



Report from Tyre, Lebanon  
10 August 2006  
WHO/HAC

### **Medecins sans frontieres (B)**

MSF has capacity in the South including a Coordinator, Nurse, Surgeon and Press Officer. Their main focus is Tyre. They have established a surgical facility with 18 beds (Operating) and have reopened a hospital previously closed for the past year. The facility is being made ready in case Tyre comes under sustained attack and subsequently isolated. Then this would become the main trauma kit facility in the south of the city. Once operational, they could deal with 10 severely wounded. In addition, it is functioning as a local clinic, seeing 50 patients per day mainly for chronic diseases (no casualties at moment). Up until the imposed vehicle curfew they saw an average 100 patients per day. MSF are working closely with MOH and ICRC. Main concern - drugs for chronic diseases as all pharmacies in Tyre are closed. The general feeling from the medic was that the general physical condition of people presenting at the clinic was not bad, though he has noticed an increasing numbers presenting with depression and psychological symptoms.

They are also trying to support two hospitals in South East of Lebanon - Tibnin and Bint Jubayl, (each has a 20 bed capability). Tibnin is new - no operating theatre, limited capability. The hospital is home to approximately 200 people at moment. It is seen as a magnet and safe area, however, with very few medical supplies. If MSF get through today the hospital will have 5/6 days supply essential medicines. They are running out of food, water and fuel. MSF are taking huge risks - they do not have Israeli clearance when moving in vehicles. No formal assessment has been done on these hospitals.

### **Jabel Amel Hospital Tyre**

I visited Jabel Amel hospital this morning (10 August). I met with the chairman Dr. Ahmed Mroue.

The hospital (private in peace time, public since the start of the war) is a 173-bed facility, situated in north of city. They have closed the top two floors of the hospital (IDF bombed the facility in 1982) therefore only 90 beds are available. Jabel Amel is the main receiving hospital for whole of Tyre and surrounding districts - receiving 90% of all war related trauma. Since the beginning of the crises the hospital has received 554 severe war related casualties (19% children, 32% women). The hospital still currently receives

approximately 14 - 16 severe war related traumas daily, a high number (not known) have injuries that are 3 - 5 days old. This is due to the inaccessibility of ambulances, which continue to struggle to get through. For many of the wounded, secondary complications are starting to emerge by the time they reach hospital. All patients are receiving free care.

Medical supplies: 7-10 days of supplies left if consumption rate stays at current levels. The hospital bought large amount of supplies at the beginning of the crises but re-supply is essential. If a land corridor is reopened, supplies are waiting in Beirut for immediate delivery.

The hospital currently has 38 Doctors, 109 Nurses. In addition, all staff and families are living on the hospital grounds along with 50 IDPs. Currently there is city power servicing the hospital. The hospital has two (750 kva) back up generators with enough fuel for one week, working on 24/7 operation. The hospital is in difficult a spot - missile strike 8 metres from hospital last week - so the hospital is exposed. We were asked to pass GPS coordinates to IDF. We agreed to do this.

Biggest concern at the hospital, is that they have 200 people to feed each day and they are running out of food (2 days food left). This is due to hospital unable to get to supplies in town owing to IDF curfew on vehicle movements.

When I asked what his priority was, the Medical Director message was clear *'I want to be alive at the end of this'*.

Action points:

- WHO team in Beirut make drugs (chronic are priority) available to MSF. Drugs received in Tyre, not urgently required, will be used to build up a buffer stock. The most urgent supplies include: 1. Chronic supplies; 2. Trauma supplies and consumables; 3 other Essential supplies (WHO already informed and action initiated)
- OCHA/UNMACC in Tyre will ensure that the GPS coordinates of the hospital are passed to IDF through UNIFIL channels (action complete)
- OCHA/UNMACC to get trucking capacity together so that the hospital can be resupplied with food and other essentials. (already taken forward with ICRC)

Tyre  
10 August 2006