

## Lebanon Crisis

### Health Cluster Bulletin # 15

Wednesday 7 March 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: Rony Ziadah / producer

*WHO provided a portable water laboratory for the Ministry of Water and Energy.*

February 2007

#### Highlights

- A UN contingency plan has been prepared.
- No outbreak alerts were reported.
- Various UN agencies and NGOs are developing their intervention plans for the recovery period.
- Unexploded Ordnances (UXOs), cluster bombs and mines are still affecting the various life aspects of the Lebanese population in the affected areas.

#### Situation Overview

- The UN Country Team met to revise and approve the Inter-Agency Humanitarian Contingency Plan (CP). The objective of the CP is to plan the effective response of the UN team in Lebanon to potential emergencies with appropriate humanitarian assistance and protection. The plan focused primarily on the internal threat scenario as well as other scenarios. The document will be presented to the Government of Lebanon (GoL) through the office of the Resident Coordinator.
- According to the National Demining Office (NDO) and UNDP Mine action, the total number of military and civilian casualty figures due to landmines/UXOs/cluster bombs is 220 divided as follows: 179 injured civilians, 21 killed civilians and 20 Lebanese Armed Forces casualties, as of March 6, 2007. Main reasons behind civilian's injuries and deaths are home reconnaissance 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

- Handicapped International (HI) partnered with the Lebanese Physically Handicapped Union (LPHU) in establishing the "Disability Focal Point project", aiming to support disabled people and victims of the war by providing them with appropriate devices as well as psychosocial counseling. Teams of volunteers are conducting assessments

for disabled people in Dahieh and the South, and have assessed so far over 600 disabled persons.

- WHO public health focal points conducted field visits to health facilities in Bent Jbeil, Tyre, Nabatieh, and Marjeyoun, providing technical support to increase the reporting sites and improve the quality of data.
- WHO in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) finalized the data collection of the follow up assessment regarding the severely damaged and war related non-functional health facilities. Data analysis is underway.

## **2. Health coordination**

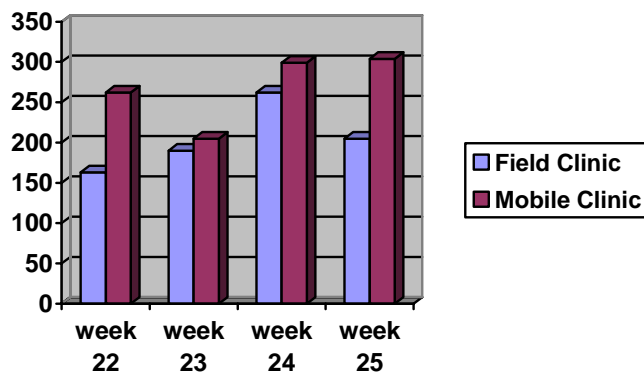
- Four health cluster meetings were conducted and attended respectively by 7, 9, 8, and 7 UN agencies, international and national non-governmental organizations. The next health cluster meeting will take place on March 6 at 15:00, WHO office within the Ministry of Public Health office in Tyre.
- The Mental Health and Psychosocial Support sub-cluster coordination meeting in Tyre was held and attended by 9 national and international NGOs. The next meeting will take place on March 26 at 12:00 WHO office-Tyre.
- The Health Cluster and Mental Health Matrices are regularly updated and shared with partners.

## **3. Filling health gaps**

- A Saint Joseph University (USJ) team of doctors and nurses conducted medical visits in Qana high school from 12 February until 3 March. The medical checkup covered 900 children in the two Qana public schools.
- UNICEF distributed around 200 Cold Chain Vaccine Refrigerators among NGOs, as well as MOPH and Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) dispensaries in all regions of Lebanon.
- Soins Infirmiers et Developpement Communautaire (SIDC), with the support of WHO, conducted Voluntary Counseling and Testing services (VCT) in 16 villages in the region of Bent Jbeil and Tebneen. The campaign consisted of 11 awareness sessions, 10 group counseling sessions, as well as individual counseling sessions, attended by 531, 50, and 89 participants respectively.
- International Medical Corps (IMC) distributed 18 refrigerators to NGOs and MOSA dispensaries in Tyre, Bent Jbeil, Marjeyoun, and Nabatieh.
- HI supported surgeries done for recent war and UXOs victims in Nabatieh hospital. The project was stopped at the end of February.
- HI has provided 60 wheel chairs, 25 pairs of crutches, and 15 walkers to disabled persons in Tyre, Nabatieh, Dahieh, and the South, through its Disability Focal Points in those areas.
- WHO provided the Ministry of Water and Energy with a portable water laboratory, in the aim of strengthening its Drinking Water Quality Monitoring System.
- Imam Sadr Foundation Tyre conducted, in collaboration with WHO and the municipalities, health education sessions at Chihine and Al-Jibbene villages on Hepatitis A and Water Contamination. The sessions were attended by 65 persons.
- UNIFIL battalions provided, through mobile clinics, medical services for Maroun Al-Ras, Ghandourieh, Al Qouwzah, Yatar, and Reshkinanieh (French), Chebaa, Al-Fardies, and Rashaya Al-Fakhar (Indian), Burj Molouque, Der Mimmess, and Yanouh (Italian), as well as Alma Chaeb (UNIFIL Naqoura Hospital). UNIFIL next week mobile clinics will continue in: Maroun Al-Ras, Ghandourieh, Marwahine, and Bet Leif (French), Chebaa, Kafarchouba, Al-Fardies, Koukaba, Habbarieh, and Kafar Hamam (Indian), Al-Mayadine, Maarake, Terdebba, Yanouh, and Derdaghaya (Italian, as well as Naqoura and Alma Chaeb (UNIFIL Naqoura Hospital).
- IMC started the Schools Hygiene Campaign in the public school of Qawsarett Al Roz where its medical team examined 75 children from grade 1 to grade 7, and provided

them with 100 bottles of shampoo. The team also conducted hygiene education sessions for students.

- IMC distributed around 800 hygiene kits for lice and skin infections in Qawsarett Al Roz, Kafarkela, Barashete, Marwahine, Yerine, Bayada, and Zebkine.
- Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) field and mobile clinic services in Bent Jbeil continue. During the 4 last weeks, 163, 190, 262, and 205 patients received medical care from the field hospital as well as 262, 205, 299, and 304 from the mobile clinic.



- USJ provided, during a one-day intervention, mental health education sessions through its center in the Qana hospital for youth and parents, with the attendance of 8 and 48 participants respectively.
- QRCS “Eye Camp” team in Lebanon performed so far 560 surgeries, as well as consultations for 2,500 persons. In parallel with the consultations, 500 eyeglasses were distributed.

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

- WHO continued the distribution of the mental health and psychosocial support related health education materials to district doctors in Nabatieh, Bent Jbeil, Marjeyoun, and Hasbaya, to be distributed to health facilities.
- WHO and Ministry of Public Health Reproductive Health in Emergencies trainings targeting midwives, registered nurses as well as family and emergency doctors ended, reaching 569 participants in Beirut, Baalbeck, Akkar, Tripoli, Zahle, Tyre, and Bent Jbeil.
- WHO conducted a training session for a team of 4 persons on the use of the Geographical Positioning System (GPS) devices. The trainees are in the process of collecting the coordinates of all health facilities in Tyre, Nabatieh, Bent Jbeil, Hasbaya, and Marjeyoun. Data will be updated on the WHO Geographical Information System (GIS).
- UNDP announced the publication of the report “Lebanon Rapid Environmental Assessment for Greening Recovery, Reconstruction and Reform – 2006”. Work on this report commenced immediately upon cessation of hostilities and was undertaken in close coordination with the Ministry of Environment (MoE). The report consists of a desk review of the major environmental impacts caused by the war and proposes measures to mitigate them. The report is available on the UNDP website [www.undp.org.lb](http://www.undp.org.lb).
- District doctors and WHO public health focal points are providing continuous technical support to the health facilities in the South. The purpose is to increase the number of reporting sites and to improve the quality of reporting.

#### World Health Organization

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

<http://www.virtualhic.org>