



LEBANON

Emergency Readiness and Response Situation update #12 - 4 January 2024



590
People wounded

As reported by MoPH-ESU on 4 January 2024

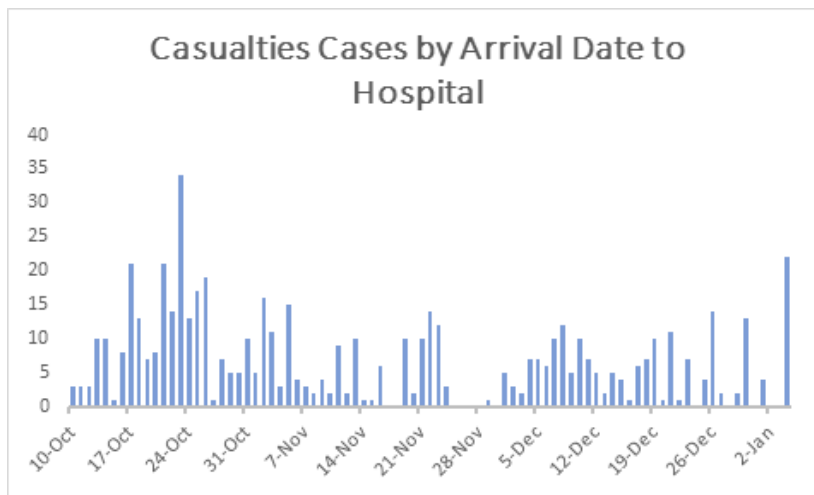


132
People killed



76 018
People displaced

IOM data as of 2 January 2024

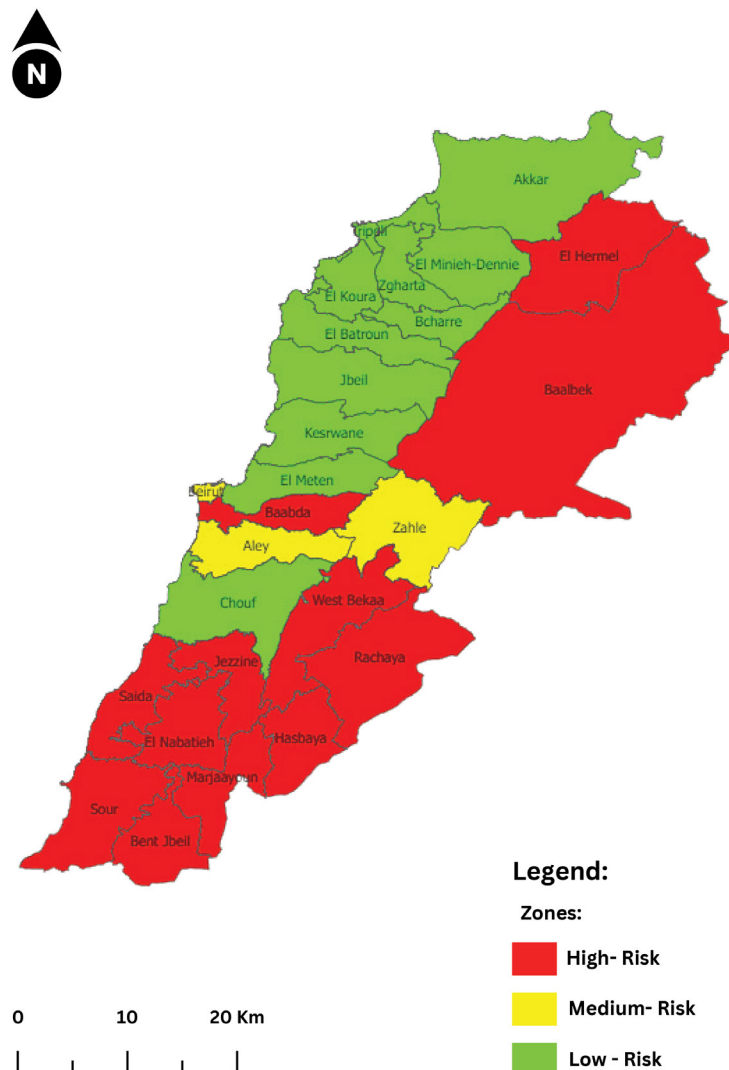


Situation overview

- On the 2nd of January 2023, an Israeli drone fired three simultaneous missiles at an apartment in a residential building and a vehicle motorcade in Mecharrafieh area in the Southern Suburbs of Beirut which resulted in the death of seven individuals including a prominent Palestinian political figure and eleven injuries. Several marches in solidarity with the Palestinian people of Gaza are happening in several locations including Palestinian camps.
- Israeli planes violated the Lebanese airspace over Beirut, South Lebanon and Mount Lebanon.
- The situation remains critical and unpredictable.
- As of 4 January 2024, the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has reported a total of 590 injuries and 132 fatalities due to cross-border armed clashes. Among the 132 killed, 124 were announced dead on arrival at the hospital. Since the last situation report was published on 21 December, the number of injured has increased by 15% and the number of fatalities by 16%.
- IOM estimates that there are cumulatively around 76,018 internally displaced people in the country as of 02 January 2024, showing a 2 per cent increase since 26 December 2023. Of these, 1,082 (1.42%) are staying in 14 temporary collective shelters and others have made their own accommodation arrangements. 320 cadastres are reportedly hosting internally displaced persons, most of whom are using shelters for a short while before relocating to their self-arranged accommodations. As of 3 January 2023, the cumulative number of Primary Healthcare Satellite Units (PSU) consultations has reached 1801 consultations.
- No new attacks on health care facilities have been recorded in Southern Lebanon during this reporting period.
- Six Primary Health Care Centers (PHCCs) remain closed, three each in Marjayoun and Bint Jbeil districts. Health facilities that remained open in the areas with increased hostilities have reported very low consultations, and healthcare workers are reporting increased difficulties reporting to their duty stations.

Health needs and response

- The **Public Health Emergency Operation Center (PHEOC)**, set up by the MoPH with WHO's support, remains fully staffed and operational. Advanced training on Information Management is ongoing to build on the capacity of the PHEOC team.
- Continued to support and improve for the national and subnational health sector coordination mechanisms under the leadership of the MoPH and WHO, with regular updates to the health sectors partners.
- With the possibility of increased escalation, **hospital readiness for mass casualty management** remains a key concern that WHO and MoPH are addressing through different initiatives, of which:
 - o The rapid hospital assessment is still ongoing in the private and public hospitals in the 'yellow zone', which will serve as a backup for frontline hospitals in case of an escalation (see map below). In total, 48 hospitals in different zones were assessed on-site by the PHEOC hospital task force, while 52 hospitals have self-completed the hospital readiness assessment.
 - o Health workers are being trained on 3 different modules:
 - Module 1: Clinical approach to trauma care
 - Module 2: Mass Casualty Management
 - Module 3: Management of psychiatric emergencies and basic psychosocial support skills.
 - o To date, over **3,092 health workers in 125 hospitals** have already received training on the clinical approach for trauma care (61% of the participants were nurses, and 17% physicians). By the end of January 2024, the training should cover all hospitals in the country.
 - o The Mass Casualty Management (MCM) training is still ongoing across hospitals in country. Seventeen master trainers (11 physicians and 6 nurses) continued to cascade the MSM training to the rest of the hospitals. To date, 40 hospitals and 195 trainees have received the mass casualty management training. More cascade trainings for advance MSM are planned to cover other priority referral hospitals and it should be completed by the end of January 2024.



Risk zones for planning for possible escalation of conflict, source: MoPH Lebanon

Health needs and response *continued*

- WHO in collaboration with MoPH and partners continued to strengthen mental health and psychosocial support through capacity building. Trainings on psychological first aid (PFA) are ongoing since 21 December 2023 for nurses, social workers and NGOs working on the frontline.
- In addition, a training on Psychiatric Emergencies and Basic Psychosocial Skills have been integrated in the Mass Casualty Training for hospital staff. So far, Nini and Tripoli Governmental Hospitals were covered, and a total of 43 health workers have been trained with direct support from WHO.
- With over 76,000 people displaced from their homes, **continuity of essential health services** remains a concern.
 - o One PHCC satellite units was on rotation in Tyre, Hasbaya, Bazouriyeh and Nabatieh providing integrated primary healthcare, including childhood vaccination, reproductive health consultations, awareness sessions, and psychological support.
 - o Currently, 85% of chronic essential medications and 40% of acute medications are available at the MoPH central drugs warehouse.
- While displacement is likely to increase health risks and reduce access to healthcare, the value of enhanced disease surveillance cannot be understated.
 - o To date, there have been no reported cases of outbreak-prone diseases in any of the community settings.
 - o WHO continues to support the strengthening of surveillance, focusing on those diseases with potential for emergence during conflict, such as respiratory and diarrheal diseases.
- WHO concluded a series of seven training sessions focusing on gender in emergencies, targeting WHO staff and implementing partners, including MoPH. These sessions aimed at sensitizing and mainstreaming gender equality, human rights, and health equity in emergencies. In total, 104 participants attended these sessions.
- The assessment of the capacity of WHO implementing partners in the prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse is ongoing. Technical guidance is being offered to each implementing partner, and a total of three sessions have been conducted so far. These sessions focused on the core definitions and key principles of the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and were attended by 45 participants.
- Two emergency trauma kits were distributed to two front-line designated hospitals, where one of the hospitals is receiving a second kit due to a high number of casualties, each trauma kit provides medications, supplies, and surgical instruments is sufficient for 100 trauma surgical cases.

Gaps and priorities

- Continued support to enhance national and subnational coordination for emergency preparedness and response through the Public Health Emergency Operation Center and Health Sector Coordination mechanism.
- Improve the mass casualty and emergency care management capacities among frontline health workers through training and mentoring. Additionally, based on a holistic Risk assessment, there is a need to conduct an evaluation and risk treatment for a better and targeted approach, while repositioning additional trauma and other emergency medical supplies to the referral hospitals.
- Continued advocacy for protection and respect of health care at all times.
- Continued support for urgent basic health needs access including medications, especially among the internally displaced.
- Continued support for communicable diseases surveillance, early detection of outbreaks, and awareness among the displaced population and in the assigned shelters, ex: respiratory diseases (Flu, COVID, RSV), lice and scabies, and waterborne diseases.

Funding

- International Humanitarian City in Dubai has covered the cost of the transportation of the trauma kits shipped to Lebanon through Emirates Airlines.
- 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. These funds will cover a period of three months.

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