

Lebanon Crisis

Health Cluster Bulletin # 10

Friday 17 November 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: WHO/Lebanon

WHO provision of supplies for renal dialysis-
Nabatiyeh hospital

6 November 2006

Highlights

- Three cases of Typhoid fever and 4 cases of Hepatitis A were reported and confirmed through the Early Warning And Response System (EWARS). On the other hand, the numbers of diarrhea cases is decreasing.
- Explosive remnants of war are causing each 12 hours the injury or death of a person in Lebanon and affecting particularly the farm communities economically.
- Distribution of drugs expands to cover all regions in Lebanon.

Situation Overview

- Preliminary results from the EWARS implementation show the results from 34 reporting sites (21 in Tyre, 10 in Hasbaya and 3 in Margeon) with reporting of 1 Hepatitis A case. Investigations by the district doctor in Tyre revealed another additional case both admitted to Jabal Amel Hospital. Further investigation showed additional 2 cases dating 2-3 weeks back. On the other hand, field visits to Mais Al Jabal hospital revealed 9 cases of Typhoid fever recorded over the past 6-8 weeks. Investigations confirmed only 3 cases. Epidemiological interventions are going on by the district doctor in addition to health education. Field visits to health facilities continue to assess EWARN system performance.
- 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 157 divided as follows: 125 injured civilians, 16 killed civilians and 16 military casualties as of November 6, 2006. In the past 80 days, 157 persons were victims of explosive remnants of war, meaning that each 12 hours a person in Lebanon is injured or killed by these devices.

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 Ministry of Social Affairs and Women's NGOs conducted on a sample of 310 women a rapid assessment on the impact of war on women and girls in affected regions with particular emphasis on protection and safety. The final report will be finalized end of November.
- WHO Tyre team conducted field visits to 14 health facilities in Deer Intar, Ksaibi, Beet leef, Shakra, Qana, Hasbaya, Kafar Hamam, Margeon, Khiam, Edaisee, Mais aljabal, Blida, Aitaroun and Ain Ebel in order to ensure the provision of health services.

2. Health coordination

- The UN Resident Coordination Office (RCO) supported by OCHA and assisted by WHO-EMRO organized a three-day workshop to initiate the development of the UN interagency Emergency Contingency Plan. The plan is expected to be finalized by end of February 2007.
- Two health cluster weekly meetings were conducted and attended respectively by 11 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 coordination meeting in Tyre was held and attended by 5 partners. The next meeting will take place on Monday 20 November at 12:00 at WHO office within the Ministry of Public health office in Tyre.
- The general mobile clinics coordination meeting was conducted and attended by 6 International and national NGOs in addition to UNIFIL.
- UNDP is updating the information related to organizations activities.
- The WATSAN sub cluster meetings will no more be organized in Beirut but continue in Tyre.

3. Filling health gaps

- Response international (RI) is running a Primary Health Care (PHC) centre in Quleileh reaching an average of 30 patients per day with free of charge PHC services including medications. In addition, RI is delivering health services through its mobile clinic to the surrounding villages namely Mansoureh, Majdel Zoun, Malkyeh, Chaytiyeh, Smayeh and Knaiseh.
- UNFPA-Ministry of Social Affairs Reproductive Health Information, Education, Communication project initiated a three-month intervention aiming at providing psycho-social support and counseling to adolescents affected by the war in the Southern Suburbs with particular emphasis on Sexual and Reproductive Health.
- Relief International provided 10 generators of varying capacities for the water pumps to the municipalities in El Tiri, Siddiquine, Jebal Al bottom, Zibquine, Bent Jbeil, Ainata, Aitaroun, Khorbet Anfar, and Dheira. Furthermore, Relief International distributed 52 Rapid Water Testing Kits as well as conducted trainings on modes of usage of these kits to the above mentioned municipalities as well as those in Kafra, Yater, Awdah, Balbeck and Ali Al Nahri.
- UNFPA awarded the Institute for Development, Research, Advocacy and Applied Care (IDRAAC), the Choices and Challenges in Changing Childbirth at the Center for Research on Population and Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, American University of Beirut as well as KAFAA, Partners for Development, the Lebanese Family

- Planning Association (LFPA) and MERCY Malaysia for the implementation of various interventions addressing UNFPA Humanitarian Relief priorities
- WHO hub in Tyre provided supplies for renal dialysis to Nabatiyeh, Sheajib, Dalaa, Labib and Marjeoun Governmental Hospitals. In addition, one Doctor kit was distributed to Ministry of Public Health Center in Khiam, and one Canadian kit was provided for each of Adloun, Sarafand, Imam Khumaini, Qana and Srifa health centers in Tyre district and Teir Deba center in Bent Jbeil. Further, WHO hub in Tyre delivered 45 Kg of chlorine to health authority in Hasbaya.
 - International Committee for Red Cross (ICRC) provided the Ministry of Social Affairs center in Shakra and Al-Rissalah Scouts centers in Aaiteet, Hanaouay, Hallousseiyeh, Ter Debba, and Shakra with chronic drugs. ICRC distributed one New Emergency Health kit (NEHK) supplemented with 1 Basic kit to Tebnine Governmental Hospital and Hiram Private Hospital.
 - Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) signed an agreement with Hariri foundation to process heart surgeries on congenital malformation in Beirut Governmental hospital. QRCS committed to completely cover 30 surgeries costing each 8000\$.
 - WHO Warehouse distribution of supplies for renal dialysis continues. Approximately 25 tons were distributed to 11 hospitals in Beirut, 9 hospitals in Mount Lebanon, 5 hospitals in Bekaa, and 6 hospitals in the North of Lebanon. In addition, WHO distributed 3 New Emergency Health Kit (NEHK) for each of Halba and Hermel governmental hospitals. One NEHK provides essential drugs for 10,000 patients over a period of three months. Still, 8 m³ of essential drugs were provided to Response International (RI), Medecins du Monde (MDM), Caritas and El Jnan humanitarian NGOs. Furthermore, 1 m³ of chronic essential drugs were distributed to Deir Al Ahmar health center and NGOs centers in Wadi Khaled, Akkar Al Attika and Tal Abbas North of Lebanon.

4. Preserving and supporting local health systems

- WHO, UNFPA, Ministry of Public Health trainings on Emergency in Reproductive Health targeting midwives, registered nurses as well as family and emergency doctors ended reaching 450 participants in Beirut, Saida, Tyre, Nabatieh, Margeoun, Zahle and Baalbek.
- UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA and IMC in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Social Affairs developed 3 leaflets and 3 posters on Mental health and Psychosocial support addressing the general population and the PHC personnel.
- The Lebanese Epidemiological Association (LEA) in collaboration with the Association of Health Promotion Professionals in Lebanon (AHPPL) is organizing a conference on War as a Public Health Crisis: Lessons Learned. The conference will take place on Saturday November 18 at the Gefinor Rotana Hotel-Beirut.

World Health Organization

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

<http://www.virtualhic.org>