



LEBANON

Emergency Readiness and Response Situation update #6 - 17 November 2023



331

People wounded

As reported by MoPH-ESU on 17 November 2023



77

People killed



46 325

People displaced

IOM data as of 16 November 2023

Situation overview

- Cross-border clashes between Israel and Lebanon have continued to intensify over the last week, with strikes reaching as far as 40 km inside Lebanon.
- As of 17 November 2023, the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has reported a total of 331 people wounded and 77 killed due to armed clashes at the border with Israel. Among the 77 killed, 72 were dead on arrival at the hospital. Since the last situation report was published on 10 November, the number of wounded has increased by 10% and the number of deaths by 2.6%.
- Since the last situation report was published, IOM has expanded its coverage, estimating that there are 46 325 internally displaced people as of 16 November. Of these, 1062 (2.3%) are staying in 11 collective shelters and others have made their own accommodation arrangements (64% are staying with host families and 27% are in rental accommodations, per IOM).
- Three attacks on health care have been reported in Lebanon since the start of the clashes. Two ambulances, 1 hospital, 1 primary health care center and 5 health workers have been impacted by these attacks.
- Four Primary Health Care centers in Marjayoun and Bint Jbeil have been forced to close due to insecurity and armed clashes.
- The broader impacts of the clashes on livelihoods and the economy are expected to increase pressure on public health services.
- The Minister of Environment has said that over 100 fires have been ignited by the use of white phosphorous bombs, burning down 462 hectares.
- On 16 November, WHO issued an [emergency appeal for readiness and response in Lebanon](#). WHO is appealing for US\$ 6.7 million for the scenario that hostilities are limited in the south, and US\$ 11.1 million for if hostilities expand to the entire country.

Health needs and response

- A **Public Health Emergency Operation Center (PHEOC)** has been set up by the MoPH, with WHO's support, to respond to the situation and prepare for further deterioration. International staff have been deployed by WHO to support the PHEOC, in addition to the Country Office team.
- With a possibility of increased escalation, **hospital readiness for mass casualty management** is a key concern.
 - A rapid assessment of hospitals to check their readiness is ongoing. Of the 41 hospitals previously assessed, 8 have been identified as frontline referral hospitals. WHO has prepositioned supplies for trauma care in these hospitals.
 - A new round of assessment is set to begin, covering 42 public and private hospitals. Based on their readiness level, they may be designated as referral hospitals or back up hospitals for trauma and mass casualty management.

Health needs and response *continued*

- o A trauma referral pathway is being drafted on the basis of these assessments, to ensure the smooth and efficient care of patients, even in the event of a mass casualty event.
- o Health workers are being trained in trauma care. Over 400 health workers in 33 hospitals have already received training on the clinical care of trauma patients. These trainings are being carried out by a network of 53 trainers who are supported by WHO, MSF, ICRC and the Lebanese Red Cross. In addition to these trainings in clinical trauma care, a mass casualty management training is planned for December, which will focus on the organizational aspects of effective healthcare delivery in the event of a mass casualty.
- o WHO's Regional Trauma Advisor presented on the new global standard for mass casualty management at the American University of Beirut Faculty of Medicine. About 800 people attended the lectures, including surgeons, physicians, nurses and others.
- With over 46 000 people already displaced from their homes, **continuity of essential health services** is of concern.
 - o Four mobile medical units linked to PHC centers ("satellite PHC units") and partners are delivering basic health services in shelters.
 - o The MoPH has set up a hotline to refer displaced people to healthcare services near them.
 - o National authorities, UN agencies and other partners are updating guidance for collective shelters to ensure they meet minimum living standards. WHO and health sector partners are contributing to this guidance, looking at sanitation and hygiene, and provision of health care.
 - o The first allocation of the Lebanon Humanitarian Fund (LHF) was announced. A part of the funds will be used for medical readiness in communities, PHC centers and satellite PHC units.
- The availability of **essential medicines and other medical supplies** is a key concern, given the escalation of hostilities, signs of stockpiling of medicines by the public, as well as the precarious economic situation in the country.
 - o Discussion is ongoing to secure a critical stock of medications at national level.
 - o WHO has delivered vital emergency medical supplies to Lebanon. Supplies for trauma and emergency surgery have been prepositioned in the referral hospitals and further supplies have been delivered to the MOPH central drug warehouse. Basic surgical supplies have also been delivered to the central warehouse. These will be distributed in the next days to public hospitals to strengthen the emergency room capacity.
 - o An analysis is ongoing to identify gaps in the availability of critical medicines in PHC centers and critical services like dialysis. Additional medicines are being distributed to PHC centers to serve the displaced population.
- WHO is strengthening **mental health and psychosocial support** through trainings on psychiatric emergency care and psychological first aid, as well as sharing information resources.
- With displacement increasing health risks and reducing access to healthcare, there is an increased need for **strengthened disease surveillance**.
 - o To date, there have been no reported cases of outbreak-prone diseases in any of the collective shelters and other community settings.
 - o The Epidemiological Surveillance Unit at the MoPH has improved the information flow between hospitals, municipalities and the PHEOC, especially in high-risk districts which are seeing the highest influx of displaced populations.
 - o Data received through the hotline are being used to identify any potential new outbreak as well as common health concerns among the displaced that require attention.
 - o The GIS database for different health facilities (hospitals, laboratories, and radiology centers) is currently being updated, with a dashboard for easy information retrieval.
- WHO is sharing information on the management of **white phosphorus exposure** as well as standardized training materials for physicians in English and Arabic.

Funding

- On 16 November, WHO issued an [emergency appeal for readiness and response in Lebanon](#). WHO is appealing for US\$ 6.7 million for the scenario that hostilities are limited in the south, and US\$ 11.1 million for if hostilities expand to the entire country.
- The Minister of Public Health, Dr Firass Al-Abiad, briefed ambassadors from donor countries, heads of UN agencies, and other officials on 16 November on the Health Ministry's emergency plan given escalating hostilities between Lebanon and Israel. The Minister also briefed the group on progress made in reforming the health sector according to the National Health Sector Strategy.

For more information please contact

- Dr Abdinasir ABUBAKAR, A/WR, abubakara@who.int
- Dr Alissar Rady, Team Lead, radya@who.int
- Dr Md Shajib Hossain, Health Sector Coordinator, smd@who.int