

Lebanon Crisis

Health Cluster Bulletin # 25

Wednesday 18 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: UNFPA

UNFPA peer leader supervisor workshop in Blat

14 July 2007

Highlights

- No outbreak was reported through the Early Warning and Response system (EWARS).
- Four 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.
- 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, four 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 248.

Nahr El-Bared Crisis

- Fighting continues in Nahr El-Bared camp. The casualties reported as of July 12 are 180 including 89 soldiers from the Lebanese army.
- UNRWA has contracted Mazloun New Hospital in Tripoli for in-patient care as well as radiology and laboratory services, to accommodate refugee patients in addition to the Islamic Welfare Hospital.
- As reported by the National News Agency, Katyusha rockets were fired on the 13th and 15th of July from Nahr El-Bared camp into different regions in North Lebanon, including Arka, Beit Hadara, and Qaabrine.
- UNRWA is preparing a contingency plan for a similar crisis to Nahr El-Bared in other camps.

- The Palestinian Red crescent society (PRCS) ambulances have had access to the Nahr El-Bared camp for more than 3 weeks, enabling them to evacuate 1,303 persons in need of medical care and 11 casualties as of July 13.

Health Response to the Humanitarian Crisis

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

1. Assessment and monitoring

- The Health Department at Imam Sadr Foundation has initiated the “Special Mobile Clinic” providing specialized medical check-ups as well as essential and chronic drugs. The mobile clinic visited Maroun El-Ras and Aynata villages on July 14, and will be visiting Adchit and Brayqi’ on July 21. The first visits will serve as a field assessment of health care needs in the villages.

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 Field Disease Control Officer is visiting Beddawi camp at least once weekly to follow up.
- UNRWA Chief Field Health Programme (CFHP) and UNRWA Water and Sanitation Coordinator visited the three room post-delivery center at the Beddawi Governmental School for Boys on July 12 to finalize the arrangements. The center started admitting delivering women on Tuesday July 17.

2. Health coordination

- The Health Cluster meeting took place in Tyr on Tuesday July 17 and was attended by 8 partners. The next Health Cluster meeting will take place on Tuesday July 31 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 Saida.
- The Health Cluster and Mental Health Matrices are regularly updated and shared with partners.

Nahr El-Bared Crisis

- The eighth Health Cluster meeting chaired by UNRWA took place on July 17 at UNRWA-Lebanon Field Office in Beirut. Six partners from UN agencies, national and international Non Governmental Organizations operating in the North area attended the meeting. The next meeting will be held at the same venue on Tuesday July 24 at 11:00.
- UNRWA CFHP and UNRWA health coordinator attended the health sub-cluster meeting in Beddawi camp on July 12 and briefed the participants on services provided by UNRWA as well as the outcomes of the health cluster meetings held in Beirut. Abuse of medications and specialist prescriptions were discussed.
- UNRWA Health Coordinator met with specialists at Safad PRCS Hospital and a psychiatrist at Beit Atafal Al Soumoud to discuss issues pertaining to the excessive prescription and abuse of medicines and the prescription of psychotropic medications

to children. Agreement was reached to prescribe medicines according to UNRWA Essential Drug List.

- UNRWA CFHP and UNRWA health coordinator met with the Popular Committees in Beddawi camp on July 12 to discuss health services provided to refugees.
- UNRWA CFHP and UNRWA Water and Sanitation coordinator attended the discussion meeting of the return plan to Nahr El-Bared camp in Tripoli on July 12.
- 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.
- A list will be provided by PRCS and UNRWA to the health cluster partners for the types of injuries of the patients treated at the PRCS Safad Hospital as well as UNRWA-contracted hospitals.

3. Filling health gaps

Nahr El-Bared Crisis

- The Governmental School in Tebbaneh and the Beddawi Intermediate Governmental School have started hosting IDRs, accommodating respectively 30 and 12 families. Showers and water tanks have been installed at the schools.
- 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.
- UNFPA provided UNRWA with 200 newborn kits to be dispatched to delivering women at the post-delivery center at the Beddawi Governmental School for Boys.
- The Lebanese Red Cross Society (LRCS) Emergency Medical Services (EMS) teams maintain their status of readiness. The teams performed as of July 16 various missions transporting 620 wounded, 79 corpses, 1,021 civilians from the camp's entrance, 539 ill persons in medical emergency.
- 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.
- UNRWA dispatched medical supplies enough for 75 days for IDRs and Beddawi camp residents.
- The Health Care Society (HCS) continues to provide mental health drugs and chronic diseases medications to IDRs, in collaboration with UNRWA and other NGOs.
- UNRWA is undertaking sanitary repairs in governmental schools at the Beddawi camp. The works include replacement of water taps, as well as flushing and clearing the sewer lines.

4. Preserving and supporting local health systems

- The Lebanese Association for Early Childhood Development in collaboration with the International Medical Corps (IMC) and the Ghobeiry municipality carried out a 10-day workshop on child priority health issues as well as infant feeding for 28 health workers from primary health care centers and dispensaries in the southern suburbs of Beirut. The participants were provided with training resources, brochures, and audiovisual material to help them organize awareness raising sessions for families in their region.
- The Lebanese Association for Early Childhood Development in collaboration with Alazm Wa Alsaada Aljtimaiya and under the supervision of the Ministry of Public Health organized a workshop on infant breastfeeding techniques for 26 health

workers from primary health care centers and dispensaries in Tripoli, Akkar, and Al-Koura.

- UNFPA undertook the first peer leader supervisor workshop in Blat on July 14 and 15, within the context of its supported project "Raising Awareness among Peace Keeping Forces on Culturally Sensitive Gender Issues and HIV/AIDS". Six supervisors from the Finish and Irish Battalions with medical, legal, health, and religious backgrounds attended the workshop.

Nahr El-Bared Crisis

- The Lebanese Red Cross will conduct a training course on emergency and first aid in North Lebanon. The first session will be attended by 6 nurses and 5 medical officers. Other sessions will follow.
- The University of Balamand in collaboration with the de-mining agency (MAG) facilitated a training session on UXOs awareness in Tripoli. The session was attended by all members of the UNRWA emergency team.
- UNRWA conducted a workshop at Beddawi camp on July 12. The workshop aimed at training sanitation laborers on spraying insecticides by using fogging machines, and was attended by one sanitation foreman and 7 sanitation laborers.
- UNRWA is undertaking environmental health awareness sessions among IDR families in Beddawi schools, by displaying a movie on environmental health issues such as solid waste disposal and proper water use. So far, 2,000 families have attended the sessions.

World Health Organization

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

<http://www.virtualhic.org>

*All inputs are welcome on:
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