

## Lebanon Crisis

### Health Cluster Bulletin # 11

Friday 1 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: UNICEF/Lebanon

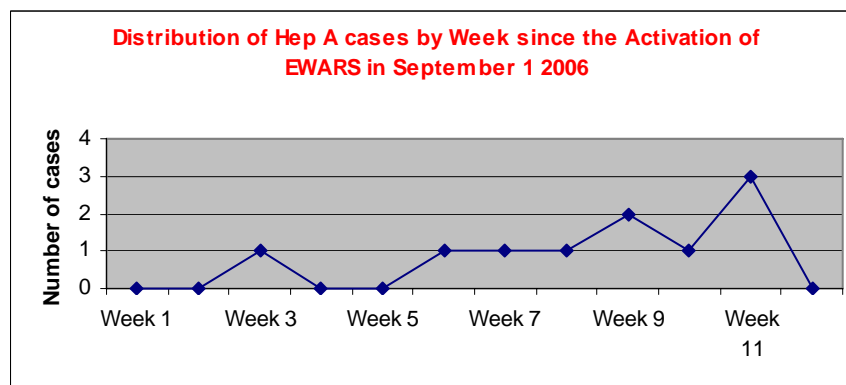
*UNICEF and Local NGOs Mine Risk Education in Zawtar public school. November 2006*

#### Highlights

- One new case of Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B were reported and confirmed through the Early Warning and Response System (EWARS).
- An accident reveals new Israeli laid mines.
- National and International partners are actively working on Psychosocial programs and projects.
- Distribution of drugs expands to cover all regions in Lebanon.

#### Situation Overview

- Reports from the EWARS revealed that 1 new case of hepatitis A and 1 new case of Hepatitis B were reported and confirmed by serology in Tyre. The authorities are undertaking field investigation of close contacts with the provision of necessary instructions. No outbreak alert was reported in the districts of Bent Jbeil and Marjeoun. Visits to several health facilities and health care providers were conducted by WHO focal points to activate EWARN and encourage cooperation of the concerned. The figure below shows 11 weeks distribution of Hepatitis A cases.



- According to the United Nations Mine Action Co-ordination Centre (UNMACC), on Friday 24 November, 3 men working for “Armor Group” were injured by newly laid landmines in Deir Mimas village in South Lebanon. This is the first evidence of Israeli new mines in South Lebanon in 2006.
- According to UNMACC, the grand total of civilians and de-mining accidents casualty figures due to landmines/UXOs/cluster bombs since the first day of ceasefire is 176 divided as follows: 138 injured civilians, 17 killed civilians and 21 military casualties. Among children, aged up to 18 years 55 were injured and 6 killed. Clearance operations are focusing now on the agricultural areas.

## Health Response to the Humanitarian Crisis

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

### 1. Assessment and monitoring

- UNICEF Primary assessment on Public schools Hygiene and Sanitation is completed covering 35 public schools in the south. Preliminary results reveals dangerous hygienic situation inside these schools. The assessment will direct UNICEF plan of action.
- WHO is sponsoring several components of the health and human development intervention “Twining between the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) and the Qana Region” carried out by USJ. WHO focus is on the rapid diagnostic appraisal, the household survey as part of the research component as well as the health promotion and disease prevention being part of the physical health component.

### 2. Health coordination

- 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 and psychosocial support sub cluster coordination meeting in Tyre was held and attended by 9 national and international organizations. The next meeting will take place on Monday 4 December at 12:00 at WHO office within the Ministry of Public health office in Tyre.
- The first meeting of the new sector working group on livelihoods chaired by UNDP is taking place every Tuesday at 10:00 at UNDP-UN compound in Tyre .
- The WATSAN sub cluster meeting is taking place every Tuesday at 17:00 at UNICEF-UN compound in Tyre.
- The Health Cluster and Mental Health Matrices are regularly updated and shared with partners.

### 3. Filling health gaps

- The Ministry of Public Health, UNICEF and WHO national Polio vaccination campaign in collaboration with other partners, reached 252.458 children. The Second Round of the door-to-door national campaign will start on December 4 providing, in addition to polio vaccinations, high-risk regions with measles vaccinations and vitamin A supplementation.
- The Swiss government donated a clinic-equipped container to Rshaaf village in Bent Jbeil.
- International Medical Corps (IMC) is running through trained volunteering specialists Child Friendly Spaces in Khiam, Kafarkela and Jmajmeh reaching every weekend 150-200 children. Additional spaces are planned for Addaïsseh, Bareshe, Shhour, Barashete, Majdal Selem, Toula and Qawthareyet Aljouz.

- People In Need (PIN) opened a psychosocial support center in Jbaa serving the village and its surrounding. PIN is also assisting teachers in public schools in these villages in dealing with psychosocial issues related to war. Similar interventions are planned for Ein Ebel, Yaroun, Rmeish, Debel, and Qouzah.
- International Medical Corps (IMC) completed the rehabilitation of health care facilities pertaining to the Ministry of Social Affairs in Jmajmeh, Marwahine and Aynata, Islamic health Society in Tyre and Barashete, Al-Rissalah Islamic association in Shakra and Der Qanoun Naher, Al-Zahra in Kfarkela, as well as Imam Hussein in Qabrikha.
- CARE finalized Breast feeding sessions for mothers in 17 villages namely Qana, Siddikine, Jbal Al bottom, Rasheknani, Mansourri, Qlayleh, Zebkine, villages from Naqoura up to Marwahine, and from Bayyad down to Chihine. Furthermore, CARE distributed baby food, CARE fresh food and vegetables, as well as clothes and blankets items for babies in the same 17 villages.
- WHO structural and WATSAN rehabilitation of 10 health facilities in the affected areas through the commission of IMC is completed. The rehabilitation covered the Ministry of Social affairs centers in Taibeh, Addaisseh and Ramyeh as well as health centers in Touline, Deir Kifa, Deir Intar, Beit Lif, Aytaroun, Shaqra, and Qsaibe.
- Association pour la Protection de l'Enfant de la Guerre (APEG) is providing free of charge psychiatric and psychological services once per week at the district doctor premises in Nabatieh, Tyre and its main center in Beirut. Eighty-six consultations were provided during the last two weeks to children aged 0-18 years. In addition, APEG is screening for mental health problems among children in public schools in Tyre, Zawtar Faouqa and Kfarremman.
- Developmental Action without border (Nabaa) in partnership with Swiss Developmental cooperation agency (SDCA) is providing weekly recreational activities for 200 children in the school of Zebkine and Siddikine. In addition, Nabaa in partnership with Save the Children–Sweden (SCS) and in coordination with PIN is running a daily psychosocial program in 10 schools in Mansourri, Hanawaii, Majdal Zuen, Jebeine, Ter Harfa, Naqoura, Burj Chemali, Massaken, Albass and Ismaayeh villages reaching between 3.000-3.500 child.
- USJ in collaboration with the municipality of Qana held a recreational celebration in Qana Governmental School attended by approximately 500 children as well as their mothers who benefited from educational messages on gastroenteritis and vaccination.
- International Committee for Red Cross (ICRC) provision of drugs and medical supplies continues. ICRC provided the Al-Rissalah Scout with dressing sets, first aid and triage renewable kits for their ambulance. ICRC distributed essential and chronic drugs to Al-Rissalah polyclinic in Homine Tahta, Amel polyclinic in Khiam and Tyre Governmental hospital.
- WHO Warehouse distributed 3.5 tons of supplies for renal dialysis to Centre Hospitalier du Nord (CHN) and Najdeh hospital in Nabatieh, as well as 5 m<sup>3</sup> of chronic essential drugs to the Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) in Hasbaya and Marjeoun, Metn Municipality Union, Ministry of Social Affairs in Halba and Tebnine, Haret Sakher dispensary, Qana health center and Armenian Relief Cross (ARC). In addition, WHO distributed 2 New Emergency Health Kits (NEHK) for each of Jezzine and Sir El Dunnyeh governmental hospitals as well as 7 doctor kits to the LRC in Rashaya and dispensaries affiliated to the municipalities in Dikwaneh, Baabda, Haret Hreik, Chiyah, and Chebaa. One NEHK provides essential drugs for 10.000 patients over a period of three months.

#### **4. Preserving and supporting local health systems**

- The Ministry of public Health in collaboration with WHO hub in Tyre conducted an EWARS refreshing session in Bent Jbeil targeting health workers from 29 health centers from Bent Jbeil, Margeoun and Nabatieh.
- APEG trained 15 teachers in public schools in Tyre, Zawtar Faouqa and Kfarreman received training on preventive techniques in relation to mental health among children.

- WHO, a partner of YASA-Lebanon, is partially supporting the National Campaign for Safety in Postwar Construction Zones. The campaign will include among others national conferences and seminars, awareness raising and educational material development and distribution, and media interventions.
- UNICEF in collaboration with different NGOs continues the door-to-door and children in schools Mine Risk Awareness and Education in the South and Bekaa. During the past two weeks, approximately 70 schools were reached.

**World Health Organization**

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

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