

## Bekaa Health Coordination Meeting

<b>Date</b>	21 Jan 2021	<b>Time</b>	11:30- 13:30
<b>Location</b>	Through Webex	<b>Duration</b>	2 h
<b>Chair</b>	Rajaa Halabi - UNHCR		

1.0	COVID 19	ACTION	DUE DATE
1.1	<p><b>WHO Update:</b>  For the epidemiological overview, the past week recorded a significant 21.5 decrease in number of cases and number of positivity.  The most affected age group is the one between 50 and 59 years of age. The majority of cases are among resident: 99%.  This week the number of cases among health care workers was 34, which is 0.1% of overall infections. This week had a significant increase in registered mortalities: 405 death which is 41.6% increase in mortality, the mortality per 100,000 people increased to 72 deaths.  94 laboratories approved for PCR testing across the country.  A total of 103 hospitals (19 public and 84 private) dedicated for the COVID response.  Bed capacity as of January: total capacity of beds is more than 200 regular and more than 47 ICU. The number of dedicated tripled form early September till yesterday; the bed occupancy is still increasing.</p> <p><b><i>WHO Vaccination Update</i></b>  The objective is to vaccinate 35% of population living in Lebanon by end of 2021.  The vaccine will be distributed for free for all population living in Lebanon per national scheme. Priority is health workers and people living with comorbidities: dialysis, chronic vascular diseases, cancer patients, diabetes, and immune compromised patients...  For refugees, the strategy will be the same as nationals including Syrians, Palestinians, and residents.</p>		
1.2	<p><b>COVID-19 Situation Update</b>  Total Cases in Lebanon 293,157 cumulative positive cases.  Average positivity rate 22.2%  2621 total deaths  Between 25 March 2020 and 28 January 2021, UNHCR Bekaa OPS cell received information about 857 suspected COVID-19 cases among Syrian refugees in Bekaa:  - 616 individuals have tested positive for COVID-19.  - 241 individuals have tested negative for COVID-19.  Out of the 616 individuals who tested positive:</p>		

<p>1.3</p> <p>1.4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 486 individuals have recovered.</li> <li>- 74 individuals are still considered active (32 reside in an urban setting, 41 reside in ITSSs, and 1 resides in standalone tent).</li> <li>- 46 individuals have passed away.</li> <li>- 10 individuals have reportedly left the country.</li> </ul> <p><b>UNHCR COVID-19 Response</b></p> <p><b><i>RRT</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AMEL: No Updates</li> <li>- Mdm: In the new project, Mdm are working with PHCs and will not be involved with RRTs.</li> <li>- SAMS: No updates on RRT involvement</li> <li>- Magna: applying for a new fund for COVID intervention for 2021</li> <li>- RI: Same capacity for RRT response remains, mainly focusing on Aarsal and Central Bekaa</li> <li>- IMC: No updates regarding COVID response</li> </ul> <p><b>Hospitals preparedness for COVID-19: testing and hospitalization</b></p> <p>The hospitals that established COVID units:  Rachaya Governmental Hospital (not yet functional, but finalized), Hamed Farhat Hospital, Bekaa Hospital, Riyak Hospital, Baalbeck Governmental Hospital, Dar El Amal Hospital and Hermel Governmental Hospital and Machghara Governmental Hospital. Many patients are referred outside of Bekaa based on occupancy of beds and vis versa.  Zahle Governmental Hospital ended contract with UNHCR, now the admission process is similar to non-contracted hospitals, followed on a case-by-case basis.  UNHCR have finished completely the first phase at Baalbeck Governmental Hospital where the ICU now is fully established; it is fully occupied. The prefabricated structure where 37 beds were established is also finished and fully occupied.  UNHCR is in the process of expanding capacity of Riyak Hospital with 10 additional ICU beds.  UNHCR is in the process of expanding capacity of Zahle Governmental Hospital with 5 ICU beds</p>		
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	<p>MSF continue to have COVID-19 unit consisting of 15 regular beds and 5 ICU beds; the ICU beds are at full occupancy while the regular beds are not. Patients who approach the hospital are usually late to seek medical care. The surgical activities are still suspended until they finish COVID intervention.</p> <p><b>Coverage of COVID-19 PCR Testing</b>  PCR testing for individuals manifesting COVID 19 symptoms will be fully covered by UNHCR in pre-identified laboratories/ hospitals. In Bekaa, Baalbeck Governmental Hospital is the dedicated hospital for COVID-19 testing.  Non-indicated testing will not be covered.  MoPH is conducting PCR testing campaigns in overcrowded settlements (ITSs), with the support of some partners (MSF) when there exists a reported number/ cluster of suspected cases.  Tomorrow the 30<sup>th</sup> MoPH will be conducting PCR testing campaign in an ITS in Terbol.</p> <p><b>L3 Facilities</b>  Hadath Baalbeck L3 Facility closed in December; no patients going to the facility anymore  One L3 isolation site that had patients in Mreijat, open to all nationalities.  Zero cases of Syrian refugee cases in need of L3, all cases were able to quarantine at home.</p>		
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Health Partners' Programs Updates</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>DUE DATE</b>
2.1	<p><b>Health partners updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ARCANCIEL: Considering starting to provide post-care services for COVID patients, they are in the finalization stage of the program. Might provide psychosocial support and Oxygen therapy. They will approach UNHCR for further information once assessment is finalized; tentatively, it will start in the end of February.</li> <li>- Mdm: The MMU is Masharee El Qaa is still functioning; no update. Mdm started supporting 3 PHCs, in Faour, Machaghara and Terbol. They recruited a team present at centres every day and the project planning are continued for 3 years. In the process of recruiting community OVS as well.</li> <li>- MSF: continue to have COVID-19 unit consisting of 15 regular beds and 5 ICU beds; the ICU beds are at full occupancy while the regular beds are not. The surgical</li> </ul>		

2.2	<p>activities are still suspended until they finish COVID intervention. MSF also do Oxygen-therapy and chest physiotherapy but only for admitted patients.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- WRF still providing Prosthetic/orthotic devices, visual eyeglasses, hearing aids, physical therapy, rehabilitation aids ... They can provide physiotherapy for patients after COVID-19 recovery.</li> <li>- Mousawat and New Aarsal still providing specialized rehabilitation and assistive devices through our partners.</li> <li>- HUMEDICA is still supporting the dispensary in Meksi; they will also expand the mental health components by supporting centres with psychologist and psychiatrists. The MMUs are running as usual with midwife and MHPSS officer in the field, they are planning to respond more to outbreaks beyond central Bekaa if there is a need. Humedica donated a PCR testing machine to Machaghara Governmental hospital, as MOPH-ESU will train Humedica health staff on PCR swabs collection (Next week) for which Humedica team will start conducting PCR tests in the field (when needed) and the PCR test will be conducted at Machghara Governmental hospital free of charge.</li> <li>- ACF will start a program and support Lebanese and Syrian HHs with MPCA (the priority is for PLW, HH with chronic diseases, malnutrition cases). ACF will target the HHs with IYCF WhatsApp messages and distribute Micronutrients powder.</li> <li>- IMC projects still ongoing with the same number of supported PHCs. They signed a new contract with Ali El Nahri- an additional clinic. They are trying to reach an agreement with Al Abrar clinic for likely support.</li> <li>- RI will continue to support PHC at Aarsal municipality, 17 OV's raising community awareness. Abarar PHC support has been stopped since beginning of the year. They will support the ESU in Bekaa with 3 staff: one nurse, one data entry and one driver. They will support the isolation centre at Qaroun (all nationalities) until the end of March.</li> <li>- SAMS: continuing hospitalization support with LHF for patient share for Syrians and Lebanese under 18 for various medical conditions; for Palestinians the support is only for cardiovascular interventions.</li> <li>- Order of Malta: covering 11 villages in Baalbeck through MMU; expecting a likely extension for 2 years- tentative. The team is receiving mental health training to cover</li> </ul>		
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2.3	<p>MHPSS patients and elderly in the area.</p> <p><b>Community Health Volunteers engagement in COVID 19: role in prevention &amp; preparedness and response</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MTI: In partnership with HUMEDIA, MTI will have increased their capacity and outreach volunteers to 136 settlements.</li> </ul>		
2.4	<p><b>MH interventions for COVID-19</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- RI: they can provide mental health services for COVID-19 patients and their families.</li> <li>- MSF: Barelias Hospital are also providing mental health support for patients and their family members.</li> </ul> <p><b>Access to medication and vaccination</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mdm have shortage in YMCA medication.</li> </ul>		
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Referral Care Program Challenges</b>		
	<p>Covid-19 cases are being covered 100%, burn cases 90%. Patient share SOPs remain the same.</p> <p>The contract with Zahle Governmental Hospital ended 4 months ago.</p> <p>UNHCR added Machghara Governmental hospital to the SHC network only for Covid-19 related admissions.</p>		
<b>4.0</b>	<b>AOB</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>DUE DATE</b>
4.1	<p><b>ICRC</b> offer physiotherapy for patients who developed a disability as a complication of COVID-19 but not for regular post-covid-19 patients. The in Zahle will resume next week, and the one in Aarsal in the following weeks. <i>For referral to physio zahle clinic please contact Omar Jalloul, E-mail: <a href="mailto:Ojalloul@icrc.org">Ojalloul@icrc.org</a> , mobile: 81314786.</i></p> <p><b>HUMEDICA</b> has a small amount of oxygen concentrators that we are renting to people in needs (all nationalities). <i>Please contact Fares Kabboura for referral: 71344013.</i></p> <p><b>IOCC</b> In case there is any pregnant or lactating woman who has COVID-19 you can call the</p>		

	<p><i>IYCF national hotline on 70231739</i> and the case will be referred to a Lactation specialist for Counselling, support and follow-up- both COVID and non COVID.</p> <p><b>WRF</b> can provide physiotherapy for patients after COVID-19 recovery; email Samar Kassouf over <a href="mailto:kassoufsamar@hotmail.com">kassoufsamar@hotmail.com</a>.</p>		
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