



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SITUATION REPORT

Lebanon Humanitarian Emergency

USG Humanitarian Situation Report #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

July 28, 2006

Note: The last situation report was dated July 27, 2006.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The conflict that began between the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) and Hezbollah on July 12 has spread to additional areas. Heavy exchanges of fire continue, particularly in Marun Al Ras, Bint Jubayl, and Yarun, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Although some humanitarian convoys have arrived in southern Lebanon, humanitarian actors continue to lack consistent and safe access to affected populations. OCHA reports that the destruction of factories is significantly hindering the production of local food. According to an assessment in southern Lebanon, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) reported that safe drinking water, food, and medical supplies are the most urgent needs. Fuel shortages continue to threaten to undermine relief operations.
- The U.S. Government (USG) Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) arrived full time in Lebanon on July 28. The DART will conduct humanitarian assessments and liaise with humanitarian agencies to coordinate the provision of assistance. An additional DART member remains in Cyprus to coordinate onward transport to Beirut of U.S. emergency relief supplies previously airlifted to Cyprus.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE - LEBANON		SOURCE
Dead	421	GOL ¹ - July 27, 2006
Injured	3,225	GOL - July 27, 2006
Displaced to Neighboring Countries	210,000	WHO ² - July 27, 2006
Total Displaced Population	710,000	OCHA - July 26, 2006
Total Affected Population	866,780	WHO - July 27, 2006

Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Lebanon.....\$11,803,052
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Pledged to Lebanon\$30,000,000

CURRENT SITUATION

- As of July 28, according to the GOL Higher Relief Committee, 421 people have been killed and 3,225 people have been injured. The conflict has affected approximately 866,780 people, including internally displaced persons (IDPs), individuals under siege, refugees, and asylum seekers. An estimated 710,000 people, or one-fifth of Lebanon's population, have fled their homes, and the majority are now located in Beirut, Tyre (Sur), Sidon, the Chouf mountains, and the Alea region. Although most displaced are staying with relatives and friends, an estimated 125,000 are staying in schools and public institutions in Lebanon, and 210,000 have fled to Syria, Jordan, Cyprus, and other countries in the Gulf area, according to WHO. OCHA reports that an estimated 115,000 third country nationals from approximately 20 countries remain unable to exit Lebanon.

Health

- On July 25, the GOL Ministry of Public Health issued an appeal requesting donations of medicines and equipment to aid wounded and displaced Lebanese civilians. Supplies requested include intravenous antibiotics, insulin, gauze, bandages, empty blood bags, antibiotics for pediatrics, antipyretics for children, and anesthetics. USAID has already dispatched a WHO emergency health kit, with supplies to serve the needs of 10,000 people for three months, to be delivered via U.N. convoy to southern Lebanon.
- The U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) is maintaining health and sanitation services in 12 refugee camps in Lebanon, according to the U.S. Embassy in Jordan. Insecurity in Tyre is preventing UNRWA from deploying mobile health clinics used to access populations outside camps, although some mobile clinics are operational in parts of the coastal city of Sidon (Saida).
- A Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Caritas child recreation program is working to calm traumatized children.

Protection

- The U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA) and U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) are including gender-based violence prevention in all emergency response programs, as conflict and displacement increase the risk of violence against women and girls. UNFPA emergency reproductive health kits, requested by the GOL, are scheduled for arrival on July 28.

¹ Government of Lebanon

² U.N. World Health Organization

Emergency Relief Supplies

- ICRC continues to distribute assistance to populations outside its southern bases of Tyre and Marjayoun. OCHA reports that ICRC was unable to travel south of Tyre on July 26 due to ongoing military operations, but ICRC remains prepared to distribute aid as soon as security allows. Additional ICRC supplies have arrived in Beirut by ferry, and ICRC continues to coordinate with IDF to ensure prompt delivery to the south.
- According to the DART, CRS and Caritas have dispatched trucks to Bekaa East, Bekaa North, and Baalbeck with food, hygiene items, milk, bedding, and detergent.
- According to OCHA, various U.N. agencies are currently distributing relief to affected populations. Field teams from the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in mountain areas outside Beirut are buying and distributing relief to displaced people while waiting for relief goods currently stationed in Syria. UNICEF is distributing drinking water and installing of water tanks in Aley. To date, UNICEF has distributed recreational materials to nine IDP sites sheltering an estimated 1,500 children. In cooperation with the GOL Ministry of Social Affairs, UNICEF is assessing the capacity of local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to operate in current conditions.
- In coordination with the GOL, the U.N. Development Program (UNDP) has established two warehouses in Chouf and Aley for the storage of emergency relief supplies and food from the GOL Higher Relief Committee. To date, UNDP distributions to IDP sites have benefited nearly 68,000 people.
- On July 28 and 30, the U.N. is scheduled to send 10 trucks with food and water and sanitation supplies to Sidon, Jezzine, and Tyre, pending security conditions.

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 arrived in the region to conduct 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 health kit arrived in Beirut on July 26, and U.S. Embassy has consigned this kit to WHO for distribution in southern Lebanon.
- On July 26, USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) provided \$7 million to support the U.N. Flash Appeal for Lebanon, including \$3.3 million to the U.N. World Food Program (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 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.
- The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) is contributing an initial \$3.4 million to 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 14,312 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 the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) will conduct another transport mission of relief supplies to Beirut in the near future.

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

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
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	\$247,202
	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
TOTAL FY 2006 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON			\$11,803,052

¹USG funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of July 28, 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