

Current Health Event

World Blood Donor Day

14 June—The theme of this year's campaign is "Blood connects us all". It focuses on thanking blood donors and highlights the dimension of "sharing" and "connection" between blood donors and patients. This year slogan, "Share life, give blood", draws attention to the roles that voluntary donation systems play in encouraging people to care for one another and promote community cohesion.

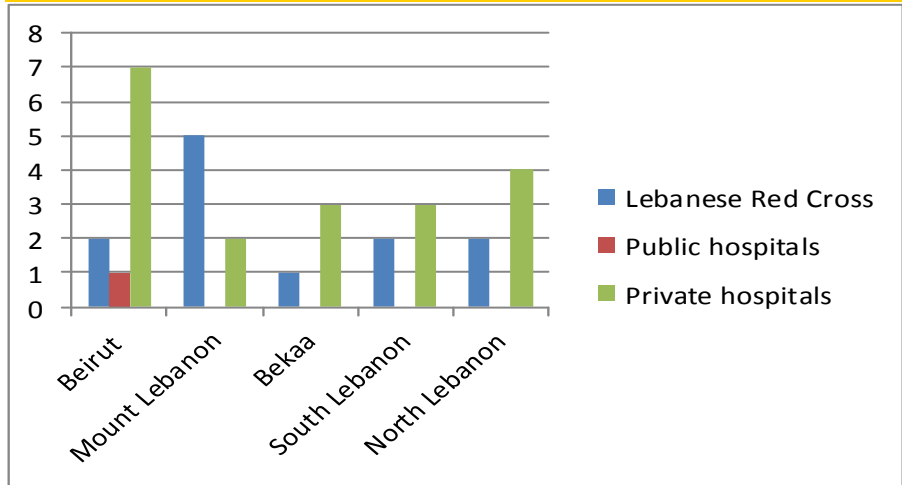
Editorial note:

Transfusion of blood and blood products helps save millions of lives every year. However, in many countries, demand exceeds supply, and blood services face the challenge of making sufficient blood available, while also ensuring its quality and safety. An adequate supply can only be assured through regular donations by voluntary, unpaid blood donors.

Today, only 62 countries get close to 100% of their national blood supplies from voluntary unpaid blood donations, with 40 countries still dependent on family donors and even paid donors.

In Lebanon the majority of blood donations are given on a friend or family basis. However, voluntarily donations are being encouraged. The national policy in blood transfusion is implemented and monitored by the Ministry of Public Health in Lebanon, based on recommendations of the Lebanese National Committee of Blood Transfusion, created in 2011.

Figure: Distribution of blood banks in Lebanon by type and region. (LRC 2012)



The MoPH has a cooperation with Etablissement Francais du Sang since 2011, which resulted in collaboration with local partners to the development and dissemination of Good Practices guidelines adapted to the local context, based on which, evaluation standards were created and will be integrated in the next hospital accreditation.

The country has 32 blood banks. A local NGO "Donner Sang Compter" was established in 2009 to follow up and centralize database of potential blood donors. Transfusion of all blood units and products follows the national blood safety guidelines. No transfusion borne HIV case has been reported since more than 15 years.

This year and for the first time the Ministry of Public Health will celebrate "World blood donor day" by launching a campaign to promote voluntary regular blood donors using WHO slogan for this year "Share life, Give Blood". WHO has adopted a global framework for action to achieve 100% voluntary blood donation jointly with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Cumulative Notifiable Diseases in Lebanon*

Disease	2015	2016**	May	June
Vaccine Preventable Diseases				
Polio	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
AFP	75(9)	45 (5)	7 (0)	0 (0)
Measles	37(11)	25 (8)	11 (6)	0 (0)
Mumps	1400 (337)	372 (54)	104 (18)	11 (4)
Pertussis	37(6)	27 (8)	11 (5)	1 (1)
Rabies	0(0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Rubella	9(1)	5 (1)	1 (0)	0 (0)
Tetanus	3(0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Viral Hep. B	140(22)	173 (23)	30 (1)	8 (4)
Water/Food Borne Diseases				
Brucellosis	333(57)	72 (22)	3 (0)	0 (0)
Cholera	0(0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Hydatic cyst	14(1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Typhoid fever	473(50)	157 (0)	34 (0)	5 (0)
Viral Hep. A	877(159)	121 (17)	16 (1)	0 (0)
Other Diseases				
Leishmaniasis	32(23)	11 (10)	3 (3)	5 (4)
Meningitis	309(53)	219 (24)	63 (5)	13 (2)
Viral Hep C	65(3)	37 (3)	8 (1)	1 (0)

*Numbers in brackets refer to Syrian **as of 15 June 2016