

Lebanon Crisis

Health Cluster Bulletin # 16

Friday 20 April 2007

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 on a monthly basis.



Picture: WHO/Lebanon

WHO cars donation to strengthen the drinking water quality surveillance system and the epidemiological surveillance system at the Ministry of Public Health

April 2007

Highlights

- No outbreak alerts were reported to the Early Warning and Response Surveillance system (EWARS).
- Unexploded Ordnances (UXOs), cluster bombs and mines are causing additional injuries and deaths.
- Capacity development trainings on health related issues are part of the recovery and preparedness are on going.

Situation Overview

- According to the National Demining Office (NDO) and UNDP Mine action, 13 new casualties were registered within one month and a half bringing the total number of military and civilian casualty figures due to landmines/UXOs/cluster bombs to 233 divided as follows: 191 injured civilians, 21 killed civilians and 21 military casualties as of April 19, 2007. The increase in the figures is mainly due to device manipulation and agricultural work.

Health Response to the Humanitarian Crisis

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

1. Assessment and monitoring

- The Faculty of Health Sciences at the American University of Beirut (FHS-AUB), supported by UNFPA and in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs, conducted a study entitled "Assessment of the Responsiveness and Preparedness of centers providing services to seniors in Lebanon during and after the July 2006-War". The study aimed at guiding policies to improve responsiveness to emergency situations. A total of 80 centers distributed all over Lebanon were included with a concentration on centers located in War-torn areas. The report is being finalized.
- The Lebanese HealthCare Management Association (LHMA) supported by WHO-HQ as well as UNFPA and in collaboration with AUB-FHS conducted a study entitled "Needs Assessment of Older Adults: July 2006 war on Lebanon". The study mapped

wartime experiences of older adults and health consequences, assessing their needs, and evaluating the responsiveness of civil society including family to those needs. Data analysis is under way.

- UNFPA completed a rapid assessment pertaining to the usefulness, quality, and quantity of the commodities (family hygiene kits, baby kits, reproductive health drugs, medical equipment, etc.) distributed by the Fund as part of its response and recovery efforts. Preliminary findings indicate a significant satisfaction and usefulness by the users of the family and baby kits in terms of the quality of the items as well as timely delivery to affected population and regions. The assessment report will be available at www.unfpa.org.
- WHO supported an assessment mission aiming at exploring possibilities and mechanisms for establishing a national Mental Health Program. This is in line with the preparedness for crisis and emergency at national level.
- The High Relief Council issued its second report regarding the Lebanon crisis. The report includes comprehensive information in relation to the donations and support provided and their usage. The report is available on www.rebuildlebanon.gov.lb.
- WHO public health focal points to health facilities in Bent Jbeil and Hassbaya providing technical support to increase the reporting sites and improve the quality of data continue.

2. Health coordination

- The Health cluster meeting is being held biweekly on Tuesdays at 15:00, WHO office within the Ministry of Public Health office in Tyr. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday May 1.
- The Mental Health and Psychosocial Support sub-cluster coordination meeting is held once per month. The next meeting will take place on Monday April 30 at 12:00, WHO office-Tyr.
- The Health Cluster and Mental Health Matrices are regularly updated and shared with partners.

3. Filling health gaps

- International Medical Corps (IMC) donated 16 foetal doplars to the health centers affiliated to the Ministry of Social Affairs in Bent Jbeil, Aadchit, Abbassieh, Kawthariyet Al Roz, Jmaijmeh, Yaatar, Khirbet Silim, and Zibqine, to the municipality in Kfardounine, Al Sader Charity Association in Borj Shamali, Islamic High Society (IHS) in Baraachit, Al Rissalah clinic in Chaqra, Der Kanoun Al Nahr and Tair Dibba, Al Khoumaini clinic in Aitaroun, and Imam Al Hussein clinic in Qabrikha. Further, IMC delivered dental chair units to the health centers pertaining to the IHS in Baraachit, Al Rissalah clinic in Hallossiyeh, Imam Al Sadr in Aita Achaab and Ministry of Social Affairs in Bent Jbeil.
- IMC distributed 3 KVA generators to the municipality health clinic in Kfardounine, Al Sader Charity Association in Borj Shemali, Al Rissalah clinic in Tair Dibba and Ministry of Social Affairs clinic in Khirbet Silim.
- WHO signed a School Health Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and the Ministry of Public Health. The three components of the project aims at strengthening the medical screening and interventions for the students in public schools all over Lebanon, as well as improving their health behavior using new educational strategies, addressing the various support groups, and establishing a safe environment for children.
- Caritas Lebanon is providing health services through its mobile clinic Jean Paul II donated by the actual Pope. Blood tests (Cholesterol, Triglycerides, and diabetes), Osteoporosis tests, EKG and cardiac consultation are being delivered to approximately 60 in need population all over Lebanon on a daily basis.

- WHO upgraded the capacities of the Tyr Governmental Hospital Laboratory by providing additional instruments and supplies, enabling it to respond to the community's needs in disease diagnosis.
- WHO is supporting the Ministry of Public Health in establishing a shock room for emergency health interventions at the Rafic Hariri Governmental Hospital. The support includes furnishing and equipping with different kinds of communication and office devices, in addition to redesigning the premises to match required standards.
- The Indian battalion-UNIFIL provided, based on assessments, prostheses and artificial limbs for 150 physically disabled persons because of the war in July.

4. Preserving and supporting local health systems

- UNFPA in collaboration with the National Commission for Lebanese Women is promoting the contribution and involvement of women in selected war affected regions in peace building and conflict prevention. The project implemented in 10 villages has completed a general assessment of priorities to be addressed in a series of Training events and recreational activities. Update will be posted at www.unfpa.org
- WHO, aiming to support and strengthen the drinking water quality surveillance system and the epidemiological surveillance system, provided the Ministry of Public Health with 38 Citroen Berlingo donated by the Norwegian and the Italian Governments as well as the European Commission Office for Humanitarian Aid. The cars to be distributed to the districts of Akkar, Minieh, Sir El Donniah, Tripoli, Zgharta, Bsharreh, Koura, Batroun, Jbeil, Keserwan, Metn, Baabda, Hermel, Baalbek, Zahle, West Bekaa, Rashaya, Shouf, Aley, Sidon, Tyr, Jezzine, Nabatieh, Hasbaya, Marjeyoun, and Bint Jbeil.
- WHO supported the participation of two Ministry of Public Health staff and one of its personnel in the AUB-FHS course on "Public Health in Complex Emergencies".
- The Faculty of Health Sciences-University of Balamand (FHS-UoB) in collaboration with WHO is organizing a seminar to disseminate the results of the psychosocial needs assessment of elderly in emergencies in Lebanon. The seminar will take place on Friday April 27 from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. at the Faculty's premises.
- WHO is resuming its trainings on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergencies. Twelve workshops targeting 309 health workers from the Primary health Care Network in Beirut, Mount Lebanon, North, Bekaa, Bent Jbeil and Marjeyoun are scheduled starting May 8, 2007.
- IMC in collaboration with the Lebanese Association for Early Childhood Development Conducted capacity building trainings on Health Education regarding motherhood and childhood health issues addressing health and social workers as well as nurses affiliated to the primary health care centers in Tyr and Bent Jbeil districts. So far, the two phases of the trainings reached 60 health centers.

World Health Organization

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

<http://www.virtualhic.org>