

Health FOR ALL

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PROGRAM UPDATES MAIN ARTICLE CAMPAIGN IN FOCUS CELEBRATION CAPACITY BUILDING AND HUMAN RESOURCES



World Blood Donor Day

Celebrating the gift of blood 10 June 2007

Remembering World Blood Donor Day, 10 June 2007

On 10 June 2007, World Blood Donor Day (WBDD) will be celebrated in 115 countries around the world. This year's theme is "Celebrating the gift of blood" and the focus is on the importance of blood donation in saving lives.

World Blood Donor Day is a global initiative that encourages people to donate blood and raises awareness of the need for blood. It is celebrated every year on 10 June, the birthday of Dr. Karl Landsteiner, the discoverer of blood groups.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is the lead agency for WBDD. It is supported by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the World Federation of Hematology (WFH).

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CAMPAIGN IN FOCUS

World Health Day 2007

CELEBRATION

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World AIDS Day
World Tuberculosis Day
World No Tobacco Day
World Blood donor Day

IN FOCUS

Nahr-EI Bared Crisis

CAPACITY BUILDING AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Regional and International Workshops
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The opinions expressed in this newsletter are the author's, and they do not necessarily reflect the policies or criteria of the World Health Organization Country Office in Lebanon.

EDITORIAL



The World Health Day is a yearly celebration on April 7 which marks the foundation of the World Health Organization, and raises awareness of the key global health issues. This year's campaign theme: International Health Security with the slogan 'Invest in health, build a safer future' was celebrated

in Lebanon in an event joining all the concerned stakeholders in health and the Ministry of Public Health, to commemorate their efforts in response to emerging health needs in the country.

The World Health Day served as an ideal opportunity to consider the interconnectedness of Health and Security, and the need to involve all partners in working coordinately in improving preparedness and response to emerging needs. In fact, an animate example of how health and security needs are interdependent, are the latest events of the July 2006 Lebanese war and the Nahr-El-Bared emerging crisis in north Lebanon.

These increasing new challenges have an impact on the collective health security. Through continuing and strengthening collaborative work, we will be better prepared to respond to the health issues and make the world more secure.

As we move fourth in emergency preparedness and effective response, we take part in a shared effort in Investing in Health to Build a Safer Future.

Dr. Jaouad Mahjour
WHO Representative in Lebanon

National AIDS Control Program

The National AIDS Control Program's activities were halted during the July 2006 war, and were resumed in September 2006. Since then, the NAP staff has managed to carry out many projects in collaboration with its different stakeholders, in line with the National Strategic Plan.

First Integrated Bio-Behavioral Surveillance Studies for Vulnerable Groups in the Region

With the support of grants provided by the World Bank under the Institutional Development Fund (IDF) project, and in line with the 2nd and 3rd component of the project aiming at Strengthening the current HIV/AIDS epidemiological surveillance system, as well as Developing Guidelines for Integrated Prevention and Care for vulnerable groups, the NAP contracted a research team from the American University of Beirut (AUB) to undertake the first Integrated Bio-Behavioral Surveillance (IBBS) Studies focusing on Most at Risk Populations (MARPs) in the region, which include Commercial Sex Workers, Intra Venous Drug Users (IVDUs), Prisoners, and Males Having Sex with Males (MSMs). The AUB research team in collaboration with the NAP trained 25 participants from local NGOs who work with MARPs to HIV/AIDS, on IBBS studies sampling and data collection techniques, in a workshop on the 28th and 29th of May, and 20th of June 2007.

Furthermore, under the 3rd component of the IDF project, a Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) training was held during

the first week of June 2007. More than 60 service providers in HIV/AIDS and Public Health workers from 29 different institutions, NGOs, Ministries, and universities attended the training that aimed at developing their knowledge and skills in VCT services.



At the VCT training workshop.



The NAP Manager training the participants on rapid HIV testing.



Safety Prevention material for rapid HIV testing.

Furthermore, the NAP produced a brochure targeting HIV/AIDS patients that will be distributed to the VCT centers as well as to physicians specialized in infectious diseases. The brochure aims at making HIV/AIDS patients more in control of sustaining healthy lifestyles.



Moreover, and under the **third component** of the UNAIDS/PAF project, the NAP conducted an impact assessment on behavioral change among female sex workers following awareness raising interventions that have been undertaken since the year 2001 by the NAP and its partners, namely the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Soins Infirmiers et Développement Communautaire (SIDC). The total number of female sex workers recruited for the study was 536, and analysis is underway.



Vulnerable Group Project within the UNAIDS/PAF

Under the **second component** of the UNAIDS Program Acceleration Fund (PAF) that aims at “Reducing the vulnerability of prisoners through increasing their awareness on HIV/AIDS, ensuring their access to condoms, and ensuring psychosocial support in prison”, 12 focus group discussions (FGD) were conducted by the NAP with HIV/AIDS prisoners, general prisoners, as well as prison staff. One of the FGD objectives was to assess the needs at the prison in order to tailor Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material production. The second objective was to help Association Justice et Misericorde (AJEM) in conducting adapted awareness sessions according to the needs of the prisoners. Two brochures were produced by the NAP targeting HIV/AIDS prisoners as well as general prisoners.



PROGRAM UPDATES

Towards providing knowledge and awareness of HIV/AIDS for juveniles in prison, the NAP in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) undertook the following activities:

1. Production of a Training Kit for prison staff and social workers, including: a training manual, a poster, an HIV/AIDS booklet for juveniles, and an educational game.
2. Implementation of 2 Training of Trainers Workshops for social workers, nurses, and other prison staff on HIV/AIDS, Drug abuse related to HIV/AIDS, Youth Reproductive Health, and Communication and Education skills, in October and November 2006.
3. Implementation of 12 HIV/AIDS awareness sessions for juveniles.



WHO Collaborative Programs

Polio Eradication Initiative

Following the national Poliomyelitis campaign conducted in October and December 2006, WHO has contracted the Lebanese Epidemiological Association (LEA) to evaluate the results of the campaign coverage. The national Poliomyelitis campaign was conducted using two approaches: 1) through a house to house plan covering the areas of Tripoli, Akkar, Menniyeh, Baalback, Hermel, Rachaya, Hasbaya, and the region south of the Litani River, and 2) through routine vaccination of children covering the rest of the country. A total of 320,000 children less than five years of age were vaccinated for polio.

To conduct the evaluation survey, teams from the Lebanese University were trained and then deployed in 13 districts to perform a well designed cluster survey. The field workers visited houses and conducted a structured interview with the mothers or the person taking care of less than five years old children. The survey was conducted in March and April 2007, and covered 2,571 children in 1,800 households.



One of the surveyors administering the questionnaire.

Recovery Interventions

Emergency Preparedness at the MoPH

In the prospect of strengthening the Emergency Health Response at the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), WHO recruited a national expert to assess the gaps and needs in emergency response, and develop a national MoPH preparedness plan.

In that respect, WHO has supported the MoPH in establishing a joint Strategic Health

Operations Center (SHOC) for emergency health interventions at the Rafic Hariri Governmental Hospital (RHGH).

The support included the procurement of different kinds of communication equipment and office furniture, in addition to redesigning the premises to match required standards.



WHO Officer providing lab reagents to Tyr Governmental Hospital.

Early Detection and Immediate Response to Potential Outbreaks

WHO continued its support for reinforcing the MoPH capacity in rapidly responding to disease outbreaks and epidemics control. For that, and as part of its support to the EWARS (Early Warning and Response System) initiated during the humanitarian phase of the July war in 2006, WHO provided equipment and reagents to 10 referral laboratories selected in coordination with the MoPH. These referral labs will be able to undertake the appropriate laboratory tests in confirming the suspected cases of cholera, typhoid, measles, and other communicable diseases.

Health Facilities Follow Up Assessment

WHO and in collaboration with the MoPH conducted a Follow Up Assessment in January and February 2007 to assess the remaining functional and structural damages and available health services in the 43 facilities previously listed as destroyed or severely damaged. These 43 health facilities (11 hospitals and 32 health centers) were distributed in Sidon, Tyr, Nabatiyeh, Marjeyoun, Hasbaya, bint Jbeil, Baalbeck, Akkar, and Beirut Suburbs. The assessment showed that three months after hostilities all responding health centers and hospitals resources and services assessed were adequate. Information is made available to concerned authorities



At the health facilities Follow Up Assessment.

Environmental Health Program

Strengthening the Drinking Water Quality Surveillance System in Lebanon

As part of the Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance System initiated during the Humanitarian and Recovery phase of the July war in 2006, WHO undertook various activities. At the forefront of these activities, WHO provided 16 portable water testing laboratories, based on identified specifications, to the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) Regional Laboratories, as well as to the Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE), the water establishments, the Municipality of Beirut, and the Rafic Hariri Governmental Hospital (RHGH). These institutions were also provided with reagents sufficient for a period of 4 months.

In addition, WHO conducted a series of trainings on the 2nd, 9th, and 16th of June on Analytical Methods attended by 85

participants. The purpose of the trainings was to build the capacity of the laboratories personnel. These participants included the MoPH public health inspectors, as well as personnel from the MoWE, the water establishments, the RHGH, and the Municipality of Beirut. A training on Water Sampling Methods for 164 participants from the MoPH and the concerned national authorities is planned as well.

Furthermore, and with the aim of strengthening the MoPH water sampling and collection system, WHO provided 10 vehicles for its national Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance system that cover the areas of Akkar, Tripoli, Kesserwan, Baalbeck, Zahleh, El Shouf, Sidon, Tyr, Marjeyoun and Nabatiyeh.



WHO providing the portable water testing laboratories to the Ministry of Water and Energy.

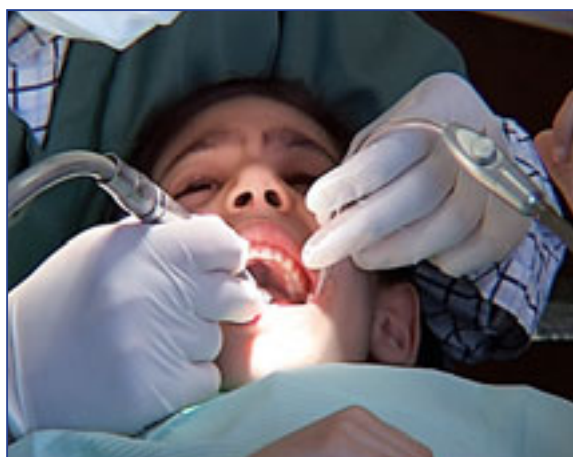


Training on water analysis using portable water testing laboratories

School Health Program

In April 2007, the Ministry of Education (MoEd), the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), and WHO signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding regarding the school health program. The three components of the School Health Program are: the Medical component, the Health Awareness and Education component, and the Environmental Health and Safety in schools.

The **medical component** includes the yearly physical check-up, oral health check-up, review of the immunization cards, preventive interventions and referral for treatment and vaccination.



The **health awareness and education** component includes the introduction of e-learning through school clubs. The e-learning health academy, which aims at improving the health knowledge, skills and practices of enrolled children and school teachers, is being introduced by WHO with the collaboration of MoEd in 20 public schools, 10 private schools, and 10 UNRWA schools. WHO will also be providing the public schools with computers and other equipment to enable

Within the medical component, WHO and in collaboration with the MoEd and the MoPH is supporting the following activities:

- Providing medical equipment to 1,338 public schools to conduct the medical check-up.
- Updating and printing the Students Health File.
- Updating the training modules for the Medical Doctors' workshops.
- Conducting training workshops for MDs to standardize the medical exam.
- Printing dental examination forms for 300,000 students.
- Providing fluoride gargle for 30,000 students per year for 3 years.
- Distributing 1,200 dental models for public schools all across Lebanon to be used for oral health awareness.

the establishment of the health academy.

Finally, the **environmental health and safety in schools** aims at improving a healthy environment in schools to establish a safe environment for children and alleviate the physical, biological and chemical risk on children's health within school environment. WHO's support will include undertaking a complete survey of the school environment and adopting measures to improve the environmental safety of schools.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Launching of the Oral Health Campaign phase II

Within the school health program, WHO has provided technical support to the national oral health committee in developing a national oral health strategy for the year 2005-2010. Thus, in collaboration with the different partners including WHO,

the MoEd, the MoPH, and the NGOs, the national oral health committee has launched the second phase of the Oral Health Campaign in public schools, with the slogan “a Dentist for each school”, on the 26 of March 2007.



Part of the audience at the launching of the campaign.



Dr. Jaouad Mahjour's speech at the launching of the campaign.

National Diabetes Program

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has just established the National Diabetes Program. In support of the program, WHO has recruited an expert to assess the Diabetes related data and interventions on the national level. Based on various meetings with the main stakeholders including scientific societies, NGOs, MoPH

officials and WHO staff, an assessment report was prepared and presented to the MoPH, describing the interventions, gaps, and main recommendations for the National Diabetes Program. The report constitutes the basis for the development of a National Diabetes Strategy and Plan of Action.

Mother and Child Program

Carnet de Santé

The Carnet de Santé was introduced at the Mother and Child Unit at the Ministry of Public Health in 1996. Upon the request of the MoPH, a technical committee was formed comprising 20 different stakeholders as well as multidisciplinary experts in psychology, speech therapy, health promotion,

oral health, pediatric, and other health fields. WHO supported the process of the revision of the content, utility, and design of the “carnet de santé” in order to make it more adapted to the users’ needs. The “carnet de santé” is expected to be finalized and printed by the end of the year 2007.



Technical committee meeting to review the “Carnet de Santé”.

IT Support Program

National Health Information Center

Towards enhancing the information exchange between the National Health Information Center (NHIC) and medical libraries in Lebanon, the NHIC agreed on a mechanism for extending the access of these libraries to health resources. So far, 7 medical libraries were added to the NHIC's partners' list. In that respect, 3 sessions have been given on the 10th, 13th and 25th of April 2007, to respectively 35 and 43 students from the Université Saint Esprit, and 10 students from the Global University. The sessions introduced the students

to the NHIC services, as well as WHO's work in Lebanon, in addition to the usage of the WHO Lebanon website: www.leb.emro.who.int



WHO Technical Assistant in ICT during a session at the NHIC.

Global Positioning System

With the purpose of enhancing the WHO Geographical Information System data, a team was recruited to position Primary Health Care centers (PHCs) and hospitals in the South of Lebanon. The team of 4 graduate students has been trained on the use of the Global Positioning System (GPS), and have collected the coordinates of 160 PHCs and 40 hospitals, thus facilitating future interventions and analysis of data using the Health Mapper. The data is being updated on the WHO Geographical Information System (GIS).



في إدارة خدمات الطوارئ في زمن الكوارث، د. بهيج عرييد، مستشار في وزارة الصحة العامة

في السنوات الثلاث الأخيرة عايش لبنان وبمرارة اضطرابات سياسية وأمنية صعبة ساهمت في تفاقم الأزمة الاقتصادية والاجتماعية التي تعيشها البلاد. ولكن ومع بداية العام ٢٠٠٦ سجل النمو الاقتصادي أعلى نسبة له منذ سنوات حيث قارب ٦٪ وتزامن ذلك مع تفاؤل جدي لدى غالبية اللبنانيين.

واستطاعا جمع كل الشركاء المعنيين بالشأن الصحي حول الدولة وتنظيم امكاناتهم لمواجهة المستجدات.

٢- العمل الجماعي والذي ساهم في تلبية حاجات الاستشفاء والطوارئ وحاجات مئات الآلاف من النازحين في بيروت وفي المناطق كافة. وكان لإدارات وزارة الصحة المركزية وفي الأقسية دور بالغ الأهمية، هذا إضافة للدور الحاسم لنقابة المستشفيات الخاصة والقطاع الأهلي الكبير في لبنان.

٣- الخبرات المتوفرة لدى القطاعات والادارات الصحية المختلفة من عامة وأهلية وخاصة ونقابات مهنية في مواجهة الكوارث وخاصة الحروب.

وكان واضحاً أن المستشفيات وبدون سابق تخطيط أو استعدادات نفذت متطلبات خطط الطوارئ المعتمدة عالمياً. وهكذا استطاعت الصمود من خلال مخزونها الذاتي وإدارة الخدمات والقوى الصحية العاملة بشكل بالغ الدقة.

كذلك الأمر كان مع القطاع الأهلي ولم يكن أبداً التعامل سهلاً مع مئات الآلاف من النازحين الذين قدموا لمناطق أكثر أماناً حتى بلغوا المليون.

ولكن مع صبيحة الثاني عشر من شهر تموز ٢٠٠٦ تغيرت الصورة وبدأ مسلك العنف والحزن والمآسي مع بداية الحرب الاسرائيلية على لبنان والتي استمرت ثلاثة وثلاثين يوماً وخلفت وراءها خسائر بشرية ومادية بالغة القسوة وتدمير للبنى التحتية بما فيها شبكات الهاتف والكهرباء والماء والجسور (٨١) والطرق والمصانع والقطاع الزراعي.

الشهداء	١١٨٧
الجرحي	٤٠٩٥
النازحين	مليون
٣٥٪ من الشهداء والجرحي أطفال دون ١٢ سنة	

وأهم من كل ذلك تدمير الفرح والأمل لدى اللبنانيين بالخروج من الواقع الذي يعيشون فيه.

وكانت ردة الفعل اللبنانية مزيجاً من الوطنية والخبرة والتضامن الاجتماعي ويمكن تشخيص المواجهة على الشكل التالي:

١- سرعة تحرك وزارة الصحة العامة والحقيقة انه كان لووزير الصحة العامة الدكتور محمد جواد خليفة ولدير عام الوزارة الدكتور وليد عمار دور كبير وفاعل في فاعلية هذا التحرك ونتائجه.

وخاصة إن لبنان سيبقى معرضاً لها إن كانت طبيعية أم من صنع الانسان كالحروب والحوادث الكبيرة المفاجئة.

إن التجارب الانسانية كبيرة ومتنوعة في هذا المجال. ولو قمنا بتحليل موضوعي مجرد لتعاطينا مع الحدث/الكارثة لاكتشفنا الكثير من الثغرات، وبعضها مهم. فلا يجوز أن نبقى نعتمد على خبرتنا وتوفر الخدمات وحسن انتشارها وفعالية القطاع الخاصة والأهلية.

هذه كلها عوامل مساعدة جيدة تلعب دوراً كبيراً في تسهيل تنفيذ الخطط الممكن اعتمادها، فمثلاً: شهدنا توقف إدارات عامة عن العمل طيلة فترة الحرب كالمؤسسات الضامنة الحكومية باستثناء وزارة الصحة، ومشاكل بالغة الصعوبة في توفير حاجات المستشفيات في المناطق المستهدفة وغياب المخزون من الأدوية واللوازم الطبية وضعف السيولة المالية وسواها.

ولكننا تخطينا كل ذلك بفضل فعالية تحركات الوزارة والشركاء وبفضل فعالية تحرك منظمة الصحة العالمية وبقية المؤسسات الدولية الداعمة.

يبقى أن تستكمل الجهود في مجال الجهوزية للطوارئ عبر خلق وحدة طوارئ صحية ضمن وزارة الصحة العامة، بالإضافة إلى خلق نواة من العاملين في المجال الصحي من مختلف القطاعات الخاصة والرسمية، بهدف التنسيق التام لتحقيق فعالية أكثر في مواجهة الكوارث الصحية في المستقبل ■

وكان يفترض أن يوّلد النزوح مشاكل اجتماعية إضافية ولكن حسن تنظيم وإمكانات القطاع الأهلي ودعم الدولة والمنظمات الدولية ساهم في خفض المشاكل ومعالجة غالبيتها وأهمها مشاكل الإيواء والسلامة العامة وتلبية الحاجات الصحية المختلفة ومواجهة إمكانات التلوث للمياه والغذاء.

٤- الدور الفعال الذي لعبته منظمة الصحة العالمية في تنظيم عمل المنظمات الدولية الفاعلة في القطاع الصحي، وفي دعم جهود وزارة الصحة العامة في تأمين متطلبات الإقامة السليمة لمئات الآف النازحين منها مادة الكلور، حملات التلقيح، دعم جهود الترصد الوبائي ونقل المساعدات المتنوعة للمناطق المنكوبة.

٥- شجاعة وبسالة وحدات الاسعاف خاصة الصليب الأحمر اللبناني وكان له الشهداء والخسائر المادية الكبيرة، كذلك الدفاع المدني والجمعيات الأهلية المعنية.

هذه بعضاً من الصور التي عكست تعاطي وزارة الصحة ومعها كل الشركاء في الصحة في أعمال مواجهة الحرب ونتائجها في المجالات الصحية والاجتماعية.

فبالرغم من النجاحات التي تحققت في مواجهة العدوان الكارثة، والتي تطلبت الكثير من الخبرة والوطنية والشجاعة والامكانيات والجهود التنظيمية، تولدت قناعة لدى الجميع في الادارات العامة والخاصة والأهلية وسواهم بأن تعاطينا مع الكوارث يكون ردة فعل لحدث وقع في البلد،

World Health Day Day 2007

On the occasion of the World Health Day 2007 with the slogan “Your Health is Precious...Give it its Due Rights”, the World Health Organization (WHO), in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), organized a launching of the yearly campaign of the World Health Day on Saturday, April 14, 2007 at the Palais des Congrès in Dbayeh, with the presence and support of the Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR), Dr. Hussein A. Gezairy. The event was attended by health partners and highly ranked officials from ministries, parliamentarians, general security, internal defense, and UN agencies, as well as syndicates and scientific societies, international and local



NGOs, academic institutions, the media, and other high level authorities.



Part of audience at the opening ceremony.



From left to right: WR Lebanon, H.E. Minister of Public Health, EMRO Regional Director, H.E. Minister of Education and Higher Education, and MoPH Director General, at the opening ceremony.

CAMPAIGN IN FOCUS

The World Health Day agenda:

Program:

- 10:30 - 10:35 National Anthem
- 10:35 - 10:45 Opening & Welcoming Remark: WHO Representative in Lebanon, Dr. Jaouad Mahjour
- 10:45 - 11:00 Speech of the WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean Region, Dr. Hussein A. Gezairy
- 11:00 - 11:25 Documentary: "Health a Right for All especially in Crisis"
- 11:25 - 11:45 Distribution of Awards
- 11:45 - 12:00 Recovery Phase in Lebanon, Director General of Ministry of Public Health, Dr. Walid Ammar
- 12:00 - 12:15 Speech of His Excellency, Minister of Education & Higher Education, Dr. Khaled Kabbani
- 12:15 - 12:30 Speech of His Excellency, Minister of Public Health, Dr. Mohamad Jawad Khalife
- 12:30 - 12:40 Signature of School Health Memorandum of Understanding
- 12:40 - 13:00 Distribution of Cars for the Epidemiological Surveillance and Water Quality Surveillance Programs Reception

Children Drawings around the theme of the World Health Day 2007 will be exhibited in parallel of the event



EMRO Regional Director, Dr. Hussein A. Gezairy's speech at the World Health Day 2007 event.



WR Lebanon, Dr. Jaouad Mahjour's speech.



WHO Lebanon National Professional Officer, Dr. Alissar Rady.

In the context of the World Health Day and to honor the different ministries, governmental institutions, syndicates and civil society organizations that played an important role in lessening the effects of the war, awards were distributed to the following institutions:

the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEd),
the Ministry of National Defense – The Lebanese Army Headquarter,
the Ministry of Public Health,
the Ministry of Social Affairs,
The Health, Labor and Social Affairs Committee in the Lebanese Parliament,
the Press Syndicate,
the Lebanese Journalist Association,
the Syndicate of Hospitals,
the Order of Nursing,
the Order of Pharmacists,
the Order of Physicians,
the Civil Defense,
and the Lebanese Red Cross.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Public Health honored the World Health Organization Representative in Lebanon, Dr. Jaouad Mahjour, by presenting him with the Silver Palmed Lebanese Order of Merit Medal.

CAMPAIGN IN FOCUS



Dr. Hussein A. Gezairy presenting the award to H.E. Minister of Public Health, Dr. Mohamad Jawad Khalife.



Dr. Hussein A. Gezairy presenting the award to H.E. Minister of Education and Higher Education, Dr. Khaled Kabbani.



H.E. Minister of Public Health presenting the Silver Palmed Lebanese Order of Merit Medal to WR Lebanon.



The awarded institutions representatives.

The World Health Day celebration was also the occasion for signing the tripartite Memorandum of Understanding between the MoPH, MoEd, and WHO regarding the school health program.



Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between WHO, the MoPH, and the MoEd.

At the closing of the ceremony, Dr. Walid Ammar, Director General of the Ministry of Public Health, and on behalf of the districts' doctors, received the keys of the 35 Citroen Berlingo cars donated by the Norwegian Government (15 cars), the Italian Government (10 cars) and the European Commission Office for Humanitarian Aid (10 cars). This donation aims to support and strengthen the drinking water quality surveillance system and the epidemiological surveillance system at the MoPH.



The MoPH Director General receiving the keys to the 35 cars on behalf of the district doctors.



Some of the cars donated to the MoPH surveillance unit.

At the end of the ceremony, the invitees visited the exhibition of the 34 winning paintings of the World Health Day 2007 Art Competition sponsored by WHO.



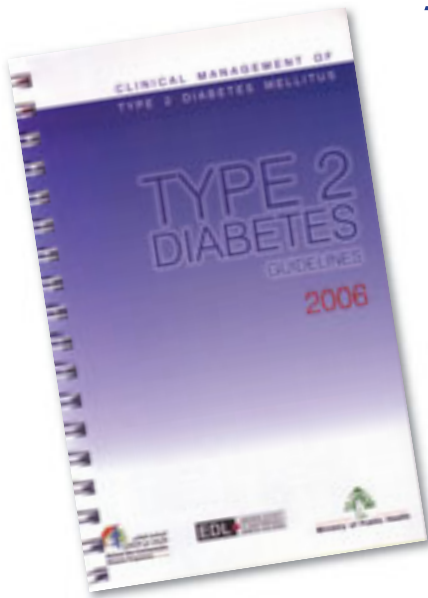
EMRO Regional Director and WR Lebanon visiting the Art Competition exhibition of winning paintings.

CELEBRATION

As the prevailing security atmosphere in the country in the past months was not conducive to launch activities to celebrate the International Health Days, the celebrations were restricted to the development of Information, Education, and Communication materials that were distributed to WHO's main partners in health, namely, Ministries, UN agencies, NGOs, academic institutions, media institutions, and other relevant bodies.

World Diabetes Day

14 November 2006



The theme for World Diabetes Day 2006 “**Diabetes Care for Everyone**” focused on disadvantaged communities and vulnerable groups worldwide, promoting awareness that every person with diabetes or at risk of diabetes deserves the best possible quality of education, prevention and care available.

World AIDS Day

1 December 2006

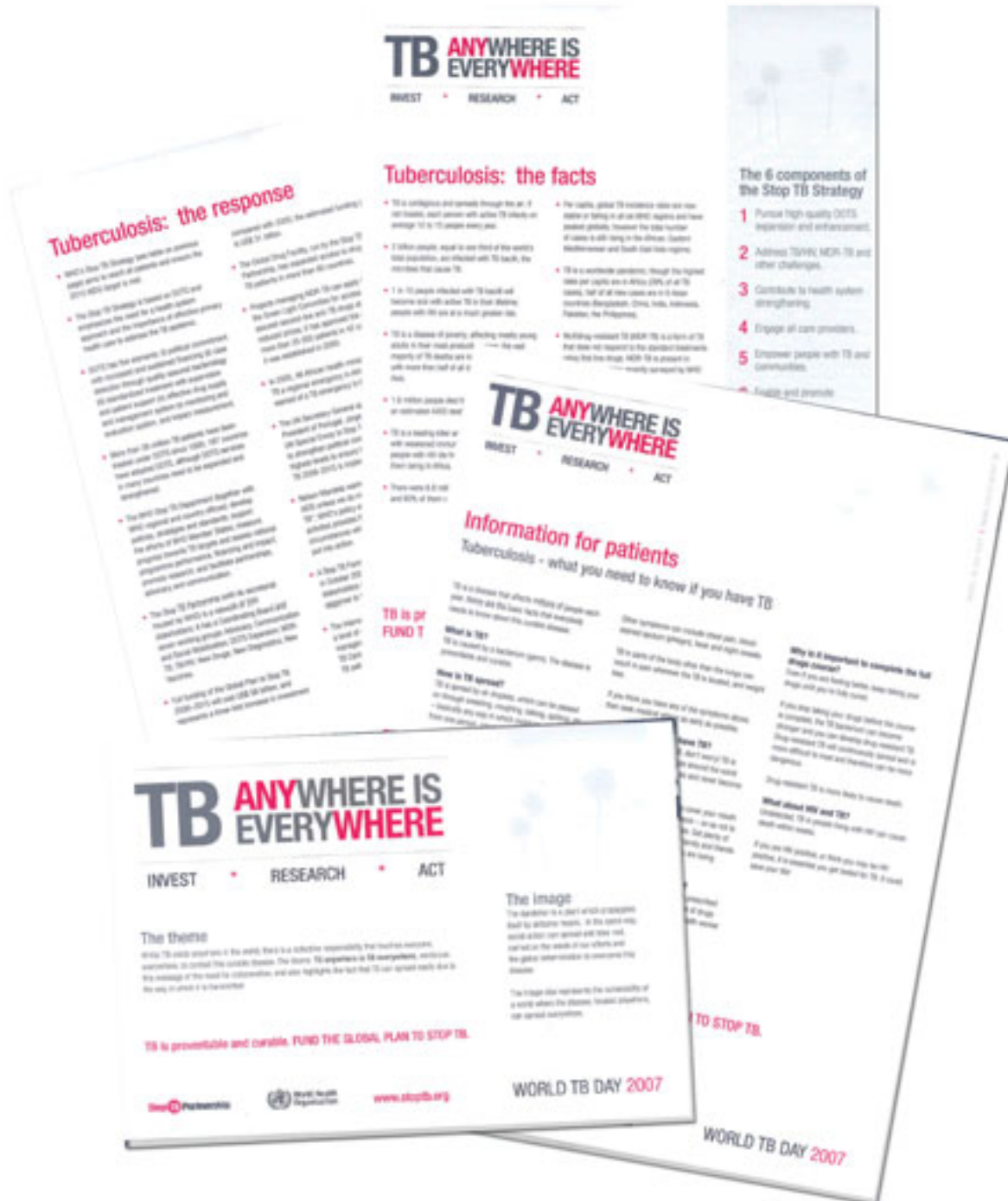
The 2006 World AIDS Campaign emphasized the theme of accountability, with the slogan “**Together towards HIV prevention, treatment and care for all**”.



World Tuberculosis Day

24 March 2007

The World TB Day 2007 slogan was “**TB anywhere is TB everywhere**”, aiming to promote a unified action against tuberculosis.



CELEBRATION

World No Tobacco Day

31 May 2007

The World No Tobacco Day 2007 campaign focused on the urgent need for countries to make all indoor public places and workplaces **100% smoke-free**. The purpose of the World No Tobacco Day was to inform the public on the dangers of using tobacco, the business practices of tobacco companies,



WHO's work in fighting the tobacco epidemic, and what people around the world can do to claim their right to health and healthy living and to protect future generations.

اليوم العالمي للامتناع عن التدخين 2007

لا للتدخين في الأماكن المغلقة

لماذا المغلقة بأماكن مغلقة خالية من التدخين؟

لأن:

1	خطر تدخين التبغ السليبي من العزائم الثلاثة حيث يؤدي إلى الوفاة والإصابة بأمراض خطيرة.
2	تحمي البلاد العالمية من تدخين التبغ بقيمة 100% الخاليين والمعتدلين من أكثر تدخين التبغ الرجعية.
3	الفرق من خطر أن يتلقى أفراد عائلته على من التبغ.
4	مطعم سائق أخطر لا يتدخين، ومن ثم لا ينبغي التواجد معهم في حيز التعرض لما يطلقه الآخرون من تدخين.
5	إن التدخين وغير التدخين على حد سواء يتعرضون لخطر التدخين.
6	إن الحياة العالمية تعتمد على التدخين لتتقدم على رفاهية الناس، وتأسيسه القوي من الآثار التي في التدخين.
7	يرجع الخطر من التدخين في 100% من التدخين ومن لم يهبط الأمان العالمية من تدخين التبغ بقيمة 100% تعطي عائلته 100% من التدخين والتفكير.
8	تحمي البلاد العالمية من تدخين التبغ بقيمة 100% مع اعتمادها على أنها أن الأمر الخطأ التلقائي، والحد من غير التدخين، والتدخين التميم يتسبب التوجه إلى الإنسان العالمية من تدخين التبغ.
9	بعد توفير سائر هذه المبادئ من المنتجات الرجعية الكفاة والطبقة العموي.

ماذا نعرف عن تدخين التبغ السليبي؟

1. تعريف تدخين التبغ السليبي
 تدخين التبغ السليبي إلى البلدان السليبي من منتجات التبغ المتداولة في أوقات التدخين والسليبي هذه الظاهرة في أوساط منتجات التبغ من تدخين التبغ السليبي في البلاد. وقد تشكلت تدخين التبغ في البلاد وتأسيسه في الأماكن المغلقة، بالإضافة مع التدخين، مما يعرض التدخين وغير التدخين على حد سواء إلى آثار الضارة، وإن هذا التدخين يستلزم غير التدخين، مما يقلل على حد العالمية التدخين السليبي أو التلقائي.

World Blood Donor Day

14 June 2007



The World Blood Donor Day 2007 theme **“Safe Blood for Safe Motherhood”** highlights the life-saving role of safe

blood transfusion in maternal and perinatal care. The day aimed to raise awareness of the need for safe blood, to recognize and thank the blood donors who make transfusion possible, and to encourage regular blood donation by suitable donors.

World Blood Donor Day
 Celebrating the Gift of Blood 14 JUNE 2007

Announcing World Blood Donor Day, 14 June 2007

On 14 June 2007 World Blood Donor Day will again be celebrated throughout the world. Officially designated as an annual event by the World Health Assembly in 2005, the Day celebrates and thanks voluntary blood donors for their gift of blood and has become a major focus for action towards achieving global blood safety and availability.

Each year, World Blood Donor Day activities grow in number and creativity and now provide a focus for long-term public awareness campaigns and programmes. In 2006, imaginative events promoting voluntary blood donation were held in more than 120 countries, many with health, presidents, ministers of health, celebrities and sporting figures. The Day also served as a platform for broader activities in some countries, including the announcement of national plans for the restructuring of blood transfusion services, the promulgation of legislation on blood donation and other aspects of blood transfusion, and the launch of national guidelines on clinical transfusion practice.

On World Blood Donor Day, the global community recognizes the special life-saving role of voluntary non-remunerated blood donors. In 2002 the theme will be **Safe Blood for Safe Motherhood** to highlight how voluntary blood donors can play a vital role in saving the lives of thousands of mothers and their newborns. Each year, more than 500,000 women die needlessly during pregnancy or childbirth - 98% of them in the developing world. Severe bleeding can kill even a healthy woman within two hours if untreated and contributes to 40% of maternal deaths in Africa, 20% in Asia and over 20% in Latin America and the Caribbean. The risk of developing complications due to haemorrhage is further increased in pregnant women with underlying conditions such as pre-eclampsia, malaria, malaria, HIV/AIDS and female genital mutilation. Up to one quarter of all maternal deaths could be saved by access to safe blood transfusion.

World Blood Donor Day is jointly coordinated by the World Health Organization, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Society of Blood Transfusion and the International Federation of Blood Donor Organizations. Each year, these partners join together in an international event that provides a focus for a global media campaign to raise awareness of the need for safe blood and the importance of regular voluntary blood donation. The event is also designed to support national outreach campaigns and international organizations to launch long-term, ongoing mass and public awareness campaigns. The founding partners are pleased to announce that the global event on 14 June 2007 will be held in Ottawa, Canada, hosted by Health Canada in conjunction with Canadian Blood Services and Héma-Québec.

The collective website of the founding partners www.worldblood.org and the WHO webpage www.who.int/worldblooddonorday contain a new World Blood Donor Day brochure and poster as well as additional resources and news about events. You are invited to contribute by sharing your ideas, plans for activities and resource materials through these websites or through direct communication with the collaborating organizations.

Your involvement and support will help to ensure the success of World Blood Donor Day 2007 and bring the world one step closer to 100 per cent voluntary blood donation.

World Health Organization
 International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
 International Society of Blood Transfusion
 International Federation of Blood Donor Organizations

Nahr El-Bared Crisis

On 20 May 2007, violent clashes took place in the Nahr El-Bared Palestinian camp in Tripoli, North of Lebanon. On June 11, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) counted 30,740 Palestinian Refugees that have fled Nahr El-Bared camp. The majority (26,247) are in the North of Lebanon in the Beddawi camp and Tripoli, in addition to 391 persons who have fled to the Bekaa region, 2,006 to Central Lebanon Area, and 2,096 to Sidon and Tyr.

Since the first days of the crisis, UNRWA, with the support of the WHO and other UN agencies, has been leading the Humanitarian and Relief Interventions in response to the crisis. Repercussions of the conflict such as the crowded living conditions among the Internally Displaced Refugees (IDRs), limited electricity supply, water and sanitation problems, sewage disposal damages, potential outbreaks in communicable diseases, health services and medication needs, as well as basic needs in food, shelter, and other Non Food Items (NFI) are being dealt with in a joint effort between the UN agencies, the Lebanese government, and the NGOs working in the field. For that purpose, the UN Country Team has been meeting on a regular basis to provide coordinated support in responding to the humanitarian crisis. Furthermore, WHO in coordination with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) chaired the first Health Cluster meeting on the 23rd of May, and has co-chaired with UNRWA 5 meetings as of end of June 2007. Moreover, and for the purpose of facilitating the coordination among the different partners



Children at IDPs camp at the Beddawi, picture by Nichol Ireland / UNICEF.

in health, WHO is issuing a weekly health cluster bulletin regarding the interventions of the various partners in both the Nahr El-Bared crisis, in addition to the ongoing coverage of the recovery activities regarding the July 2006 war.

On the other hand, a flash appeal has been developed, amounting to US \$ 12.7 million, including provisions for emergency health, water, sanitation services and protection plans as well as food assistance, non food items and shelter, both immediately in order to relieve the congestion of the Beddawi camp and in the short term to ensure suitable temporary shelters for the IDRs.

CAPACITY BUILDING & HUMAN RESOURCES

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS

JANUARY

Post Medicine Price Survey Workshop
Cairo, Egypt Jan 7th – 9th

Oral Health Mission to Morocco
Rabat, Morocco Jan 11th – 18th

Inter Country Training on the Global Tobacco Control Report (GTCR)
EMRO, Cairo, Egypt Jan 30th – 31st

FEBRUARY

22nd Meeting of the Regional Director with WHO Representatives and Regional Office Staff
EMRO, Cairo, Egypt Feb 5th – 8th

Global Communication Meeting
EMRO, Cairo, Egypt Feb 11th – 12th

Course on Laboratory Management and skills Strengthening for Diagnosis of Epidemic –Prone Diseases COHORT 2, Session 3
Lyon, France Feb 22nd – 28th

Meeting of MOH Focal Points for the UN Global Road Safety Week
Muscat, Oman Feb 24th -25th

Training workshop on Public Private Mix for TB Control
EMRO, Cairo, Egypt Feb 25th – 1st March

Regional Workshop to develop Regional Capacity in the introduction and dissemination of the New Growth Curves in the EMR Member States
EMRO, Cairo, Egypt Feb 26th – 1st Mar

4th Codex Coordinating Committee for Near East (CCNE)
Amman, Jordan Feb 26th – 3rd March

Inter Country Meeting for Policy, Technical and Decision Makers on National Preparedness Plans for Human Pandemic Influenza
Cairo, Egypt Feb 26th – 28th

Inter Country Consultation of Family Practice in EMR Countries
Sanaa, Yemen Feb 26th – 1st March

MARCH

AGFUND/WHO-CEHA workshop on the Role of Community in Awareness Raising and hygiene education in Based Healthy Solid Waste Management in EMR
Amman, Jordan March 5th – 7th

9th meeting of CAH Technical Steering Committee
Geneva, Switzerland March 13th – 15th

Regional Workshop on AFP/Measles Surveillance
Cairo, Egypt March 13th – 15th

Regional Workshop for Library staff in WR Offices information
Cairo, Egypt March 18th – 22nd

WHO Global Salmonella Surveillance in Egypt
EMRO, Cairo, Egypt March 25th – 29th

UNAIDS Administrative Training
Marrakech, Morocco March 25th – 31st

Regional Consultation on Establishing
Guidelines for Acute Coronary Conditions
Cairo, Egypt March 26th – 29th

Patients for Patient Safety Workshop
Cairo, Egypt March 26th – 28th

Inter Country meeting on outbreak
Communication: the Goal, Strategies,
Evidence and Experience
Amman, Jordan March 26th – 29th

First EPISOUTH Meeting
Rome, Italy March 27th – 30th

APRIL

WHO 2nd Regional Workshop on Quality
Assurance of Radiographic Techniques
and Radioprotection
Bahrain April 1st – 5th

Regional Training Workshop on Global
Fund Round 7 Proposal Development
Cairo, Egypt April 1st – 3rd

Joint ITU/LAS/UN Agencies Regional
Conference on «Disaster, Relief and
Management: International Cooperation &
Role of ICT»
Alexandria, Egypt April 14th – 17th

31st Regional Consultative Committee
meeting
EMRO, Cairo, Egypt April 11th – 12th

TB Review in Pakistan
Pakistan April 16th – 21st

Regional Meeting of ILO and UNAIDS
Dubai, United Arab Emirates
April 16th - 18th

Salary Survey Workshop
Dubai, UAE April 18th – 20th

LSS Training of Trainers Workshop
Amman, Jordan April 23rd – 26th

Joint ISESCO Regional Training Workshop
on Environmental Health Risk Assessment
and Valuation Development Policies
Amman, Jordan April 23rd – 26th

Inter Country meeting on Maintaining
Surveillance and Response for Public
Health Emergencies of International
Concern
Tunis, Tunisia April 23rd – 26th

Youth Delegates to the World Youth
Assembly
Geneva, Switzerland April 23rd – 24th

17th meeting of the Regional Consultative
Committee of Eradication of Poliomyelitis
Cairo, Egypt April 24th – 26th

CAPACITY BUILDING & HUMAN RESOURCES

MAY

12th Meeting of the Tuberculosis Programme Managers

Tunisia, Tunis May 6th – 10th

2007 HIV Estimates Regional Training Workshops

Cairo, Egypt May 8th – 10th

Regional Consultancy on constituting Regional Parliamentary Forum on Health Promotion

Cairo, Egypt May 13th – 14th

E- Learning Study Tour to Morocco

Casablanca, Morocco May 13th – 18th

18th International Harm Reduction Conference

Warsaw, Poland May 13th – 17th

Management of Public Health Risks in Emergencies (MPHR3)

Cairo, Egypt May 20th – 31st

Training for Country Office Staff on Work plan Editor Version 4.0

EMRO, Cairo, Egypt May 23rd – 24th

24th Inter Country meeting of National Managers of the Expanded Programme on Immunization

Tunis, Tunisia May 27th – June 1st

JUNE

Regional Workshop for Religious Leaders to Promote Good Breastfeeding practices

Damascus, Syria June 2nd – 3rd

Flagship Course on Health Sector Reform and Sustainable Financing for the MENA Region

Cairo, Egypt June 3rd – 7th

Risk Analysis Course for WHO Environment Health Professional Staff

Amman, Jordan June 3rd – 8th

1st Consultation Workshop for team of experts on Avian and Pandemic Influenza in EMR

Cairo, Egypt June 3rd – 7th

UNAIDS meeting on People Living with HIV

Cairo, Egypt June 6th – 8th

17th Inter Country meeting of National Malaria Programme Managers

Dubai, UAE June 9th – 15th

NATIONAL WORKSHOPS

Interim Emergency Assistance for Avian Influenza (AI) in Lebanon Inception Workshop

Within the framework of the assistance provided by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to the Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture (MoAg) for the prevention of Avian Influenza, an inception workshop was conducted on April 11, 2007 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Beirut, to launch the SFERA joint project between the two parties. The workshop was organized with the support of the National Avian Influenza Task Force, which includes, in addition to the FAO, the WHO, the Office International des Epizooties (OIE), the World Poultry Science Association (WPSS), the MoPH, and the MoAg.

The workshop was attended by 55 participants including the MoPH, the MoAg, representatives from the private poultry sector, as well as representatives from donor countries, and the media. The workshop introduced the objectives and work plan of the SFERA project, which aims at strengthening the capacity of veterinary services in Lebanon in order to prevent and control AI outbreaks. The WHO National Professional Officer presented the WHO Regional Strategy for Avian Influenza, along 3 main axes focusing on risk reduction, strengthened surveillance, and improved pandemic preparedness.

The 6th International Physiotherapy Congress

Under the patronage of H.E. the Minister of Public Health, Dr. Mohamad Jawad Khalife, and in collaboration with the World Health Organization, with the presence of the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Director, Dr. Hussein A. Gezairy, the Lebanese Order of Physiotherapy



At the gala dinner.

CAPACITY BUILDING & HUMAN RESOURCES

inaugurated the 6th International Physiotherapy Congress, with the participation of its different partners, namely the World Confederation of Physical Therapy (WCPT), the Arabic Confederation of Physical Therapy (ACPT), Fédération Internationale des Organisations de Physiothérapeutes Francophones (FIOPF), and Association Médicale Franco-Libanaise (AMLF). More than 450 international and Lebanese participants attended the 3 day congress between the 14th and 16th of April 2007. The congress' main objective was to stress and reiterate the field of practice of Physical Therapy. Many presentations were given related to that objective, during which WHO intervened in a morning session related to quality of care and the role of human resources in health. At the end of the ceremony, the WHO EMRO Regional Director, the WHO Representative in Lebanon, as



well as the Minister of Public Health and the WHO Programme Coordinator amongst others were presented with merit awards.



WHO Programme Coordinator, Dr. Ziad Mansour, during his presentation.



Dr. Antoine Kedemos presenting Dr. Hussein A. Gezairy with the merit award.

The Health System Development and Recovery Joined Course at the Lebanese University

In the context of building the capacity of private and public health organizations, the WHO Office in Lebanon in collaboration with the Lebanese University School of Public Health organized a course on “Post Conflict Health System Development and Recovery”. The objectives of the course were to introduce participants to Basic Planning concepts and tools, as well as to principles of health system recovery, in order to enable them to plan their own interventions in health system recovery. The course was attended on January 2007 by 55 participants from hospitals, Primary Health Care Centers, and NGOs. WHO provided all the technical support in terms of material and human resources to the course.

Basic Development Needs Workshop

Within the Basic Development Needs (BDN) project, the WHO office in Lebanon organized a two-day workshop on the 17th and 18th of May 2007 at the Meridien Commodore Hotel in Beirut, on the role of civil society and the local community in Health Emergency and Recovery. More than 20 health professionals from NGOs, municipalities, and district health offices participated in the workshop, and learned about how to upgrade their role as well as integrate local communities in Health Care Response to emergencies.

Training on Reproductive Health in Emergencies

Based on the reported need for extending the Reproductive Health (RH) in Emergencies series of trainings conducted in October and November 2006, WHO and in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health has resumed the two-day workshops in Beirut, Bekaa, South, North, and Mount Lebanon. In total, ten workshops were conducted between the 31st of January and the 1st of March 2007, and attended by 570 participants including family physicians, gynecologists, pediatricians, midwives, registered nurses, and social workers. The participants were trained by experts

in reproductive health and ObsGyn on all aspects of RH in emergencies.



RH expert during presentation at the RH in emergencies Training

CAPACITY BUILDING & HUMAN RESOURCES

Training on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergencies

Within the WHO recovery interventions aiming at up scaling the preparedness of the Public Health sector to face Humanitarian Crises, and in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health, several trainings on “Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergencies” were organized all over the Lebanese territories. The workshops aimed at building the capacity of primary health care professionals to identify and refer common psychological and mental health problems, as well as to promote self care for the primary health care providers who have been involved in war events.

Nine trainings have been conducted in

Beirut, Tripoli, Marjeyoun, and Mount Lebanon, from May 17th to June 13th 2007, reaching 301 paramedical staff at the level of Health Centers. These trainings come as a follow up to similar ones initiated in October 2006 in the most affected regions namely the South and Nabatieh Mohafazats.



Role playing at one of the training sessions.



Trainer teaching relaxation exercises in a training session.

Technical Support Missions

- Mr. Jose Rovira, Logistics Country Coordinator at WHO HQ, visited Lebanon between the 21st and 27th of January to support the country office in finalizing the logistics arrangements following the 2006 July crisis.
- Ms. Joumana Hermez, Technical Officer at WHO EMRO, and Professor Gerry Stimson, Executive Director of the International Harm Reduction Association (IHRA), visited Lebanon between the 23rd and 29th of January 2007, in an assessment mission under strengthening the civil society's role in delivering harm reduction services in the Middle East and North Africa.
- Dr. Giuseppe Annunziata, Medical Officer at WHO HQ, visited Lebanon between the 31st of January and the 9th of February 2007, to assist WHO Lebanon in finalizing the Lebanon Country Office Contingency Plan.
- Dr. Houssain AbouZaid, coordinator at WHO EMRO, visited Lebanon between the 25th of February and the 2nd of March, to participate in the joint IAEA/UNEP/WHO mission on depleted uranium, as well as assess post-conflict water supply and sanitation aspects relevant to WHO's work.
- Dr. Najib Al-Shorbaji, coordinator KMS at WHO EMRO, and Ms. Diana Zandi, from WHO HQ, visited Lebanon between



Dr. AbouZaid, EMRO Coordinator HEP, and Mrs. Nohal Al Homsy, WHO Lebanon Environmental Health Project Officer, reviewing documents related to water supply and sanitation.

the 11th and 12th of March 2007 in a mission to initiate activities related to the implementation of the e-Learning Health Academy project.

- Dr. Ahmad Mohit, from WHO EMRO, visited Lebanon between the 8th and 15th of April 2007, in a mission to support the national team in finalizing the Mental Health Recovery Interventions plan.
- Dr. Randa Saade, Scientist at WHO HQ, visited Lebanon between the 24th of May and till the 2nd of June 2007, in a mission to re-assess the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFH) under the WHO Infant and Young Child Feeding Program (IYCF). It was recommended at the end of the mission to promote BFH by establishing an Infant and Young Child Feeding Program (IYCF) National Committee and ensuring capacity building, among other activities through the collaborative work of all concerned.



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