



# LEBANON

## Health Emergency Response

Situation update #10

22 - 28 November 2024

\*\*MOPH hotline for the displaced 1787\*\*

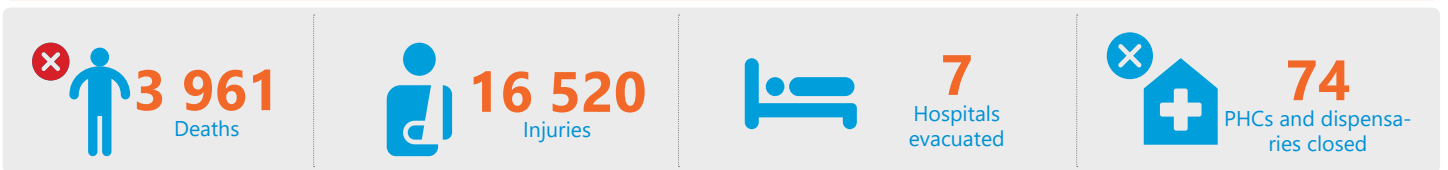
### Highlights of the week

- A 60-day ceasefire agreement came into effect at 4am on 27 November. The ceasefire provides a critical window to address urgent humanitarian needs. However, the scale of health challenges ahead of us remains enormous.
- Since the ceasefire started, **4** hospitals have started rehabilitation and repairs, aiming to reopen in the coming days and weeks.
- **971** injuries and **338** registered deaths were recorded during 21-27 November.
- As displaced people return to areas with destroyed health services and damaged infrastructure, the risk of disease outbreaks rises due to collapsed water and sanitation systems.
- Once evacuated areas are accessible, WHO will assess health infrastructure damage to restore services as fast as possible.
- To re-establish health services, it is now a priority to repair and reopen **14** hospitals that had closed or reduced services due to damage or security issues.
- **2** Mass Casualty Management drills were conducted at Bellevue and Hayek hospitals.
- During the reporting period, an additional **441** first aid kits were distributed to **266** shelters, bringing the total number distributed in the past two weeks to **1 092** kits to **626** shelters.

### People in need 2024



### Facts & Figures *as of 28 November 2024*



**Hospital functionality:** Out of hospitals in conflict areas (Baalbek, Mount Lebanon, Baabda, Marjeyoun, Bint Jbeil and Tyre district) **7** non-functional | **7** semi-functional | **6** infrastructural damage

### Displacement *(Reported by IOM-DTM round 58 and National Operations Room for Disasters and Crisis Management, 22 November)*



#### Cross over to Syria

- As of 22 November, **624 898** people are thought to have crossed from Lebanon to Syria, according to the Lebanese General Security.

## Attacks on health care (Surveillance System for Attacks on Health Care (SSA) as of 28 November 2024)



Chart 1: IDPs distribution by district of arrival

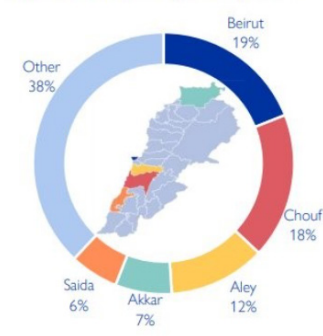
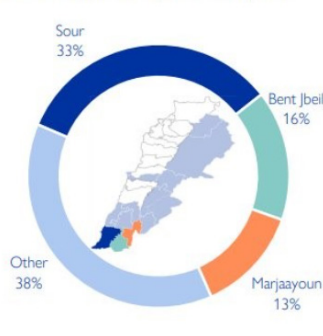


Chart 2: IDPs distribution by district of departure



Source: IOM/DTM 27 November 2024

### Continuity of health services for IDPs (Updated as of 27 November 2024)

- **133** health centers (PHCCs and dispensaries) are closed
- **268** Mobile Medical Units teams deployed
- **158 856** IDPs received consultations in PHCs/MMUs
- **241** PHCs serving displaced people
- **303** centers received medications to support IDPs
- **118 554** IDPs receiving chronic medications.

## IN RESPONSE

### Medicine and supplies

#### During the reporting period:

- Reagents and supplies, essential for processing **500** blood units, were directed to RHUH to ensure continuity of critical services. The items include vital immunohematology reagents for typing and antibody detection, virus testing kits for Hepatitis B, HCV, and HIV as well as consumables e.g. cuvette strips for Hemocue devices.
- The Lebanese Red Cross received vital donations to ensure uninterrupted provision of life-saving blood services and diagnostic testing. The items include **5 000** quadruple blood bags with filters, a range of immunohematology reagents for typing and antibody detection, and virus testing kits for Hepatitis B, HCV, HIV, and syphilis. Additionally, consumables such as vacutainer tubes for blood collection and necessary reagents and buffers for Alinity machines were provided to ensure operational efficiency and service continuity.

### Coordination (health sector and PHEOC)

- **998** collective shelters are now linked with the Primary Health Care Centres (PHCCs) to ensure continuity of health services for the internally displaced population. As of 28 November, **241** PHCCs and **268** PHC Satellite Units (PSUs) have visited **734** shelters.
- **158 856** consultations were provided at the PHCCs/PSUs. A total of **118 554** patients received medications, of which **17 210** received sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services and **2 422** received menstrual hygiene management (MHM) kits.
- Health sector partners continued supporting transportation in Akkar and Beirut regions in coordination with MoPH PHCC coordinators. Some **4 079** IDPs in collective shelters and other locations were transported to PHCCs.



Supplies received by the Lebanese Red Cross



During the Mass Casualty Management drill at Hayek Hospital

## Case Management Capacity for trauma care and cholera

- A first set of trainings for hospitals on trauma care management was launched on 28 November and will last until the end of December 2024, covering **2** training rounds on surgical skills for surgeons and/or nurses; **4** training sessions on damage controlled resuscitation for ER nurses and doctors, **3** training rounds on emergency and critical care for nursing staff, and 6 training sessions on breaking bad news. Of these, two sessions on damage-controlled resuscitation for trauma care in conflict situations and another session on Breaking bad news in conflict situations were completed this week, with a total of **49** personnel trained between nurses and doctors.
- A 2nd round of Mass Casualty Management (MCM) activation drills started in **6** hospitals.
- PHEOC and MoPH EMT coordinator's bi-monthly coordination meeting in addition to bi-monthly trauma working group meeting, are going as planned.
- Training for cholera preparedness and response is ongoing with over **26** hospitals and PHCCs. A total of **684** staff were trained.



## Surveillance

- Between 18 and 24 November, **24** signals of infectious diseases were received among IDPs in shelters through the call center (59%), Epidemiological Surveillance Unit (ESU) active surveillance (33%) and DHIS2 (8%). Community was the primary source of information (37%), followed by health facilities (25%), NGOs (13%), MoPH (12%), and schools/kindergartens (13%).
- The ESP selected 83.3% of signals and excluded four of which **3** regarded scabies, **1** imported malaria, and **1** food poisoning. Out of those, 90% underwent verification with 94% of those verified turning out to be true. The verified conditions include acute jaundice, food poisoning, AWD, Measles and Rubella.
- The ESU has expanded its AWD sentinel surveillance to sites around Akkar, Tripoli, Batroun, Kesserwan and Beirut. Between 18-25 November, **15** water samples were collected and tested, with **7** contaminations detected, testing positive for Hep A and AWD. Results of the **8** remaining samples is pending.
- Under phase 1 of the immunization campaign against polio and MMR, **1 032** shelters are being covered by **222** PHCCs and 11 LRC teams. Out of **491** visited shelters, **12 890** children under the age of 10 were approached for vaccination. A total of **10 414** were vaccinated: **9 591** received MMR vaccine doses and **5 271** received OPV doses.
- So far, **7 952** doses of influenza vaccine have been administered in **307** Primary Health Care centers, targeting older persons, dialysis patients, health workers and people with chronic conditions.

## Continuity of essential health services

- A training of trainers was conducted as preparation to roll out the training for hospital nurses on basic psychosocial skills, focused on breaking bad news in conflict situations. Five trainers are involved in the training that started on 28 November with **18** participants.
- WHO delivered around **750** first aid kits to more than **400** shelters across Lebanon. Distribution to the South will be planned according to recent developments in the country. WHO is supporting Primary Health Care services in **8** shelters in the North - through **2** Primary health care Satellite Units and a team of registered nurses, physicians, social workers and community health workers. So far, around **161** consultations have been provided to **97** patients.

## Challenges

- Mass movement of IDPs seeking to return home after a ceasefire was announced – to areas where health systems have been hard hit – poses a challenge to continuity of life-saving care.
- Patient referral is restricted in areas that were impacted by the conflict and mass casualty capacity at referral hospitals is limited in some areas.
- A large number of displaced people with sub-optimal shelter conditions may lead to a resurgence of emerging infectious disease.
- Funding shortages for health sector partners.

## Flash appeal

- WHO Lebanon launched a [Flash Appeal](#) to provide a comprehensive response to the current and unprecedented health crisis, to scale up trauma care, ensure continuity of essential health services and prevent disease outbreaks.
- As of 28 November, approximately 57% of the target is reached, indicating a need to urgently scale up support in order to tackle persistent post-ceasefire needs.

### For more information please contact

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