

## Lebanon Crisis

### Health Cluster Bulletin # 26

Wednesday 25 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: WHO

*MoPH advisor giving a session at the WHO  
Emergency Preparedness Workshop*

23 July 2007

#### Highlights

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

##### Nahr El-Bared Crisis

- Fighting continues in Nahr El-Bared camp. The Lebanese Army death toll rose to 111 as of July 20.
- Fateh Islam fighters are now occupying a small area inside the camp and have refused repeated calls to surrender.
- The situation in Beddawi camp has been quiet with no reported incidents in the past week.
- The Lebanese Army is conducting de-mining operations inside Nahr El-Bared camp.
- Fateh Islam are continuing to fire Katyusha rockets from Nahr El-Bared camp into different regions in North Lebanon, including Minieh, Deir Aamar, Aarka, and Qaabrine, causing material damage. No casualties are reported.

#### Health Response to the Humanitarian Crisis

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

**1. Assessment and monitoring**

- Through the EWARS, two cases of confirmed Hepatitis A and three cases of confirmed Typhoid fever were reported from Nabatiyeh and Hasbaya.

**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 tested 10 water samples from the Beddawi water wells and shelters. Two of the samples revealed cross connection with a sewage manhole and a new water pipe was installed. A bacteriological test will be performed to confirm water quality.

**2. Health coordination**

- The Health Cluster meeting took place in Tyr on Tuesday July 17 and was attended by 8 partners. The meeting was informative of various activities for coordination purposes. The next Health Cluster meeting will take place on Tuesday July 31 at 3:00 pm, WHO office-Tyr.
- The Mental Health and Psychosocial Support sub-cluster coordination meeting took place on July 23 at the WHO office in 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 ninth Health Cluster meeting chaired by UNRWA took place on July 24 at UNRWA-Lebanon Field Office in Beirut. The next meeting will be held at the same venue on Tuesday July 31 at 11:00.
- 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](http://www.lebanon-support.org).

**3. Filling health gaps**

- Terre des Hommes (TDH) is providing psychosocial and social activities to children under 18 years old in 25 villages in the South. These activities are implemented through 10 municipality centers provided to TDH for that purpose, as well as through home visits undertaken by specialized psychologists.

**Nahr El-Bared Crisis**

- UNRWA is still providing medical services through the Beddawi clinic on a double shift, except on Saturdays and Sundays.
- The post-delivery center at the Beddawi Governmental School for Boys is operational and has started receiving delivering women as of July 19.
- UNRWA is covering IDRs outside North Lebanon at its contracted tertiary care hospitals such as the Rafic Hariri Governmental Hospital, the Labib Medical Center, Dalaa' General Hospital in Saida, and Dar El-Amal University Hospital in Beqaa.
- UNRWA is providing patients in need of life-saving medications unavailable at UNRWA clinics with free of charge medications from a private pharmacy in Beddawi camp.
- UNRWA carried out repairs to the sanitary facility in its Jordan River School, the Lukman School, Al-Rawda school, the Fateh center, the Tebbani school, the Islamic cultural school, Al-Asreye Kindergarten, and the Beddawi Governmental schools for

boys and girls. The works include replacement of water taps, as well as flushing and clearing the sewer lines.

- Islamic Relief provided 3,500 liters of service water to Beddawi Governmental School for girls.
- Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP) is providing indoor disinfection for shelters hosting displaced families in Beddawi camp.
- UNRWA Plant Mechanic has carried out maintenance to the generator at Beddawi Governmental School for Girls, and provided 250 liters of gas oil to allow the operation of the water pump and the electricity supply.
- The Lebanese Red Cross Society (LRCS) Emergency Medical Services (EMS) teams maintain their status of readiness. The teams performed as of July 24 various missions transporting 715 wounded, 91 corpses, 1,021 civilians from the camp's entrance, 702 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.

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

- UNHCR in collaboration with the Danish Refugee Council is furnishing 30 Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) Social Development Centers in Beirut, South, and Beqaa. UNHCR is also providing focal points at the centers with capacity building on dealing with vulnerable groups, mainly children, elderly, and disabled. Three trainings have been conducted so far targeting an average of 70 persons each.
- UNDP is running a new development project "The Art Gold Program for Local Economic Development in the Southern Lebanon" with around 230 municipalities in the South. The project aims to reduce poverty and assist the government in enhancing local development as a national strategy.
- International Medical Corps in collaboration with UNICEF is conducting a First Aid Emergency training targeting teachers and head counselors in 25 schools all over Lebanon. The 5-day workshops started on July 23. Trainers from the Lebanese Red Cross are giving training sessions.
- WHO is conducting the "Emergency Preparedness Workshop" from July 23 till 28, targeting 27 health professionals from different health institutions including the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), MOSA, the General Security and the Lebanese Army, as well as syndicates, NGOs and professional societies. The workshop aims at preparing resource persons from the various sectors for emergency preparedness to replicate the training at the district level across the country.
- The International Organization for Migration has teamed up with the Lebanese University to offer a masters degree course to professionals currently providing psychosocial assistance to war-affected communities. The project was launched on July 21 in a joint press conference and the course will start in September 2007.

#### **Nahr El-Bared Crisis**

- UNRWA organized a workshop on management of emergencies on July 21 in Beirut. The workshop was attended by the deputy CFHP, the field family health officer, as well as 20 UNRWA medical officers. The workshop will be duplicated in the North.

#### **World Health Organization**

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

<http://www.virtualhic.org>

*All inputs are welcome on:  
[health@leb.emro.who.int](mailto:health@leb.emro.who.int)*