

## Lebanon Crisis

### Health Cluster Bulletin # 9

Friday 3 November 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: WHO/Lebanon

Children from Dar Al Aytam Al Islamiah waiting to be vaccinated at the launching of the National Polio Immunization Campaign.

2 November 2006

#### Highlights

- One case of TB Meningitis from Saida was reported and confirmed.
- Still, explosive remnants of war are causing each 12 hours the injury or death of a person in Lebanon.
- More international NGOs are withdrawing from the south.

#### Situation Overview

- Preliminary results from the EWARS implementation show the results from 31 reporting sites (18 in Tyre, 10 in Hasbaya and 3 in Margeon). One case of T.B. Meningitis from Saida area was investigated and confirmed. Necessary action is being taken with the contacts.
- FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture organized on October 27, a meeting to present and discuss the preliminary findings and recommendations of the FAO mission in Lebanon during the crisis. Six proposals for early recovery needs among affected communities are being developed. Request for collaboration with UN agencies and NGOs was voiced.
- 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 157 divided as follows: 125 injured civilians, 16 killed civilians and 16 military casualties as of November 2, 2006. In the past 80 days, 157 persons were victims of explosive remnants of war, meaning that each 12 hours a person in Lebanon is injured or killed by these devices.

## Health Response to the Humanitarian Crisis

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

### 1. Assessment and monitoring

- WHO Tyre team conducted field visits to 13 health facilities in Taibeh, Markaba, Houla, Shakra, Barasheet, Bent Jbeil, Yaoun, Marwaheen, Aita al Chaab, Rmeish, Ramia and Yaren in order to ensure the provision of health services. Margeoun and Meis El Jabal governmental hospitals are functional with Margeoun hospital facing staff shortage. Furthermore, the newly established governmental hospital in Bent Jbeil started providing medical services through its out patient clinics on a daily basis from 9:00-12:00.

### 2. Health coordination

- The weekly health cluster meeting in Tyre was held and attended by 13 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 (MoPH) office in Tyre.
- The Mental Health coordination meeting in Tyre was held and attended by 4 partners. The next meeting is scheduled on November 7 at 13:00 at WHO office within the MoPH office in Tyre.
- A Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) was established in Tyre. Meetings will take place every 2 weeks on Thursdays at 10:00 at the UN compound-Tyre.
- Nabatiyeh Mayor in collaboration with INTERSOS held a psychosocial and child protection coordination meeting. Fifteen local organizations attended the meeting.
- WHO and the Ministry of Public Health will conduct on Tuesday 7 November at 16:00 a general coordination meeting for partners providing mobile clinics services in the south.
- Starting first of November, Oxfam office in Tyre will move back to Beirut.

### 3. Filling health gaps

- WHO hub in Tyre provided one Basic kit box in support to the provision of health services to Lebanese Red Cross clinic in Jabal Al Botm, Abdul Hussain Sharaf el Dine and Deir Kifa clinics in Tyre. In addition, one doctor's kit was provided to Response International clinic in Klaileh.
- CISP conducted 2 rounds of vector control spraying in Ainata, Aita el Chaab, Aitaroun, Qawzah, Hanine, Yaroun and Rameish. of fogging. CISP donated 2 sets of equipments to both Aita el Chaab and Aytaroun municipalities.
- WHO tyre team conducted bilateral meeting with Care International mainly working on nutrition, in order to promote the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Social Affairs, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP and WHO joint statement on infant and child feeding.
- UNICEF provided 48.000L of bottled water to Yaroun, Haris, Sribine and Braiquaa villages. UNICEF distribution of bottled water to villages will be replaced by other alternatives; 10.600 jerry cans were distributed in Yaroun, Yater, Dibbine, Houla, Kafra, Froun and Ghandouriyeh. Fifteen agencies are currently involved in water tankering to towns and villages in south Lebanon including CISP, UNIFIL, Première Urgence, Oxfam and Islamic Relief.
- Qatar Red crescent provided medical care through the outpatient's clinics at the Saida Field Hospital to 1228 patients with a mean of 130 patients per day for week 7 and 96 for week 8. Figure one shows the distribution of patients per specialities. Surgical operations have a waiting list till end of November. Moreover, 296 patients

received medical care at the Bent Jbeil field Hospital. QRCS mobile clinic offered medical services to 328 patients in Rashaf, Dibbel, Kafra, Bleeda, Maroun El Ras, and Al-Teere.

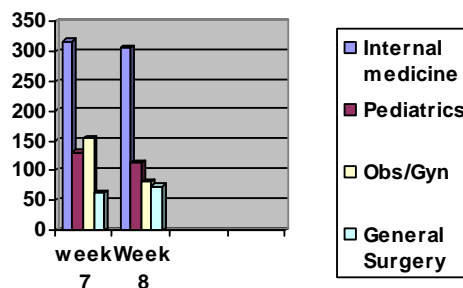


Figure 1: Distribution of patients per Specialties

- Technisches Hilfswerk (THW) accomplished the repair and rehabilitation of water and sewerage infrastructure in approximately 39 villages in the south. In addition, THW is testing for water quality at 20 separate locations per day.
- UNICEF/INTERSOS Child Friendly Space still operates in Nabatieh and Tyre. So far, 800 and 1.545 child participated in Nabatieh and Tyre respectively.
- The Ministry of Public Health in collaboration with the ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Interior and Municipalities as well as national and International NGOs launched the first round of an emergency door-to-door nationwide Polio immunization campaign. The campaign supported by WHO and UNICEF will target 320.000 children aged up to five years. The second round is set for 4 December.
- WHO donated ten thousands doses of Desferral to the Chronic Care Center a specialized center targeting Thalasemic patients.
- Amar ICF is establishing two Primary Health Care clinics in Kafarkela and Qlayleh.
- International Medical Corps (IMC) supported the Islamic Health Society (IHS) center in Barasheet, and Farah clinic in Hasbaya with drugs, medical equipments and furniture.
- ICRC supported the HIS polyclinic in Nabatieh with chronic disease drugs and one New Emergency Health kit (NEHK). ICRC provided the Sister Of Charity Polyclinic in Ain Ebel with a 175 KVA Generator, a water tank, and one NEHK. One NEHK provides essential drugs for 10,000 patients over a period of three months.
- WHO Warehouse distributed approximately 17 tons of supplies for renal dialysis for Hammoud Hospital in Saida, Jabal Amel Hospital in Tyre, Roum, Zahra, Rizc, and mount Lebanon hospitals in Beirut.

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

- UNFPA Country Director signed on October 27 with the First Lady representing the National Commission for Lebanese Women, a joint project aiming at empowering women to participate in the peace process, conflict resolution, and humanitarian assistance. The project is in accordance with UN Security Resolution 1325.
- WHO, UNFPA, Ministry of Public Health trainings on Emergency in Reproductive Health targeting midwives, registered nurses as well as family and emergency doctors continues. Approximately 70 participants attended Beirut and Baalbek workshops.
- UNFPA in collaboration with the Health Cluster partners is preparing the training curriculum of phase 2 of the emergency Reproductive Health program, to be initiated

in January 2007. The curriculum will focus mainly on issues related to pre-natal care, pregnancy and stress, post partum depression and others.

- WHO supported the series of trainings and orientation workshops organized by the Ministry of Public Health and UNICEF in relation to the national Polio campaign. Approximately 120 district doctors as well as district and zones coordinators in addition to 2.000 volunteers were reached and will be participating in the campaign.
- UNFPA developed 4 leaflets on Reproductive Health issues namely post-partum depression, oral contraceptives, yeast infections and nutrition during pregnancy. The leaflets are pasted on reproductive health medications that will meet the needs of around 14.000 women in post conflict areas.

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