

Current Health Event

Lebanon Prepares for CBRN Hazards

WHO Lebanon trained health staff on the medical management and public health measures related to risks of exposure to Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) hazards in view of Lebanon neighboring countries instability.

Editorial note:

The international community has become increasingly concerned with use of chemical weapons during the Syrian crisis. Risks associated with deliberate use of biological and or chemical agents to harm human health have stimulated national health authorities to strengthen their early warning and response systems.

The WHO has been advocating, supporting, and strengthening national public health responses so that any outbreak, natural or deliberate biological, chemical and radio-nuclear (CBRN) agents, can be rapidly investigated and effectively contained or mitigated. WHO has been sensitizing the countries with the need to integrate preparedness against CBRN weapons in their national disaster preparedness plans as well as strengthen their core competences in early detection of these agents, mounting a quick response; strengthening public health preparedness and rapid response, case management infrastructure; creating mechanism for risk communication and forging strong collaborations and partnerships with other national sectors, including the military.

WHO Lebanon held a series of training activities in coordination with the MoPH, and the collaboration of the Syndicate of Hospitals in

CBRN hazards:

Include hazards created from accidental releases, toxic industrial materials (especially air and water poisons), biological pathogens, radioactive matter, and high-yield explosives as well as any hazards resulting from the deliberate employment of weapons of mass destruction during military operations.

Lebanon (SoH), and the Lebanese Atomic Energy Commission (LAEC). The training workshops, the first of their kind in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, addressed the different phases of the emergency cycle. Nineteen hospitals were selected as reference hospitals for CBRN hazards management, they were equipped by WHO with Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) and antidotes.

The training included

Scope of IHR 2005:

The International Health Regulations (IHR 2005) are the world's first legally binding agreement in the fight against public health emergencies of international concern such as those caused by new and re-emerging diseases with epidemic potential, as well as those associated with acute chemical or radio-nuclear events.

Symbols for CBRN weapons



Out of 200 trainees, 23 % were hospital administrators, 16% hospital physicians, 12% safety/infection control officers, 12% registered nurses, 11% nurse managers, 8% MoPH epidemiologists, 7% engineers & technicians, 5% health quality officers and 4% MoPH district health team physicians.

classification, definitions, affected sources, symptoms and diagnosis of nuclear, chemical and biological hazards. Bio-safety levels, triage and decontamination chain of chemical and biological hazards.

The practical component of training included management of chemical and radiological and nuclear incidents and triage and decontamination procedures. Legal aspects of hazards in terms of the management of dead bodies and the environment. Participants were trained on proper use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs).

Cumulative Notifiable diseases in Lebanon (Syrian)

Disease	2013 Cumul	2014 Cumul*	Apr	May
Vaccine Preventable Diseases				
Polio	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Acute Flaccid Paralysis	34(7)	12(5)	3(0)	0(0)
Measles	1760(232)	152(60)	48(22)	0(0)
Mumps	14(2)	236(29)	127(12)	25(1)
Pertussis	59(9)	24(6)	0(0)	0(0)
Rabies	1(1)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Rubella	27(1)	10(7)	6(4)	0(0)
Tetanus	4(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Viral Hep B	141(8)	60(6)	20(3)	0(0)
Water/Food Borne Diseases				
Brucellosis	189(12)	34(1)	8(0)	0(0)
Hydatid cyst	13(3)	4(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Typhoid Fever	407(21)	52(3)	5(3)	0(0)
Viral Hep A	1551(220)	497(73)	38(3)	0(0)
Other Diseases				
Leishmaniasis	1033(1032)	252(251)	21(21)	0(0)
Meningitis	204(24)	64(6)	20(2)	0(0)
Viral Hep C	103(4)	27(1)	4(0)	0(0)

Source: Ministry of Public Health, Lebanon . Cumul= Cumulative