

**MIDDLE EAST CRISIS**  
**UNICEF Situation Report – No. 13**  
**Thursday 3 August 2006**

**Key Statistics**

<b>IMPACT OF CONFLICT</b>	
Duration of Conflict	23 days (since July 12)
Deaths	835 (source: Higher Relief Committee)
Casualties	3210 (source: Higher Relief Committee)
Internally Displaced (%children)	907,649 (45% are children) (source: Higher Relief Committee)
Total number of centres housing IDPs	652 (source: Higher Relief Committee)
Number of IDPs staying in schools / gardens	128,760 (source: Higher Relief Committee)
Total numbers of refugees crossing the boarder into Syria	Estimated 140.000
Total number of refugees staying in Syria	Estimated 180.000 (source: MOSAL)
Total number of refugees currently in need of assistance i.e staying in facilities such as schools and other centers (% of Children)	SARC estimation 20.000 (50%) UNHCR estimation 75.000
<b>SITUATION PRIOR TO THE CONFLICT</b>	
Total Population:	3.5 million
Under 18	1.2 million
Under five mortality rate	31 per 1,000 live births.
Maternal mortality rate	150 per 100,000 live births.
Underweight:	3 per cent
Nearly universal access to improved water	100%
Sanitation	98% in urban, 87% in rural
Immunization rates	over 90%

**SITUATION IN LEBANON**

**Major Developments**

- Air strikes resumed on the southern suburbs of Beirut today. All staff are safe.
- The Security Council is reportedly close to an agreement on the first of 2 resolutions that could lead to an end in hostilities.

**UNICEF Response**

**WASH**

- UNICEF's 2 WES experts returned from Tebnine today. They were able to deliver UNICEF supplies to the local hospital including drinking water, essential drugs and family hygiene kits. They reported that roads were empty and people were sheltering indoors and in public spaces including the hospital. Apparently 2000 people had fled the area yesterday and only 25% of the population remains. Those that remained were extremely afraid and were not venturing outdoors. One of the most urgent needs is drinking water – it is clear that UNICEF's efforts need to focus on provision of bottled water. Full assessment report will be shared under separate cover.

- 48 of the 50 water tanks ordered locally for the Beirut area have been delivered; it is estimated that at least ten more (in addition to the ordered 50) would be needed for new places opened in the past few days in Beirut (these locations are being surveyed by UNICEF staff member today).

### Health and Nutrition

- Immunization campaign: in the next 24 to 48 hours, inspection teams will be covering 5 zones in Beirut targeting all schools/centers with IDPs to verify blanket coverage of vaccination over the last 2 days. Those centers that may have been overlooked will be visited by follow-up teams of doctors from AUB-MC with the full vaccination protocol. The estimated number of children vaccinated against measles this week in Beirut is 18,000 between 9 months and 15 years. During next week's national campaign, an estimated of 55,000 IDP children will be immunised.
- The Ministry of Health has reported that the lack of electricity has made immunization efforts difficult. The cold chain was maintained using generators.
- A nutrition sub-cluster meeting was convened today. The local Health consultant is on board and will lead on this front.

### Protection

- The first meeting of the women's protection sub cluster was held yesterday. The meeting was hosted by UNICEF but led by UNFPA. Other participants included MoSA, UNHCR, American University of Beirut, MDM, and local NGOs. The focus of the group is to ensure coordination across various actors and to promote a holistic approach the issue of women's (girls) protection. The immediate actions identified: need to ensure good mapping of who is doing what where and try and identify gaps; and need to raise awareness in communities, particularly in displaced communities. It was agreed that women should be represented in the management of camps. The group will meet again in one week.
- A series of other discussions have been taking place regarding: development of a strategy by Government and partners for working with parents; and early childhood development actions focusing on mothers and children under 5. The second protection cluster meeting led by UNHCR will take place this afternoon

### Mine Action

- UNICEF met with partners today on mine risk education. There had been a working group on mine risk education before the conflict - Mine Risk Steering Committee - which has been revived and is redirecting its efforts to conflict / post conflict needs. Today's meeting was attended by National Demining Office, UNDP, UNICEF, Balamand University, and various NGOs. The meeting discussed the production of education tools including posters, TV spots, media messages, and colouring books for children.

### Education

- Pending a formal decision on IDP camps, UNHCR is already working on their possible design (site planning & engineering; among other locations, an old railway station close to Beirut is being considered as a camp site); the concept of Child Friendly Spaces (CFSs) was introduced by UNICEF in a meeting yesterday and was welcomed; UNICEF also emphasised that space for schools should be secured; the MoE's current vision that IDP children may attend schools somewhere "in the vicinity" may need further discussion, taking into account the *private* schools' reluctance to open up to IDPs and overstretched capacity of *public* schools even prior to the crisis (situational assessment is needed to see what is the occupied capacity of *public* schools at the moment; meeting with *private* schools administrators is scheduled for Monday, 7 August).

- ECD programming meeting with Arab Resource Collective is scheduled for today, to be followed by visits to some 2-3 IDP gathering places for situational assessment; young psychologists (university students and graduates) being mobilised for ECD counselling to help parents to deal with under-5 yrs old children.
- UNICEF is coordinating assessment of damages to schools and is reviewing the availability of potential teachers. This will help inform decisions on education interventions. UNICEF is working with two local NGOs - Samidoon and Makased – on the assessments.

### **Interagency**

- OCHA is consolidating the cluster operations plans. All cluster leads have been requested to prepare a 2 month plan (Aug-Sept) for submission on Saturday. UNICEF has responsibility for WASH plan.

### **Supply and Logistics**

- To date, UNICEF has sent a total of 9 trucks (as part 7 convoys) to the south.

## SITUATION IN SYRIA

### Major Developments

- According to a recent meeting with MOSAL, the total number of refugees in Syria has increased to 180.000. There are around 67,000 refugees living in camps and schools at the moment. Also according to the Pioneers, they are hosting around 6.000 refugees. This highlights that the majority of refugees are still in the schools and response should be adapted accordingly.
- Inter-agency field assessments have covered sites hosting some 35.000 refugees.
- Moreover, Aga Khan Development Group (AKDN) has been approved by the Government to work with relief in Syria and they are currently responsible for the Damascus university campus hosting 1.300 refugees.

### UNICEF Programmatic Response

#### **Assessment**

- A joint assessment visit was carried out yesterday by UNICEF and WFP to the Pioneers Kafar Janne camp in Aleppo which is hosting 700 refugees (almost reaching maximum capacity). The camp is managed by the Pioneers and SRC volunteers. In addition to very well managed basic services, recreational activities are organized within the camp and psycho-social support is provided in a 'simple' approach mainly by interim teachers in the camp. The only concern noted is the fact that the camp is located 55 km away from Aleppo city and the area is very cold which could be an issue for a long term stay (not appropriate for winter period).
- Another joint assessment is ongoing for Homs today, while assessments by UNICEF and WFP are planned today to 3 locations within Aleppo as well as one in Dar'a sites (South of Syria) with UNHCR.

#### **Health**

- A visit of three refugee sites in Damascus (schools) was carried out yesterday to monitor the vaccination campaign and meet with the 4 vaccination teams. All vaccines were found available and the cold chain system was properly maintained in the visited sites. The health workers were found properly trained on vaccine management and the health teams were accompanied by physicians or pediatricians from MoH. Regardless of their previous immunization status; All U5s children were receiving OPV, the 10-59 months children were receiving MMR vaccine, the 24-59 months were receiving Meningitis vaccine and those aged 5-15 years were receiving Measles vaccine. The registration was properly maintained and the preliminary coverage figures will be ready on early next week.
- A inter-agency coordination meeting will be held today at WHO.
- The vitamin A will be distributed today by MOH to the vaccination sites.
- Within the occasion of the world breastfeeding week, the MOH will focus its awareness campaign within the sites accommodating Lebanese refugees and distribute the IEC (5,000 posters and 50,000 brochures) supported by UNICEF.

#### **WES**

- The latrine units are now established at the Dabbousye border. They were completed in 2 days and were found satisfactory.

#### **Child Protection**

- A psycho-social meeting took place in UNICEF premises with the participation of UNFPA, WHO, UNHCR, IOM, SRC, Danish Red Cross, Movimondo, AKDN, SFPA and a local psychologist to discuss the psycho-social support for Lebanese refugees. The different parties identified the resources they will bring together including trainers, volunteers, social workers and donors. A follow up meeting will be held on Sunday 6 August to agree upon a coordinated training program

and on the division of responsibilities based geographically and per target group (women, children, etc).

- A meeting was also held on recreational activities with SRC, SFPA, AKDN, Movimondo and Pioneers organization. The latter indicated that they will provide a space for a nursery within their camps as well as a supervisor to monitor the use of the recreational kits. The participating NGOs will identify what areas they can cover as well as the number of volunteers they can mobilize to organize recreational programs for children.
- UNICEF is packaging 40 recreational kits and is expected to deliver them to schools in Damascus.

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