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**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**  
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)  
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)

## ***Lebanon – Complex Emergency***

Information Bulletin #4, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

July 24, 2006

*NOTE: The last information bulletin was dated July 23, 2006.*

### **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- According to the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon, heavy exchanges of fire continue to occur across the Blue Line. In the past 24 hours, conflict intensified in areas along the southern border, particularly in the town of Bint Jbeil, according to international media reports.
- On July 24, U.S. President George W. Bush pledged significant humanitarian assistance to meet the needs of affected populations in Lebanon, and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice arrived in Beirut to discuss the crisis and humanitarian assistance.
- On July 24, the U.S. Government (USG) Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) and USAID/Lebanon consulted with a group of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) operating in Beirut to discuss current humanitarian priorities in Lebanon. According to the NGOs, immediate needs include medical care, water, and non-food humanitarian relief supplies; shelter and food are not urgently needed at present.

<b>NUMBERS AT A GLANCE - LEBANON</b>		<b>SOURCE</b>
<b>Dead</b>	350	WHO <sup>1</sup> - July 24, 2006
<b>Injured</b>	1,200	WHO - July 24, 2006
<b>Displaced to Syria</b>	150,000	WHO - July 24, 2006
<b>Total Displaced Population</b>	700,000	WHO - July 24, 2006
<b>Total Affected Population</b>	800,000	WHO - July 24, 2006

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

- The conflict that began between the Israeli Defense Forces and Hezbollah on July 12 has spread to additional areas. Ongoing insecurity in Lebanon continues to prevent relief agencies from accurately assessing the growing number of people affected. As of July 24, WHO reported that approximately 350 people have died and more than 1,200 people are injured as a result of ongoing violence in Lebanon. The conflict has affected an estimated 800,000 people, including internally displaced, individuals under siege, refugees, and asylum seekers. An estimated 700,000 people have fled their homes. Although the majority of displaced are staying with relatives and friends, an estimated 114,000 are staying in public shelters in Lebanon, and 150,000 have crossed the border into Syria.

#### *U.N. Flash Appeal*

- On July 24, the U.N. released the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) for Lebanon, requesting approximately \$150 million, including \$13 million for Syria. The appeal will provide assistance in the sectors of logistics, health, services, coordination, food, water and sanitation, site management, education, and protection.

#### *Coordination*

- The Government of Lebanon's Ministries of Health and Social Affairs have convened coordination meetings for organizations assisting displaced communities to aid in prioritizing the response to evolving needs on the ground.

#### *Logistics*

- The conflict continues to cause large-scale damage to residential areas and key infrastructure including power plants, ports, fuel depots, hospitals, and communications infrastructure. Hundreds of bridges and nearly every road network in affected areas have been destroyed, leaving many communities in southern Lebanon inaccessible. Lack of humanitarian access coupled with ongoing insecurity continues to limit the transport of emergency relief supplies.
- The USG is procuring an additional 1,000 tarps and 20,000 blankets, as well as 10 WHO emergency health kits. Each health kit is equipped with medicine and supplies to treat 10,000 people for three months.

#### *Humanitarian Access*

- On July 24, the U.N. Under-Secretary for Humanitarian Affairs Jan Egeland reiterated the call to establish humanitarian corridors to affected areas of Lebanon, specifically to the ports of Beirut, Tripoli, and Tyre. Although the humanitarian

<sup>1</sup> U.N. World Health Organization

community has not yet secured a permanent corridor for ground transport, Egeland reported progress in discussions with the Government of Israel on road access to southern Lebanon, citing the development of a notification system for humanitarian traffic.

#### *DART Activities*

- The DART is working to gain extended access to Lebanon in order to perform humanitarian assessments and coordinate the provision of emergency relief supplies. After initial assessments, technical experts will deploy to provide additional assistance.
- The DART operations liaison officer is coordinating with U.S. military logistics personnel to arrange the arrival of USAID-airlifted emergency health kits in Cyprus as well as onward transport to Beirut. Two health kits arrived in Cyprus on July 24, and the U.S. military plans to airlift these kits to Beirut on July 25.

#### **USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

- A USG DART arrived in the region on July 23. The DART includes a team leader as well as administrative, information, operations liaison, communications, and safety and security officers. The DART is performing humanitarian assessments to determine the best way in which the USG may assist affected populations.
- A Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team is supporting the DART and includes representatives from USAID/OFDA, USAID's Office of Food for Peace, USAID's Bureau for Asia and the Near East, the U.S. Military's Central Command (CENTCOM), and the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration.
- The USG is procuring and pre-positioning humanitarian relief supplies, including tarps, blankets, and emergency health kits. USG logistics specialists are expediting the distribution of commodities in affected areas.

#### **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. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for the complex emergency in Lebanon can be found at [www.interaction.org](http://www.interaction.org). Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Lebanon may be available at [www.reliefweb.org](http://www.reliefweb.org).
- 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](http://www.usaid.gov) – Keyword: Donations
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or (703) 276-1914
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)