

Lebanon Crisis

Health Cluster Bulletin # 28

Wednesday 15 August 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 other Wednesday.

August 2007



Imam Sadr Foundation and UNICEF
"Health Summer Camp" in Ayta Chaab Public
School

Picture: UNICEF

Highlights

- No major outbreak was reported through the Early Warning and Response System (EWARS).
- Landmines/UXOs/cluster bombs' casualties remain unchanged as per the Lebanese Mine Action Center (LMAC) 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.
- The Lebanese Army continues bombarding and fights to surrender the last positions of Fateh al-Islam in Nahr El-Bared Camp.

Situation Overview

- During the last two weeks, 15 cases of Organophosphate intoxication were reported in Nabatiyeh through the EWARS. Further 5 cases of Brucellosis were reported from Nabbatieh and confirmed clinically and serologically. In addition, 8 confirmed cases of Typhoid fever cases were registered from Nabatiyeh and Meis Al Jabal.
- According to the Lebanese Mine Action Center (LMAC) (formerly National Demining Office) and UNDP Mine action report, the total number of military and civilian casualty figures due to landmines/UXOs/cluster bombs remains 250.
- According to the High Relief Council (HRC) report one year after the ending of the July 2006 war on Lebanon, the HRC or the Lebanese administration has spent to date 42.5 Billion Lebanese pounds (Approx. 28 Million US\$) on Humanitarian aids, 608.7 Billion Lebanese pounds (Approx. 404 Million US\$) on reconstruction in the different Lebanese regions and 237.3 Billion Lebanese pounds (Approx. 157 Million US\$) on rebuilding the infrastructure.

Nahr El-Bared Crisis

- Fights of varying intensity are still taking place in Naher El-Bared camp.

- Fateh Islam is continuing to fire Katyusha rockets from Nahr El-Bared camp into adjacent villages in North Lebanon.
- According to UNRWA situation report as of August 14, 30,908 persons is the count of Internally Displaced Refugees (IDRs). The majority of them 26,182 persons are in North Lebanon Area.

Health Response to the Humanitarian Crisis

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

1. Assessment and monitoring

- WHO is supporting Imam Sader Foundation to carry on an assessment of Reproductive Health (RH) Features in the rural area of Aita Sha'ab village-a heavily affected area by July 2006 war. This pilot project will assess the RH needs of the community as well as the response to meet those needs and will systemize the RH program in the PHC center. In addition, it will upgrade the health workers' knowledge and skills in RH and raise the awareness of women in the community on RH issues.
- WHO international experts conducted a high-level fact finding mission from 3 until 12 of August. The objectives of the mission were to assess the progress and impact of response and recovery programs undertaken by the Government of Lebanon and health cluster partners, identify shortcomings and recommend means to ensure optimal utilization of resources and document key lessons learned. The report under preparation will provide guidance on emergency preparedness, response and recovery programs in the health sector being in Lebanon or similar regional settings.
- WHO Public Health focal point continued his visits to the health facilities in the South. During the last two weeks, visits were undertaken to 15 health centers in Marjeyoun and Bent Jbeil with the purpose of improving surveillance data reporting.

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 Health Coordinator in the North continues assessment visits to follow up on the health conditions of IDRs in the various displacement centers – North Lebanon.

2. Health coordination

- The next Health Cluster meeting will take place on Tuesday August 21 at 3:00 pm, WHO office within the Ministry of Public Health premises-Tyr.
- The next Mental Health and Psychosocial Support sub-cluster coordination meeting will take place on Monday August 27 at 12:00 pm at the WHO office in Tyr.
- The WATSAN sub-cluster meeting is conducted on a monthly basis. The next meeting will be on Thursday August 16 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 Eleventh Health Cluster meeting chaired by UNRWA took place on August 14th at 11:00 at UNRWA-Lebanon Field Office in Beirut and was attended by 3 partners. Until further notice, the meetings will be held every other Tuesday at the same venue and timing. The next meeting will be on the 28th of August.
- A health sub-cluster meeting took place in the North on August 6th and was attended by Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS), Beit Atfal As-Somoud, UNICEF, UNRWA and High Relief Commission (HRC). Services provided to IDRs in

Governmental schools were discussed and will be ensured by the various partners till the end of the crisis.

- 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.

3. Filling health gaps

- Imam Sadr Foundation Health Department in collaboration with UNICEF started its "Health Summer Camp" in Ayta Chaab Public School. One-hundred fifty children aged 6 to 12 years are enrolled in the camp ending on August 30.
- UNICEF provided the PRCS hospital in Nasseria camp in Bekaa with a 150 KVA electric generator.

Nahr El-Bared Crisis

- UNRWA response to the Nahr El-Bared crisis continues through the provision of medical services throughout its clinic at Beddawi camp as well as contracted tertiary care hospitals and health institutions. In addition, environmental health services are being provided in coordination and collaboration with UNRWA partners.
- UNRWA contracted Najdeh Association to conduct maintenance of sanitary facilities at the Governmental schools hosting IDRs in the North.
- The post-natal ward at Beddawi Governmental School for boys provided services for 10 women as of July 19.
- UNICEF started the distribution of 400 newborn baby kits in Badawi camp. The kits including baby cot, mosquito net, and necessary newborn baby supplies will be distributed to all women giving birth after the Nahr El-Bared crises.
- Ricerca e Cooperazione Mental Health project was completed. Eighty five children from both Nahr El-Bared and Beddawi camps over a period of one month received counselling and psychological support by the organization's child psychiatrist and psychologist. Mental health medicines were made available to cover the needs of children for the coming months. Beit Atfal As-Somoud will continue to provide mental health care through the Family Guidance Centre in Beddawi.
- Medecins Du Monde-France (MDM-F) provided UNRWA with 50 boxes of three chronic medications each.

4. Preserving and supporting local health systems

- WHO is supporting the Cultural Movement in Lebanon-Bent Jbeil branch in conducting a campaign on "Diabetes Awareness Raising" in Bent Jbeil district. The campaign implemented in collaboration with the civil society targets around 500 persons with information on diabetes management and prevention as well as free of charge screening for diabetes.

Nahr El-Bared Crisis

- PARD supported by UNICEF maintains its infant breastfeeding awareness lectures in Beddawi camp. During the last two weeks, 550 women were reached.

World Health Organization

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

<http://www.virtualhic.org>

All inputs are welcome on: health@leb.emro.who.int