

Current Health Event

Field Mobile Units in the Bekaa

As of July 24, 2014, the UNCHR has registered 1,103,707 Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Fifteen percent of them live in informal tented settlements (ITS). International and national organizations are operating field medical units (FMU) to provide health services for refugees especially those living in ITS.

Editorial note:

Refugees poor living conditions and overcrowding increase the risk of communicable diseases transmission. The Epidemiological Surveillance Program of the MOPH in the Bekaa is collecting surveillance data from the field medical units.

The objectives of the system are: 1) to early detect alerts and outbreaks; 2) to monitor trends of communicable diseases among refugees; 3) and to complement the data collected from other surveillance systems.

Data is collected on a weekly basis using a standard aggregated reporting form for target diseases and syndromes. Forms are sent to MOPH by hand, by fax or by email. Data is computerized using Epidata Software. Completeness of reporting, distribution of cases by time, place and person (age) are monitored. Proportions of consultations for target diseases from total consultations are also computed, and compared with historical data.

A bulletin presenting the results is prepared on a bi-weekly basis. The bulletin is published on the MOPH website.

The compliance of FMU is high. Reports are provided by various na-

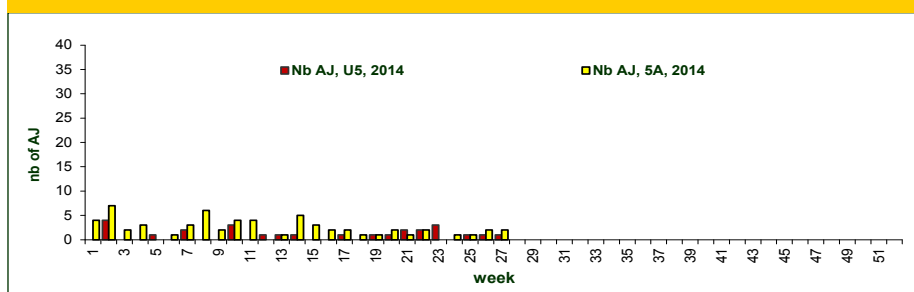
Table 1: Reported cases from FMUs working in the Bekaa, up to week 28

Age	week	WD	BD	AR	ME	AJ	WC	MU	UF	AF	SC	IN	AT	OT	Total
< 5 y	2014-25	282	4	631	2	1	0	0	4	0	92	15	13	933	1476
	2014-26	406	4	665	1	1	0	1	7	0	48	33	21	1201	1415
	2014-27	281	5	503	1	1	0	0	8	0	53	29	16	702	3049
	2014-28	409	4	791	0	0	0	1	3	0	103	10	15	1182	2587
>=5 y	2014-25	164	2	871	0	1	0	3	8	0	126	69	0	3699	3390
	2014-26	274	5	1061	0	2	0	0	10	0	135	69	0	3773	4067
	2014-27	238	13	588	0	2	0	3	12	0	87	96	0	3005	5414
	2014-28	280	7	1339	1	0	0	1	9	0	221	44	0	4205	4861

WD: Watery Diarrhea. BD: Bloody Diarrhea. AR: Acute Respiratory infection. ME: Measles/Rubella. AJ: Acute Jaundice. WC: Whooping Cough. MU: Mumps. UF: Unexplained Fever. AF: Acute Paralysis. SC: scabies. IN: Injury. AT: Asthma. OT: Other.

Source: Ministry of Public Health

Figure 1: Reported acute jaundice reported by the FMUs working in the Bekaa, up to week 28.



Source: Ministry of Public Health

U5: under 5 y, 5A: 5 years and above

tional and international NGOs.

Based on the provided information, corrective measures are taken. In case of clusters of viral hepatitis A and/or diarrhea, the UNCHR/WASH team is informed. In case of cluster vaccine preventable diseases, the Expanded Program of Immunization (EPI) is informed.

Currently, the MOPH is working to establish similar system with the FMUs working in the North.

The table shows reported cases from the Bekaa up to July 13.

Cumulative Notifiable diseases in Lebanon (Syrian)

Disease	2013 Cumul	2014 Cumul*	Jun	Jul
Vaccine Preventable Diseases				
Polio	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Acute Flaccid Paralysis	34(7)	18(7)	3(1)	0(0)
Measles	1760(232)	219(92)	19(12)	10(9)
Mumps	14(2)	293(43)	18(6)	10(4)
Pertussis	59(9)	46(16)	9(2)	4(2)
Rabies	1(1)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Rubella	27(1)	11(6)	1(0)	0(0)
Tetanus	4(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Viral Hep B	141(8)	124(18)	18(0)	8(4)
Water/Food Borne Diseases				
Brucellosis	189(12)	142(19)	29(6)	14(0)
Cholera	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Hydatid cyst	13(3)	11(1)	0(0)	1(0)
Typhoid Fever	407(21)	102(7)	22(2)	3(0)
Viral Hep A	1551(220)	738(127)	74(13)	46(7)
Other Diseases				
Leishmaniasis	1033(1032)	381(379)	31(31)	28(28)
Meningitis	204(24)	109(11)	19(2)	3(1)
Viral Hep C	103(4)	52(1)	7(0)	10(0)

Source: Ministry of Public Health

* Up to date