



# UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SITUATION REPORT

## Lebanon Humanitarian Emergency

USG Humanitarian Situation Report #3, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

July 29, 2006

*Note: The last situation report was dated July 28, 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 Yaron, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Lack of humanitarian access coupled with ongoing insecurity continues to limit the transport of relief supplies. Although some humanitarian convoys have arrived in southern Lebanon, humanitarian actors continue to lack consistent, safe access to affected populations.
- The U.S. Government (USG) Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) is working to gain extended access within Lebanon in order to perform humanitarian assessments. On July 29, USG humanitarian relief supplies, including 7 emergency health kits, 20,000 blankets, and 1,000 tarps, arrived in Beirut in the U.S. Navy Ship HSV Swift. The supplies will support the needs of approximately 125,000 beneficiaries. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) Mercy Corps and International Medical Corps (IMC) have assumed responsibility for distributing the supplies to affected populations in Beirut and southern Lebanon.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE - LEBANON		SOURCE
<b>Dead</b>	620	GOL <sup>1</sup> - July 29, 2006
<b>Injured</b>	3,225	GOL - July 29, 2006
<b>Displaced to Neighboring Countries</b>	210,000	WHO <sup>2</sup> - July 27, 2006
<b>Total Displaced Population</b>	700,000 to 900,000	GOL - July 29, 2006; OCHA - July 28, 2006 <sup>3</sup>

**Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Lebanon.....\$11,803,052**  
**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 growing number of people affected. As of July 29, the GOL's Higher Relief Council (HRC) reported that 620 people have been killed and 3,225 people have been injured. HRC reports that an estimated 907,000 people, or one-fourth of Lebanon's population, have fled their homes, although current OCHA estimates indicate 700,000 have been displaced. The majority of displaced are located in Beirut, Tyre (Sur), Sidon (Saida), the Chouf mountains, and the Alea region. Although most displaced are staying with relatives and friends, an estimated 125,000 are located in schools and public institutions in Lebanon, and 210,000 have fled to Syria, Jordan, Cyprus, and other Gulf countries, according to WHO. Food, medical supplies, water and sanitation services, and fuel remain urgent needs.

#### *Humanitarian Needs and Response*

- WHO has begun to circulate a list to map the major health responses by agency and location, according to OCHA.
- IMC is providing essential medical supplies in and around Tyre, supporting the Hiram Hospital and four Palestinian refugee camps, some of which now include displaced Lebanese. IMC is also organizing mobile clinics to treat urgent needs of displaced populations.
- On July 28, U.N. Emergency Relief Coordinator Jan Egeland called for a three-day truce between Israel and Hezbollah to allow humanitarian assistance to reach affected populations in southern Lebanon. Egeland also requested that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Lebanese Red Cross, and the U.N. be allowed to relocate children, as well as wounded, disabled, and elderly persons, who have been unable to escape conflict zones.

#### *International Appeals*

- On July 28, ICRC appealed for \$81 million to expand its humanitarian response in Lebanon. This represents an increase of approximately \$73 million from ICRC's initial appeal on July 19. Together with the Lebanese Red Cross, ICRC has expanded operations in Beirut, Tyre, and Marjayoun to deliver assistance to villages along the border and facilitate medical evacuations. ICRC aims to expand health programs and support medical facilities serving 650,000 people,

<sup>1</sup> Government of Lebanon

<sup>2</sup> U.N. World Health Organization

<sup>3</sup> Estimates of the total displaced population range from 700,000, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), to more than 900,000, according to the GOL.

increase food and relief supply deliveries to at least 200,000 people, and improve access to clean water for more than 1.2 million others.

### **Emergency Relief Supplies**

- On July 28, the U.N. Joint Logistics Center (UNJLC) announced procedures to facilitate the safe delivery of relief materials into and around Lebanon. The U.N. Humanitarian Cargo Coordination Center (HCCC) in Beirut, managed by the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), will vet all U.N. and NGO cargo movement requests and schedule routes and timetables. WFP will receive cargo at 5 U.N.-managed facilities 48 hours prior to dispatch.
- According to WFP, two convoys delivered food and relief supplies to Sidon and Jezzine on July 28. The 8-truck convoy for Jezzine transported 90 metric tons (MT) of WFP wheat flour, 15 tons of canned meat, and supplies such as blankets and shelter materials from Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF). The 10-truck convoy for Sidon delivered 18 MT of food including six truckloads from the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA). The convoys also included medical and shelter materials delivered on behalf of the U.N. Development Program (UNDP), the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), and WHO. Another U.N. aid convoy is scheduled for July 30, pending security conditions.
- On July 29, the first UNHCR convoy of aid for Lebanon is scheduled to depart Arida, Syria, for Beirut with emergency relief supplies, including 3,500 blankets, 3,600 mattresses, 2,820 jerry cans, and 54 kitchen sets. The supplies will be distributed to IDPs in shelters in Beirut. UNHCR is currently buying and distributing relief items locally while waiting for the supplies from Syria to arrive.
- WFP has begun a humanitarian cargo airlift to deliver relief supplies from the U.N. humanitarian depot in Brindisi. On July 28, WFP airlifted 20 temporary warehouses and 5 generators for WFP to Latakia, Syria, for eventual overland transportation to Arida, Syria, WFP's hub for all U.N. relief supplies transported by road into Lebanon. According to OCHA, WFP has scheduled an additional flight for July 30.
- On July 28, the Jordanian military airlifted UNICEF and WHO emergency relief supplies to Beirut. The supplies included more than 500,000 water purification tablets, 250 family water kits, and 150 kg of medical supplies for WHO. On July 31, a second flight is scheduled to deliver an additional 350 family water kits and 200,000 doses of Vitamin A, which helps to prevent night blindness and reduces morbidity due among children with diarrheal problems.

### **Refugees**

- According to UNHCR, the refugee flow has decreased in the past week, with an estimated 10,000 people crossing on July 27 compared to 20,000 late last week. However, UNHCR notes that it is still too early to determine if this represents a trend. UNHCR has established bases in Homs and Tartous, Syria, to better monitor the Lebanon-Syria border and assist displaced people in these areas. According to UNHCR, Syrian authorities are directing new arrivals to northern Syria to prevent congestion around sites in Damascus. Displaced families in the north, as well as others who have been relocated from overcrowded schools in Damascus, are staying in summer camps normally used by children. On July 29, UNHCR is scheduled to establish a presence in Aleppo, northern Syria.

### **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. From July 25 to 29, the U.S. Military transported these supplies to Beirut. The U.S. Embassy has consigned health kits to ICRC, WHO, and IMC for delivery to affected populations in Beirut and southern Lebanon. Mercy Corps has assumed responsibility for distributing the blankets and tarps.
- 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.

**U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON IN FY 2006<sup>1</sup>**

<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
<b>TOTAL FY 2006 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON</b>			<b>\$11,803,052</b>

<sup>1</sup>USG funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of July 29, 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](http://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](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)