



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SITUATION REPORT

Lebanon Humanitarian Emergency

USG Humanitarian Situation Report #14, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

August 9, 2006

Note: The last situation report was dated August 8, 2006.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On August 8, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) reported that adequate supplies of chronic disease medications are available in Lebanon. However, WHO is working to improve the distribution of medicines to local populations and to increase coordination efforts among non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
- WHO, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, has completed a review of public hospitals in Lebanon, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). WHO reports that urgent needs include diesel fuel, food, operating equipment, and staff.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE - LEBANON		SOURCE
Dead	1,020	Government of Lebanon (GOL) - August 9, 2006
Injured	3,568	GOL - August 9, 2006
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	695,762	GOL - August 9, 2006
Displaced to Neighboring Countries	220,000	GOL - August 9, 2006
Total Displaced Population	915,762	GOL - August 9, 2006

Total U.S. Government (USG) Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Lebanon.....\$22,067,801
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Pledged to Lebanon\$30,000,000

CURRENT SITUATION

- Ongoing insecurity in Lebanon continues to prevent relief agencies from accurately assessing the number of people affected. As of August 9, the GOL Higher Relief Council (HRC) reported that 1,020 people have been killed and 3,568 people have been injured. HRC reports that 915,762 people, or one-fourth of Lebanon's population, have fled their homes. Most IDPs are located in South Beirut, Mount Lebanon, Chouf, and Aaley, and others are located in and around Bekaa (Al Biqa), Byblos, Kesrouane, and El Metn. Although some IDPs remain in the coastal cities of Tyre (Sur) and Sidon (Saida), few people remain in southern Lebanese villages, and many who initially moved to southern cities have now fled further north. HRC reports that an estimated 565,000 displaced persons are staying with relatives and friends, and 130,762 are located in 834 schools and public institutions throughout the country. An estimated 220,000 have fled to neighboring countries, including 180,000 to Syria. Since the conflict began on July 12, an estimated 6,900 private homes or apartments, 630 roads, 73 bridges, and 29 key installations—including airports, ports, water and sewage treatment plants, and power plants—have been significantly damaged or destroyed, according to HRC.

Humanitarian Access

- As of August 9, the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) have not responded to the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon's (UNIFIL) requests to reinstall the provisional bridge connecting Tyre to Sidon and Beirut, according to UNIFIL. According to UNIFIL, the IDF has prohibited any movement of vehicles south of the Litani River, with the exception of UNIFIL and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) vehicles. As a result, since August 7, the U.N. has cancelled all aid convoys south of the Litani River. According to OCHA, UNIFIL estimates that, due to ongoing insecurity, 20,000 people remain stranded in Tyre, in addition to the 100,000 residents remaining in other areas of southern Lebanon.

U.N. Coordination

- The U.N. has established a humanitarian coordination hub in Tyre at the U.N. Mine Action Coordination Center, according to OCHA. However, as of August 9, access to Tyre remained restricted due to ongoing insecurity and unsuccessful efforts to repair the bridge connecting Tyre to Sidon and northern Lebanon.

Health

- The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) is working to improve health and nutrition for women and children displaced by the current conflict, according to the USG Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART). To date, UNICEF has purchased pediatric medicines locally for distribution in Beirut and southern Lebanon. In addition, as part of a measles and polio vaccination campaign, the Ministry of Health (MOH), with UNICEF and WHO support, has vaccinated an estimated 8,000 children in the Beirut area to date. According to UNICEF, the MOH will expand the vaccination campaign to other areas in Lebanon during the week of August 14. UNICEF is currently importing additional supplies of vaccines, and is awaiting special permission from IDF to transport these within the country. IDF requires that humanitarian cargo be transported on open trucks, and vaccines must be transported on closed, refrigerated trucks.

Water and Sanitation

- UNICEF is the lead agency for the water and sanitation cluster in Lebanon. According to the DART, UNICEF is focused on providing water and other essential commodities in southern areas based on reports received from the Lebanese Red Cross and U.N. staff who have traveled to the south. In Tyre, for example, UNICEF is delivering bottled water, as residents have no access to water, while in Jezzine, residents have enough water, and UNICEF is sending water purification kits. UNICEF is also delivering family sanitation kits that include sanitary napkins and diapers, for distribution by the Lebanese Red Cross.
- As of August 8, UNICEF had delivered 177 family water kits, 50 safe drinking water kits, 3,150 boxes of water purification tablets, and 26,396 soap and hygiene items to affected populations throughout Lebanon.
- UNICEF has identified 154 schools in Beirut to receive water and sanitation improvements, including the installation of showers. Approximately 37,000 IDPs will benefit from the upgrades.

Food and Emergency Relief Supplies

- According to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), a U.N. convoy delivered 100 tents, 12,995 blankets, 1,894 kitchen sets, and 1,308 mattresses to a UNHCR warehouse in Beirut on August 8. The convoy was the first to deliver UNHCR supplies to Beirut since the August 4 bombing along the Beirut–Aarida road. According to UNHCR, the convoy took more than a day to complete the journey, compared to the several hours previously required to travel from Aarida to Beirut.
- On August 8, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) dispatched 384 metric tons (MT) of food to IDP communities in Beirut, and 155 MT of food to IDPs in Sidon, according to OCHA.
- On August 7, a UNHCR convoy delivered 500 mattresses and 400 blankets to an estimated 800 beneficiaries in 3 villages in the Aley Valley. Additionally, an ICRC convoy distributed 950 family parcels, 2,250 mattresses, 360 tarpaulins, and 375 blankets to residents of Marjayoun, according to OCHA.

Environment

- On August 9, OCHA reported that the oil spill that began on July 13 has now reached the coast of Syria. The U.N., the International Maritime Organization, and the European Commission are working to coordinate clean-up efforts, pending improvements in the security situation.

Protection

- According to the DART, UNICEF is working to organize child-friendly spaces as well as providing recreation kits through the Lebanese Red Cross and Hariri Foundation. In collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs, UNICEF has developed a booklet for teachers and parents that provides guidelines on helping traumatized children. Through Save the Children and Right to Play, UNICEF is working on programs to train IDPs as social animators. As the lead agency for the sub-cluster group of child protection, UNICEF is currently developing a questionnaire to identify unaccompanied minors.

USG ACTION

- On July 25, U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Jeffrey Feltman declared a humanitarian emergency in Lebanon due to ongoing insecurity and humanitarian needs. During a visit to the region, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice authorized \$30 million in immediate USG humanitarian assistance to persons affected by conflict in Lebanon.
- On July 23, a USG DART, led by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), arrived in the region to determine priorities for USG humanitarian assistance. A Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team is supporting the DART.
- USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA), via U.S. military transport, has provided 1,000 tarps, 20,000 blankets, and 18 emergency health kits in support of relief operations in Lebanon. The DART has consigned these relief supplies to ICRC, WHO, the International Medical Corps (IMC), and Mercy Corps for delivery to approximately 235,000 beneficiaries in Beirut and southern Lebanon.
- On July 26, USAID/OFDA provided \$7 million to support the U.N. Flash Appeal for Lebanon, including \$3.3 million to WFP and the U.N. Joint Logistics Center (UNJLC) for logistics, \$2.5 million to UNICEF for water and sanitation activities, and \$1.2 million to OCHA and OCHA's Humanitarian Information Center (HIC) for coordination.
- On July 31, USAID/OFDA provided \$3.3 million to Mercy Corps for water and sanitation services, psychosocial activities, and the distribution of food and relief supplies.
- On August 3, USAID/OFDA provided \$2.8 million to Catholic Relief Services (CRS) for water and sanitation services, psychosocial support, emergency shelter activities, and the distribution of food and relief supplies.
- On August 8, USAID/OFDA provided \$1.9 million to IMC for health services, psychosocial support, water and sanitation activities, and emergency relief supplies.
- State/PRM has contributed \$3.4 million to ICRC's emergency appeal for Lebanon, \$1 million to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and \$2 million to UNHCR in support of the U.N. Flash Appeal.
- In addition to evacuating more than 14,905 American citizens, the U.S. Military has been integral in providing transport to Beirut for both the DART and USAID emergency relief supplies.

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON IN FY 2006¹

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Mercy Corps	Water and sanitation, psychosocial support, emergency relief supplies, and food	Beirut	\$3,369,250
Catholic Relief Services	Water and sanitation, psychosocial support, food, emergency shelter, and emergency relief supplies	Beirut	\$2,836,582
IMC	Water and sanitation, health, psychosocial support, and emergency relief supplies	Affected areas	\$1,913,457
WFP	Logistics	Affected areas	\$3,000,000
UNJLC	Logistics	Affected areas	\$300,000
UNICEF	Water and sanitation	Affected areas	\$2,500,000
OCHA	Coordination	Affected areas	\$1,000,000
OCHA/HIC	Coordination	Affected areas	\$200,000
Multiple	Emergency relief supplies, including transport	Affected areas	\$392,662
	DART administrative costs	Affected areas	\$143,850
ICRC	Emergency relief activities	Affected areas	\$3,412,000
IOM	Emergency relief activities	Affected areas	\$1,000,000
UNHCR	Emergency relief activities	Affected areas	\$2,000,000
TOTAL FY 2006 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON			\$22,067,801

¹USG funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 9, 2006.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on identifying such organizations is available in the “How Can I Help” section of www.usaid.gov (keyword: Lebanon) or by calling the Center for International Disaster Information (CIDI) at 703-276-1914.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov (keyword: donations)
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int