

Lebanon Crisis

Health Cluster Bulletin # 6

Friday 6 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: QRCS

Paediatric health care provided by the Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS).

September 2006

Highlights

- One case of confirmed Hepatitis A was reported from Tyre.
- The number of casualties due to Unexploded Ordnances (UXOs) since the cease of the aggression bypassed the numbers in 2000.
- A performance evaluation for the United Nations crisis response is contemplated.
- As agencies move in early recovery phase there is a need to plan and deliver health services to indirectly affected areas.

Situation Overview

- Preliminary results from the EWARS implementation in Tyre alone show the results from 21 reporting sites, revealing that most common conditions were: common watery diarrhea, respiratory infections and injuries, in addition to 2 cases of AFP in Tyre that were investigated and discarded. Furthermore, Hepatitis A (Hep. A) case reported by Jabal AMEL hospital in Tyre was investigated and confirmed by laboratory testing. The 15 cases of Hep. A and Cluster of Diarrhea in Siddiquine village reported last week were investigated and treated. The investigation of the water source is being done and hygiene education is in process. Local health facilities in Marjeyoun started reporting also.
- According to the National Demining Office (NDO), the total number of military and civilians casualty figures due to landmines/UXOs/cluster bombs is 20 deaths and 113 injuries as of October 6, 2006. This is an alarming rate if compared to the year 2000 figures where 119 casualties were reported over 52 weeks.
- The health cluster partners highlighted the need to form a Performance Evaluation Working Group encompassing the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Social Affairs, and Non Governmental Organizations providing Primary Health Care services. The mechanism is being reflected upon.
- It is now estimated that 30% of Internal Displaced People will move to other communities for schooling and other needs. Accordingly there is a need to plan for activities outside the affected areas. Some UN agencies started working in areas not directly affected by the crisis.

Health Response to the Humanitarian Crisis

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

1. Assessment and monitoring

- The Women and girls Protection and Reproductive Health sub cluster lead by UNFPA initiated a rapid assessment for the development of the gender and women protection action plan as part of the recovery and medium term phases. Trainings of the data collectors from the Social Development Service Centers at the Ministry Of Social Affairs took place in Tyre, the Southern Suburbs and Baalbeck.
- WHO undertook a detailed operational assessment of health facilities in the villages of khiam, Froun, Ghandourya, Kalway kfordounin, Hadata, Dibl, Khorbet, Silem, Markaba, Tuline, Souana, Majdel selem. The assessment covered the provision of health services particularly PHC services, overall level of functionality, shortage/needs and WatSan situation. Most of the health facilities are able to provide health services, although the water and power situation and medications supply represent major obstacles.
- The data analysis of the second phase assessment of the Health Facilities is finalized. The report is being prepared.

2. Health coordination

- The regular meeting of the Women and Girl Protection and Reproductive Health sub cluster took place at the Ministry of Social Affairs and was attended by approximately 20 partners. The upcoming meeting will be on Wednesday 12 October at 12:00 p.m.
- UNFPA deployed Dr. Kareem Osman as a Humanitarian/Liaison Officer for South Lebanon.
- The weekly health cluster meeting was held and attended by representatives of 6 agencies working in Health. Two mental health and psychosocial support cluster meetings will be conducted next Monday and Tuesday in Tyre and Beirut respectively.
- The Health Cluster Matrix is regularly updated and disseminated to all health cluster partners in Tyre.
- The Tyre health cluster meetings will take place every Tuesday at 5:00 p.m., at WHO office within the Ministry of Health office.
- The Tyre water/sanitation cluster meetings will be held every Tuesday at 5:00 p.m.

3. Filling health gaps

- UNFPA funded six local and international NGOS and social groups as well as academia to undertake 2-4 months projects in the following areas: Equipping a mobile clinic; reducing the risk of post conflict violence; improving the Reproductive Health among girls and women in affected areas; increasing awareness of the Lebanese army officers and soldiers on HIV/AIDS prevention; undertaking needs assessment on physical and psychosocial support health needs of war-affected families in Nabatieh; providing community psychosocial support as well as implementing a physical rapid assessment of Mental Health.
- UNFPA and UNIFIL are in the process of developing a joint project on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Gender Awareness within the UN armed forces in Lebanon.
- WHO and UNICEF are assisting technically and financially the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) in the two rounds national house to house Polio campaign to be conducted by the MOPH and the civil society in November and December 2006.
- Imam Sader foundation supported by various stakeholders is providing general and specialized medical services as well as essential and chronic drugs through its mobile

- clinic to the following villages: Chihine, Jebbene, Tayrharfa, Yanouh, Wadi Jilo, Markaba, Talloussa, Roub Talatine, Houla, Markaba, Bani Hayyane.
- WHO provided 1 Basic health kit and 1 Doctors kit for each of the following Primary Health Care Centers in Markaba, Houlea, Mais Aljabel, Shakra (MOSA), Shakra (Imam Sader) and Hariss.
 - The Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) delivered health care to 1.220 patients through its outpatients clinics in Saida governmental hospital with a daily mean of 204 patients. The out patient clinic offer medical care in 4 different specialities; internal medicine, pediatric, obstetric and gynecology as well as general surgery. 282 patients received medical care from the Bent Jbeil field and mobile clinic visiting the villages of Bleeda, Haris, Kafra, Marwaheen, Al-Teere, and Yareen.
 - WHO will fund the rehabilitation of 10 additional Health Care Centers in the south. An NGO is being identified for the implementation of the rehabilitation work. Two centers are being currently rehabilitated by WHO; one in Nakoura and one in Srifa.
 - WHO Warehouse provided 27 big boxes of chronic essential drugs in addition to 11 doctors kit to the Ministry of Public Health, NGOs, and municipalities in Beirut and in rural areas in the Northern part of the country.
 - WFP third round of food distribution started on 29 September. It is expected to reach 655,000 people with an estimated 4,000 mt of food in the south of Lebanon, Bekaa valley and southern suburbs of Beirut.
 - Medecins du Monde (MDM)-Greece distributed chronic disease medications as well as first aid kits to five PHC in Adaisseh, Kafarkila, Khiam, Margeoun and Hasbaya. MDM also delivered medical care and medications through the Amel Assocaition PHC in Debbine. Cardiovascular disease accounted for 70% of the services and medications distributed.

4. Preserving and supporting local health systems

- WHO is planning the implementation of two EWARS refreshing trainings for the affected districts in Bekaa, the south and southern suburbs of Beirut, in order to ameliorate the quality and completeness of the reporting.
- WHO will launch a series of trainings on the use of the rapid water testing kits that will be provided to the municipalities in Lebanon. The training workshops will target the municipalities and the public health inspectors at the Ministry of Public Health.
- WHO mental health trainings as an activity of the comprehensive plan will be launched tomorrow with a master training addressing the trainers. The series of trainings will start next Thursday targeting around 400 Primary Health Care workers including doctors in the PHCC in both the South and Nabatieh governorates.
- UNFPA and WHO preparations for the Emergency in Reproductive Health trainings targeting midwives, registered nurses as well as family and emergency doctors are continuing. The trainings are targeting 300 health personnel in the affected areas in Lebanon namely, the south, southern suburbs and Bekaa. The first two-days training of a series will take place on October 13. The training course was developed by academic doctors and midwives based on the outlines set by WHO and UNFPA.
- WHO presented the Impact of Oil Spills on Health and Environment at the roundtable organized by the Ministry of Environment and the Water Energy and Environment Research Center (WEERC). ESCWA and FAO participated by a Proposal Plan for the Restoration of Environmental Damage Resulting from Military Confrontation in Lebanon and a paper on the Impact on fisheries respectively.

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