



LEBANON

Health Emergency Response

Situation update #9

15 - 21 November 2024

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

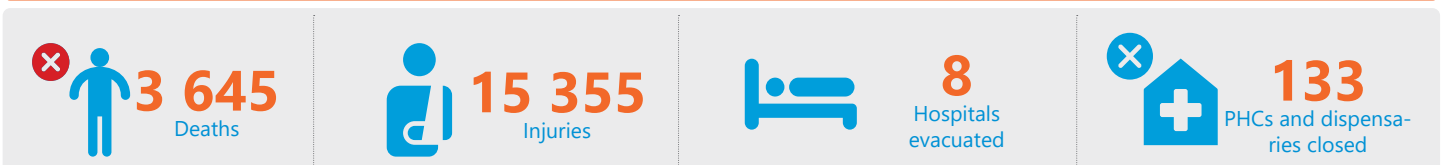
Highlights of the week

- **758** injuries and **198** registered deaths were recorded during the reporting period of 15-21 November, with the highest number of injuries and deaths recorded in Tyre.
- Ongoing hostilities continue to disrupt access to health care, with increased security risks for both patients and health workers.
- **2** new attacks on health care have been reported by WHO during this reporting period, resulting in **2** deaths and **4** injuries among health workers.
- Since 7 October 2024, **47%** of attacks on health care have proven fatal to at least one health worker or patient in Lebanon as of 20 November, the **highest percentage in any active conflict today across the globe.**
- **15** of **153** hospitals, or **1** in **10**, have ceased operations or been forced to reduce services.
- Further forced displacement is burdening the health system, and overcrowding in shelters has compounded the risk of water-borne diseases.
- Prolonged exposure to violence and displacement has led to an increase in mental health challenges, with organizations responding by scaling up services.
- Since the beginning of the emergency, **140** TESK (Trauma Emergency Surgical kits) have been delivered to hospitals across Lebanon to enhance mass casualty response capacity with an additional **60** held in-country as strategic stock. An additional **48** metric tons of health supplies were received this week.

People in need 2024

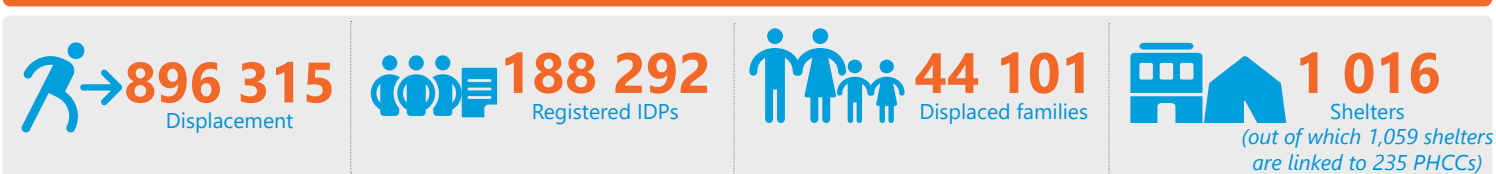


Facts & Figures as of 21 November 2024



Hospital functionality: Out of hospitals in conflict areas (Baalbek, Mount Lebanon, Baabda, Marjeyoun, Bint Jbeil and Tyre district) **8** non-functional | **7** semi-functional | **6** infrastructural damage

Displacement (Reported by IOM-DTM round 58 and National Operations Room for Disasters and Crisis Management, 21 November)



Cross over to Syria

- As of 18 November, **610 883** 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 21 November 2024)



Arrival of TESK kits from WHO Dubai hub



Distribution of First Aid kits to shelters with WHO-trained social workers

IN RESPONSE

Medicine and supplies

During the reporting period:

- An additional **10** TESK (Trauma and Emergency Surgical kits) were distributed across different hospitals in Beirut, Sidon, Tyre, Bekaa and Baalbek.
- **195** First Aid Kits were distributed to shelters across Jbeil, Baabda, Metn, and Mount Lebanon.
- Supported by two ECHO flights, **48** metric tons of supplies were received from the WHO logistics hub in Dubai including **18** External Fixtures, **50** Trauma Backpacks, additional TESK supplies and **30** NDCK including **60** NCD-Insulin for the MOPH Chronic medication program to sustain access of essential medicines for **300 000** people with chronic conditions.

Coordination (health sector and PHEOC)

- Supported by a health partner, the National Tuberculosis Control Program conducted a TB screening activity in one of the shelters in Beirut. The total number of beneficiaries screened is **136** IDPs of which **28** IDPs were referred for further diagnosis.
- Health sector partners have continued to support the transportation of health care seekers in Akkar and Beirut regions in coordination with MOPH PHCC. A total of **3 712** IDPs from collective shelters and other locations were transported to PHCCs.
- During this reporting period, health sector coordination team organized two field missions in Beirut and West Bekaa visiting the **5** Collective Shelters for IDPs and linked PHC Satellite Units, **1** hospital, and engaged with the CSs focal persons, IDPs, health care workers. During the visit, the key challenges identified are inadequate water and sanitation, winterization support, shortage of specific non-communicable diseases medications and hospitalization support.



Case Management Capacity for trauma care and cholera

- Preparation for hospital trauma care management training has been completed, and the training will be launched next week.
- PHEOC has identified the importance for International EMTs to support local capacity building knowledge transfer, to reinforce local trauma preparedness and early response.
- Working sessions with PHEOC, have commenced to introduce standardized coordination mechanisms and tools to support EMT Coordination.
- During the week, follow up field visits by WHO were conducted to Zahle, Sibline and Karantina Governmental hospitals.
- Training for cholera preparedness and response was undertaken at **20** health facilities (**19** hospitals and **1** PHCC) in North and Akkar. Training for Bekaa hospitals will start next week.

Surveillance

- Between 12-17 November, **12** signals of infectious diseases were received among IDPs in shelters, including measles, scabies, AWD, food poisoning and acute jaundice. Epidemiological Surveillance Unit (ESU) teams selected **83.3%** of signals excluding scabies and verified **100%** of which **90%** were verified as true. Among the reported AWD signals, no cholera was detected.
- Acute respiratory infection surveillance is ongoing with a weekly average of **399** cases detected in shelters. No influenza cases were detected in sentinel sites.
- The ESU has expanded its AWD sentinel surveillance to **25** sites in Akkar and Menieh.
- So far, **7 250** out of **8 600** 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

- **183** social workers were recruited and trained by WHO to distribute first aid kits to shelters and provide orientation and flyers, together with the Social Workers Syndicate in Lebanon.
- So far, around **250** kits were distributed to around **120** shelters in Beirut, Mount Lebanon and the North.
- 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 **65** consultations have been provided.
- The use of the e-mental health application *Step-by-Step* has increased, with **21** new users joining in the past week, totaling in **229** new users since the onset of the emergency.
- **186** new calls to the national hotline for emotional support and suicide prevention; the 1564 Lifeline managed by Embrace.
- **61** PHC centers with specialized mental health services are providing psychiatric services either face-to-face or remotely.

Challenges

- Increased and recurring attacks on health care, impacting access to and availability of services.
- Access to lifesaving health services is becoming a major Challenge in conflict affected areas due to increased number of closed health facilities.
- Patient referral is restricted in conflict-affected areas and the mass casualty capacity at referral hospitals is limited in some areas.
- A large increase in number of displaced people with sub-optimal shelter conditions may lead to a resurgence of emerging infectious disease.
- Funding shortages for health sector partners.



WHO team during a visit to Zahle Governmental Hospital

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 today, approximately 25% of the target was reached, indicating the need to urgently scale up support.

For more information please contact

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