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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 #6, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

July 26, 2006

Note: The last information bulletin was dated July 25, 2006.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), heavy exchanges of fire continue along the Blue Line. In addition to the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) attack that killed four members of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), the U.N. reported six other instances of firing close to U.N. positions in the last 24 hours. Lack of humanitarian access coupled with ongoing insecurity continues to limit the transport of relief supplies. However, the first humanitarian convoys have now left Syria and Beirut to deliver assistance to the south. The U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) reported that the airport in Beirut has begun to receive humanitarian flights.
- According to the U.S. Government (USG) Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) in Beirut, few non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and relief organizations are implementing emergency programs on the ground, creating difficulties in obtaining current humanitarian information. Prior to the conflict, many NGOs were focused on high-end tourism and economic development, and are not prepared to shift quickly to emergency mode.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE - LEBANON		SOURCE
Dead	365	WHO - July 26, 2006
Injured	1,267	WHO - July 26, 2006
Displaced to Neighboring Countries	210,000	WHO - July 26, 2006
Total Displaced Population	710,000	OCHA - July 26, 2006
Total Affected Population	800,000	WHO - July 24, 2006

Total USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Lebanon \$7,377,502
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Lebanon.....\$11,789,502

CURRENT SITUATION

- Ongoing insecurity in Lebanon continues to prevent relief agencies from accurately assessing the growing number of people affected. As of July 26, WHO reported that 365 people have died and more than 1,267 people are injured. The conflict has affected an estimated 800,000 people, including internally displaced, individuals under siege, refugees, and asylum seekers. OCHA estimated that 710,000 people have fled their homes, and the majority are now located in Beirut, Tyre, Sidon, the Chouf mountains, and the Alea region. Although the majority of displaced are staying with relatives and friends, approximately 125,000 are staying in schools and public institutions in Lebanon, and 150,000 have crossed the border into Syria. According to international media reports, remaining residents in southern Lebanon cannot leave due to ongoing attacks and damaged infrastructure.

Humanitarian Needs and Response

- On July 26, a Jordanian military plane transporting U.N. humanitarian aid to Lebanon landed at Beirut international airport. The flight was the first to land in two weeks, according to international media reports. A total of three Jordanian planes with U.N. assistance are expected at the airport by July 27. According to the Government of Lebanon (GOL), the planes also hold equipment for a field hospital, donated by the Government of Jordan.
- Essential goods are becoming increasingly scarce, and needs are particularly acute in villages along the Israeli-Lebanese border, according to OCHA. WHO received reports of severe shortages of safe drinking water, food, and medical supplies in south Lebanon and in the Bekaa Valley. Fuel remains a critical need, according to the DART.
- WHO reported an increased risk of communicable disease outbreaks, given water and sanitation problems. Although general hospitals are functioning and medical supplies are available, access to victims is problematic, as destroyed infrastructure has limited the movement of ambulances in affected areas. WHO is working with the Ministry of Health and health partners to establish an epidemic early warning and outbreak response system, according to OCHA. According to WHO, local NGOs and civil society have the capacity not only to deliver services but also be an integral partner in planning the response and reconstruction.
- The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) anticipates that food insecurity will increase. As part of the U.N. Flash Appeal, WFP will provide wheat flour, pulses, oil, canned meats, pasta, and high energy biscuits. To respond to the need for micronutrients, WFP will send fortified food, and the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) will provide supplemental micronutrients in powder form. Save the Children and UNICEF will support infant and young child feeding.

Coordination

- On July 26, the DART met with the Higher Relief Committee, the GOL's designated ministry for humanitarian coordination, as well as WFP, WHO, and the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA). The DART reported that the GOL is tracking the number of displaced in public buildings, and aid convoys for the south.
- The DART reports that OCHA, which is helping to formalize the cluster approach in Lebanon, held the first general coordination meeting on July 26. OCHA has discussed the establishment of the protection cluster with UNICEF and the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). WFP, the cluster lead for logistics, is responsible for all logistics arrangements for humanitarian supplies coming into and around Lebanon. UNJLC will be responsible for tracking commodities and monitoring the supply pipeline. UNHCR will assume leadership of the emergency shelter cluster, including the management of collective centers and the distribution of non-food humanitarian relief supplies. The U.N. Development Program (UNDP) is supporting the GOL Higher Relief Committee through managerial and data management assistance. UNDP is also supporting the Higher Relief Committee's liaison capacity for external relations with the international community, according to OCHA. On July 27 or 28, the Ministry of Health, provincial health directors, U.N. agencies, and local and international NGOs are scheduled to meet to coordinate efforts in the health, nutrition, and water and sanitation and hygiene clusters.

Humanitarian Access

- Access remains a key problem in southern Lebanon, and the U.N. continues to work to expand humanitarian corridors. According to OCHA reports, Israel has agreed to expand corridors in Lebanon to deliver aid. As of July 25, the road between Beirut and the Syrian border crossing at Arida has been cleared for U.N. travel. The U.N. has 100 trucks contracted or en route to deliver aid within Lebanon. According to DART reports, the first 10 U.N. trucks with emergency medical kits, food supplies, and vaccines traveled south from Beirut to Tyre on July 26. Additional convoys are scheduled to leave daily. According to OCHA, WFP aims to begin convoys directly from Arida, Syria next week.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- 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 DART arrived in the region to perform assessments and determine priorities for USG humanitarian assistance. A Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team is supporting the DART.
- On July 23, the USG began to procure and pre-position humanitarian relief supplies, including 1,000 tarps, 20,000 blankets, and 10 emergency health kits in Cyprus, to support the needs of approximately 155,000 beneficiaries. On July 25, the U.S. Military airlifted two of these health kits to Beirut, and the U.S. Embassy has consigned both health kits to ICRC for delivery to affected populations in southern Lebanon. A third kit arrived in Beirut on July 26. The DART is working to determine consignees for the remaining USG relief supplies.
- On July 26, USAID/OFDA provided \$7 million to support the U.N. Flash Appeal for Lebanon, including \$3.3 million to WFP and UNJLC for logistics, \$2.5 million to UNICEF for water and sanitation activities, and \$1.2 million for OCHA and OCHA's Humanitarian Information Center (HIC) for coordination activities. The USG will program additional assistance to other relief agencies based on upcoming humanitarian assessments.
- State/PRM is contributing an initial \$3.4 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in support of its emergency appeal for Lebanon and an additional \$1 million to the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
- In addition to evacuating more than 13,600 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. military personnel in the joint operating area are currently participating in the evacuation of U.S. citizens as well as humanitarian operations. USAID and DOD will continue to collaborate to transport additional relief supplies to Beirut.

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON IN FY 2006

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
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	\$245,072
	DART administrative costs	Affected areas	\$132,430
TOTAL FY 2006 USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON			\$7,377,502
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
ICRC	Emergency relief activities	Affected areas	\$3,412,000
IOM	Emergency relief activities	Affected areas	\$1,000,000
FY 2006 STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON			\$4,412,000
TOTAL FY 2006 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON			\$11,789,502

¹USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of July 26, 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. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for the complex emergency in Lebanon can be found at www.interaction.org. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Lebanon may be available at 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 – 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