

Lebanon Crisis

Health Cluster Bulletin # 8

Friday 20 October 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 is issued every Friday.



Picture: WHO/Lebanon

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergencies' Trainings carried out by WHO, MOPH and the Professional Societies.

13 October 2006

Highlights

- No outbreaks of disease were reported to the Ministry of Public Health.
- Explosive remnants of war are causing each 12 hours the injury or death of a person in Lebanon.
- As the Lebanese government, UN agencies, and civil societies are moving in recovery period several funding preparations and mechanisms are being studied.
- The minister of Public Health acknowledged, during a press conference, the efforts and contributions of the various health partners in fostering the national response to the emergency crisis.

Situation Overview

- Preliminary results from the Early Warning and Response Surveillance System (EWARS) implementation show the results from 37 reporting sites (26 in Tyre, 8 in Hasbaya and 3 in Margeon). The 2 suspected cases of hepatitis A in Siddikeen were investigated and results turned out negative. The 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 151 divided as follows: 120 injured civilians, 15 killed civilians and 16 military casualties as of October 17, 2006. One new death case among youth aged 13-18 years was reported this week.
- The Ministry of Finance Health sector consultation meeting held on Thursday 19 October and chaired by the minister was attended by representatives of various UN agencies involved in health, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Social Affairs, National Security Fund, Order of Physicians, Syndicate of Private Hospitals as well as the team of the Ministry of Finance. The World Bank participated through a teleconference call. The objectives were to discuss filling the immediate gaps in the health system and linking the recovery phase planned health interventions to the project on Health System Reform. Several follow up meetings in preparation of the anticipated Paris III donors meeting are planned.
- The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) meeting on the UN Development Group (UNDG) Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) took place in the presence of the executive coordinator of the fund. The meeting aimed at briefing heads of agencies regarding

the on going discussions with the Government of Lebanon and exchanging views concerning the proposed Terms of References for the new Lebanon recovery fund to be established. The 25 of October is the deadline for comments from the different UN agencies.

Health Response to the Humanitarian Crisis

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

1. Assessment and monitoring

- WHO structural and WATSAN assessment of health facilities in the south ended screening 147 health centers in Marjayoun, Hasbaya, Bent Jbeil and Tyre. The resulting data will be displayed appropriately and shared among the health cluster partners.
- WHO public health focal persons continue assessment and follow up visits for the Primary Health Care facilities and liaison with municipalities and stockholders to ensure the provision of health services in the affected villages. 10 health facilities were visited in Margeon, Bintjbeel and Tyre.

2. Health coordination

- The weekly health cluster meeting was held and attended by representatives of 10 agencies (UN, INGOs and national NGOs) working in Health. The third Mental health coordination meeting in Tyre will take place on Saturday 21 October 2006.
- The Health Cluster and the mental health and psychological support matrices are regularly updated and disseminated to health cluster partners in Tyre.
- The Tyre health cluster meetings will not take place the coming Tuesday because of the Eid vacation.

3. Filling health gaps

- International Committee for Red Cross (ICRC) provided drugs and equipped with blankets, dressing and suture materials, body bags, splints and stretchers the 30 ambulances of the Islamic Health Society IHS in Tyre and Nabatiyeh as well as the society's mobile clinics through out the South. ICRC provided chronic diseases drugs and medical assistance to Yarine dispensary, Bafflay and Chihine clinics as well as Salah Gandur Hospital in Bent Jbeil. ICRC states that the lack of chronic drugs is problematic.
- WHO Warehouse channeled 4 tons of non-essential drugs and supplies donated by the people of Bahrain to Margeoun hospital. Furthermore, Tyre WHO hub provided 1 Basic kit box for the health facilities affiliated to the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Social affairs and non governmental organizations in Khirbat Silem, Rmeish, Alma Alshaab, Tyre, Aiteet, AlKham, Deir Kentar, Debel, Shakra, Mimes, Kfeer, Khilwat, Kabrikha and Sauwana and Tibnine.
- The Suisse embassy installed two equipped and furnished containers in replacement of the damaged Ministry of Public Health center in El Kham and Lebanese Red Cross center in Kafra. This temporary arrangement will allow the centers to continue delivering care and consultations.
- WHO second round of the vector control campaign in the South, Beirut suburbs and Bekaa Valley in collaboration with the Quaemmaquams, municipalities and Sukleen in Beirut is in process.
- WHO rehabilitation of Srifa health center affiliated to the municipality is finalized and delivery of the various services resumed.

- Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) supported the Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) with 24 vehicles: 10-land cruiser, 10 ambulances and 4 logistics vehicles in addition to fuel tanks. Furthermore, the Saida QRCS performed 41 different surgeries in addition to one normal delivery.
- The Saudi Red Crescent (SRC) donated the LRC 2 ambulances for Tyre and Teerdabba, in addition to 1 mobile clinic for LRC Tyre.

4. Preserving and supporting local health systems

- WHO epidemiology expert conducted two trainings on Surveillance and Early Warning and Response System (EWARS) targeting chief of departments, district health officers as well as surveillance focal points at the Ministry of Public Health and their assistants in Zahle and Saida reaching approximately 60 participants from the various districts in Bekaa, South and Nabatieh mohafazats. In addition to that, 15 surveillance focal points from the various Mohafazats in Lebanon were trained on the EWARS computer software to be used in reporting.
- The Ministry of Public Health in collaboration with WHO and UNICEF is preparing to launch the Polio National Immunization Days on October 30 2006.
- WHO and UNFPA in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health launched the Emergency in Reproductive Health trainings targeting midwives, registered nurses as well as family and emergency doctors. Approximately 110 participants attended in Beirut, Margeoun, and Zahle. Further trainings will occur over November in Tyre, Nabatieh, Sidon, and Baalbek.
- WHO in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health, the Water Authorities, the Governors and Quaemmaquams will launch on October 28 the trainings on the use of the rapid water testing kit addressing all municipalities/villages in Lebanon. Forty-four thousands rapid water testing kits on the quality of water will be distributed to the municipalities/villages all over Lebanon.
- WHO in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health and the professional societies (Psychiatrics, Psychologists, social workers and order of nurses) launched the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergencies workshops in Sidon, Tyre and Nabatieh. To date 120 primary health care personnel and physicians were reached. Expansion of the trainings on a national basis is being contemplated.

World Health Organization

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