



## IN THIS ISSUE

### ● Assessments/surveys

> Global School-Based Health Survey

> WHO launches the National Non Communicable Diseases Survey

### ● Surveillance

> Support for mental health surveillance in Lebanon

### ● Trainings

> Training on Food safety, water safety & vector control for Beirut municipality

> Training on mental healthcare

> Training on Pandemic influenza Rapid Response

> Training of Trainers on Tobacco Control in Tripoli

### ● Technical missions

> Supporting health sector governance improvement: a strategic WHO support

> Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance mission

> WHO Supports Institutionalization of National Health Accounts

> Tuberculosis National Strategic Plan mission

### ● Events

> World AIDS Day 2016

## Assessments/surveys

### Global School-Based Health Survey

As part of its support to the School Health National Program in Lebanon, WHO will be implementing the global school-based student health survey (GSHS). In November 2016, WHO developed the data collection tools for the survey and conducted trainings for surveyors. Data collection is expected to start in 32 public and 32 private schools in December 2016. Syrian children enrolled in public schools -notably the 2nd shift at public schools- will be included in the survey.

The GSHS will investigate the risky health behavior among youth following the impact of the Syrian crisis on both the Lebanese and Syrian school aged children: Dietary behaviors, hygiene, mental health, protective factors, violence and unintentional injury, sexual and reproductive health attitudes, physical activity and tobacco use, alcohol use, and drug use. The results of the survey will help in prioritizing and adapting health related interventions targeting youth in Lebanon. This project is funded by WHO with support from CDC and the Japanese Government.

### WHO launches the national Non Communicable Diseases Survey

In order to estimate better the prevalence and burden of Non Communicable Diseases (NCD) in Lebanon WHO is supporting the implementation of the second National NCD survey. A first NCD study using the WHO STEPwise methodology was implemented in 2009, with support of WHO and Tephinet and executed by a team from the American University of Beirut. This second survey uses the updated STEPwise methodology, is fully funded by WHO through a generous donation of the Japanese government complemented by WHO country office and regional office funds, and executed by the Center for Research and Development (CRD) in coordination with the MOPH. The pilot phase has been initiated and will be completed by 30 December 2016. Data collection will be completed by 15 March 2017.

## Surveillance

### Support for mental health surveillance in Lebanon

**October - November** - WHO is supporting the MOPH in the establishment and piloting of a mental health registry where psychiatrists can report on a set of indicators such as socio-demographics, mental health diagnosis, and treatment plan, for all patients seen for the first time in their clinic. The objective of this registry is to observe trends of diseases in mental health disorders in private and public sectors. The pilot phase started with 10 psychiatrists (PHC-based, private clinic-based, and hospital-based).

This initiative is funded by the European Union. The list of indicators as well as the online software were developed and finalized in close collaboration with the participating psychiatrists. The data collection for the pilot phase was initiated in September 1, 2016. The first preliminary report is expected at the end of December 2016.

## Trainings

### Training on food safety, water safety and vector control for Beirut municipality

**5 - 22 December** - Lebanon has undergone a series of changes in the food and water safety sector after the Food Safety Campaign which was launched by the Ministry of Public Health, more than two years ago. Due to these changes, the municipality of Beirut has decided to provide adequate training to all its health inspectors involved in food inspection and on food and water sampling activities taking place all over Beirut. In addition, Lebanon is at risk of a large number of vector-borne diseases.

For that purpose, WHO supported the municipality of Beirut upon the request of the Governor of Beirut by undertaking two 2 days training sessions for 46 health inspectors and staff in the municipality. The training focused on different food and water safety principles, inspection and sampling techniques and on vectorborne diseases and vector control. The training on Food safety and water safety was in harmony with the WHO training undertaken previously for PHIs of the Ministry of public Health.



During the food safety training session for the municipality of Beirut staff. (Photos credit: N. Al Homs)

### Training on mental healthcare

**October - November** - As part of its capacity building support to the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH), the World Health Organization has been conducting training workshops to Primary Health Care (PHC) centres staff, Social Development Centres (SDC) staff, and hospital staff as follows:

- Training for PHC staff on the mental health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP) guide (v. 1.0) for detection, management, follow up, and referral of priority mental health conditions;
- Training for PHC staff on advanced mhGAP for staff who already received the basic mhGAP training;
- Training for PHC and SDC staff on Psychological First Aid (PFA);
- Training for all private and public hospitals on managing mental health emergencies;
- Training of Trainers on mhGAP.

All trainings conducted are funded by the European Union and are in line with the National Mental Health Strategy (2015-2020). After the mhGAP trainings, MOPH clinical supervisors (psychiatrists and psychologists) visit the centres for onsite support and supervision in order to make sure that trainees are correctly applying the skills learnt.

In order to optimize the use of the mhGAP guide, Job Aids and training material (case studies) that are based on the mhGAP were produced both in Arabic and English languages, printed, and disseminated to MOPH PHC centres.

The trainings were implemented by the MOPH experts and in close coordination and monitoring of WHO. Around 600 staff were trained in 2016.



Participant working on Psychological First Aid guide- Beirut, Lebanon (photo credit: E. Zoghbi)



Psychological First Aid principles training- Look / Listen / Link- Beirut, Lebanon (photo credit: E. Zoghbi)

## Training on Pandemic influenza Rapid Response

**November** - Under the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) Framework in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, and with WHO support, the surveillance unit at the ministry of public health in Lebanon initiated the Severe Acute Respiratory Infections (SARI) sentinel surveillance in December 2014. To date, the network includes 11 hospital sentinel sites that collect epidemiological and virological data and share them with the ministry to monitor influenza virus circulation by time and place.

WHO supported enhancement of national capacity in the area of pandemic influenza rapid response. In November 2016, one multi-disciplinary central team and two peripheral rapid response teams were trained on risk assessment, principles of surveillance, field investigation, infection control, clinical specimen sampling and health education. Teams included staff from surveillance, preventive medicine, primary health care, laboratory, and health education. Exercises and simulations were based on WHO training material with adaptation to national needs.



During the training on Rapid Response team training (photo credit: R. Farah)

## Training of Trainers on Tobacco Control in Tripoli

**15 December** - WHO supported the preparation and the proper implementation of the Tobacco Control awareness activities in Tripoli organized by the “Association Libanaise de Bienfaisance pour la Reforme et l’Habilitation”. The purpose of these activities is to raise the awareness of the community on Tobacco Control and its health and harm effects.

These activities include the followings:

- Undertaking a training of trainers on Tobacco Control and its health effects.
- Developing Tobacco Control awareness material
- Organizing awareness activities targeting the community and the children; with focus on children theater and entertainment activities

These activities were undertaken with the support of WHO, the National Tobacco Control Program and the Tobacco Control Committee established under the Healthy Cities Program in Tripoli.

In this respect, a ceremony was undertaken on 15 December 2016 to distribute the training certificates to the 89 trainees who will undertake awareness activities in the community and the trophies to the supporters of these activities and to the trainers. Representatives of the community leaders in the north of Lebanon, the trainers and representatives from WHO, the tobacco Control Committee, universities, hospitals, high schools and NGOs participated in this ceremony.



During TOT on Tobacco Control in Tripoli (photo credit: (photo credit: N. Al-Homsi)

## Technical missions

### Supporting health sector governance improvement: a strategic WHO support

**21 November - 1 December** - In order to provide a better understanding of the nature of the changes in the way the Lebanese health sector is governed and of the strategies used by the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) to improve the effectiveness of its leadership WHO supported a strategic technical support mission to put issues in scope and propose a road map towards improving MOPH health sector governance; the mission provided the following:

- An annotated outline for an analysis of factors critical for the success of collaborative health sector governance in Lebanon;
- The identification of a portfolio of initiatives to protect achievements in the Lebanese health sector and ensure sustainability of the collaborative governance that made these achievements possible.

Two main axes of intervention are proposed:

1. High visibility to reinforce the social consensus around the collaborative sector governance
2. A policy support observatory, to institutionalize reliance on evidence, strategic and collaborative networking

Further discussions regarding organization and implementation mechanisms for the key interventions proposed will be carried on in early 2017 with WHO support.

---

## Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance mission

**14 - 18 November** - The Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (GLASS) has been developed to support the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance and foster the National Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Systems. Based on the request of the MOPH, a WHO mission visited Lebanon to assess the available capacities for early implementation of the GLASS from the 14<sup>th</sup> till the 18<sup>th</sup> of November 2016. The mission met with the national AMR Committee and visited several laboratories actively engaged in AMR. Based on the observations of the mission the recommendations for early implementation of the GLASS were presented to the MOPH. Once the GLASS is established, it should be expanded gradually to a National Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System.



AMR mission visiting Azm Center for Biotechnology Research at the Lebanese University- Tripoli North of Lebanon (photo credit: M. Hamzeh)

---

## WHO supports institutionalization of National Health Accounts

**31 October - 3 November** - As part of its support to the national health system, WHO supported a technical consultation mission with regional experts to explore possibilities of institutionalizing the National Health Accounts (NHA), based on the new software developed by WHO at global level.

To date, the MOPH has been producing NHA reports based on data collected individually from health financing institutions. The new NHA software allows easy flow of data from health financing institutions, and greatly facilitates generation of information.

The regional expert consulted with key stakeholders, and organized a workshop to introduce the software of NHA, and the required information from concerned ministries.

---

## Tuberculosis National Strategic Plan mission

**12 - 22 October** - After the decision was made to prepare the National Strategic Plan aligned with the new WHO “End TB strategy”; National Tuberculosis program with the support of an international expert in TB strategies Dr Leopold Blanc, organized a consultation meeting between 12 and 22 October 2016 with partners and national experts.

As a result a five years plan named “Towards TB elimination in Lebanon” and a new “TB guideline” including the newest findings in TB diagnosis and treatment have been elaborated.

These documents will guide the actions not only of the Ministry of public Health, but also all decision-makers and implementers within the government and in the non-governmental sector, both national and international to decrease dramatically tuberculosis towards its elimination in Lebanon.



During the mission on tuberculosis National Strategic Plan (photo credit: W. Baba)

## Events

### World AIDS Day 2016 Campaign: "Dignity above all, stop Stigma and Discrimination in the health care settings"

**1 December** - The National AIDS program on the occasion of the World AIDS Day planned and executed a series of activities in collaboration with all stakeholders responsible in the fight against HIV.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2016 a press conference was organized under the hospices of the MOPH. The MOPH was represented by the Director General Dr Walid Ammar. WHO was represented by Dr Gabriele Riedner, the National AIDS Program (NAP) by Dr Mostafa El Nakib and the NGO's by Miss Nadia Badran. The theme of this day and campaign was adopted from the WHO slogan: "Dignity above all, let's stop stigma and discrimination in the health care settings". More than 100 members from organizations like ministries, syndicates, uniformed forces, NGOs, UN agencies, academia and support groups participated in this event in addition to representatives from written, spoken and TV media.

The speeches focused on the rights of the Patients to receive all the health care services like everybody else and with passion and dignity and that the health care workers should fulfill their duty towards these patients with zero stigma and discrimination coupled with a high tolerance.

The Director General of the MOPH announced the adoption of the ministry of a political declaration that clearly points and stresses on the duties and obligations of the health care system as a whole towards delivering the proper services to the people living with HIV and other key populations without any form of stigma and discrimination.

A TV spot played by two celebrities namely, the actors Ms.Pamela El Kik and Mr. Wissam Hanna was broadcasted on the local TV stations as well as by sound on all radio stations.

Other activities included TV interviews, talk shows, radio interviews, conferences in schools and universities. In addition, a wide spread street activities advocating for this campaign was undertaken all over the country.

Posters leaflets, pocket calendars and other publicity materials were produced and distributed during and around this campaign. These activities will take place in additional places and will continue in the year 2017.



During the press conference on the World AIDS Day 2016 Campaign (Photos credit: NAP team)

Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/wholeb](http://www.facebook.com/wholeb)  
Twitter account: @WHOLEbanon  
YouTube channel: [www.youtube/user/WHOLEbanon](http://www.youtube/user/WHOLEbanon)

