Lebanon Water Establishment (SLWE).

3. Filling health gaps

- UNFPA in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health, distributed 13 reproductive health kits (1 ton) to the Governmental hospitals in Nabatiyeh, Tyre, Baalbak, Hermel and Sir Eldinnieh. The donation included 5 Clinical delivery assistance kits, 1 Management of complications kits, 2 suture of tears & vaginal examination kits, 1 referral level kit and 3 blood transfusion kits. Each kit would serve a population of 100,000 people for a period of 3 month.
- WHO hub in Tyre provided Safad al Battekh Municipality Health Center with one Canadian Doctor kit.
- The United Arab Emirates is repairing Margeon Governmental Hospital. The hospital services are reduced to the emergency.

- Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) donated Anastasia machine and medical supplies to Hamshari and Nidaa Insani health centers and a Defibrillator to Imam Ali Dispensary. QRCS health activities will stop in Saida field hospital by the end of December 2006, however services continue in Bent Jbeil field hospital and its mobile clinic.
- Response International distributed Glucometer to Barashete, Jmajmeh, and Hanawaii Ministry of Social Affairs clinics, and Al-Risalah Islamic scout health center in Shakra.
- International Committee for Red Cross (ICRC) donated both Nabatieh and Tyre Governmental hospitals as well as Najdeh Chaabieh hospital War Wounded (WW) kits items such as analgesic, Injection, Gloves, Sutures, OT linen, surgical drainage, and anesthesia renewable) in addition to a 250 KVA generator for Tyre hospital. Furthermore ICRC provided Seddikine private clinic and Hajji Dispensary with IV fluids in addition to dressing for burns, and essential drugs for the latter. ICRC will stop its medical interventions end of December.
- UNIFIL battalions are providing through medical mobile teams medical services for Naqura, Deir keifa, Alma Alshaab, Habbaria, Kafarshouba, Halta, Ebel Elsaki, Shabaa and Meeri.
- International Medical Corps (IMC) distributed Hygiene Kits for 500 families in Kafarkela, Zebkine, Barashete, and Kawthariet Al-jouz. Furthermore, IMC signed agreements with Amel Association, Farah foundation and Aid Lebanon Civil Campaign for Relief to rehabilitate, provide needed supplies as well as clinics running costs for 9 centers pertaining to these organizations.
- Care is down scaling its activities in South Lebanon by the closure of the Mother and Child Emergency Assistance project funded by ECHO.
- UNDP finalized 70% of the restoration of infrastructure such as streetlights repairs, water and electricity networks repairs, public buildings rehabilitation, etc. the project funded by ECHO is targeting 143 villages in the districts of Bent Jbeil, Marjayoun, Hasbaya, Tyre and Jezzine.

4. Preserving and supporting local health systems

- The Ministry of Public Health developed a Standard case definition for Typhoid fever that was distributed to the health cluster partners and district doctors in the South.

World Health Organization

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

<http://www.virtualhic.org>