



# UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SITUATION REPORT

## Lebanon Humanitarian Emergency

USG Humanitarian Situation Report #6, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

August 1, 2006

*Note: The last situation report was dated July 31, 2006.*

### KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Overall, less conflict was reported on July 31 than at anytime during the past two weeks, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Heavy exchanges of fire continued along the Blue Line, particularly in the northeast corner of south Lebanon around Taibeh and other border villages.
- On July 31, the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) safely evacuated 150 civilians from the town of Ramesh, behind the Blue Line. However, OCHA reports that a Hezbollah attack disrupted evacuation operations in the villages of Ramyah and Ayta ash Shab. On July 31, UNIFIL distributed to U.N. agencies a list of estimated populations remaining in 35 villages in the UNIFIL area of operation.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE - LEBANON		SOURCE
<b>Dead</b>	828	Government of Lebanon (GOL) – August 1, 2006
<b>Injured</b>	3,240	GOL - August 1, 2006
<b>Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)</b>	787,649	GOL - August 1, 2006
<b>Displaced to Neighboring Countries</b>	210,000	GOL - August 1, 2006
<b>Total Displaced Population</b>	913,760	GOL - August 1, 2006

**Total U.S. Government (USG) Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Lebanon.....\$17,219,637**  
**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 August 1, the GOL Higher Relief Council (HRC) reported that 828 people have been killed and 3,240 people have been injured. HRC reports that 913,760 people, or one-fourth of Lebanon’s population, have fled their homes. Most displaced are located in South Beirut, Tyre (Sur), Sidon (Saida), Chouf, and Aaley. 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 neighboring countries, including 150,000 to Syria.
- Many residents remain trapped in their communities by ongoing military operations and are afraid to leave their current shelter to travel on open roads, according to OCHA.

#### *Transport into Lebanon*

- The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) has established a commercial shipping service for relief goods from Cyprus to Lebanon. Non-governmental organization (NGO) personnel and goods may travel with WFP commodity ships. Interested NGOs should contact the U.N. Joint Logistics Center (UNJLC). The first shipment will travel to Beirut from Turkey via Cyprus in early August.

#### *Humanitarian Needs and Response*

- Basic goods are in increasingly short supply, and needs are particularly acute in villages along the Israel-Lebanon border, according to OCHA. Hospitals in the south are reporting shortages of electricity due to lack of fuel and generators.
- The U.N. Country Team in Lebanon aims to finalize an operational plan outlining humanitarian needs and priorities by August 2, but an impending fuel shortage threatens to hinder relief activities, according to OCHA.
- The U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF), in coordination with the Ministry of Health and the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), is scheduled to begin a measles campaign on August 1. The campaign aims to immunize all children from 9 months to 15 years in 144 IDP locations in Beirut, according to OCHA. Children from 9 months to 5 years will also receive Vitamin A, which helps to prevent night blindness and reduces morbidity among children with diarrheal problems. On July 31, UNICEF received 200,000 doses of Vitamin A and 350 family water kits via a Jordanian military flight.

#### *Emergency Relief Supplies*

- U.N. convoys continue to deliver relief supplies to southern Lebanon. However, due to ongoing military operations, relief agencies continue to lack consistent, open access to affected populations. Certain areas, particularly those near the Israel-Lebanon border, remain entirely inaccessible.

- On July 31, two U.N. convoys delivered relief supplies to Tyre and Qana, the village where Israeli bombs killed more than 60 people on July 30. According to OCHA, the usual 80-minute drive from Beirut to Tyre now takes 7 to 9 hours due to poor road conditions. Since July 26, seven U.N. convoys have delivered aid to southern Lebanon and Beirut.
- On August 1, four U.N. convoys are scheduled to deliver relief supplies from U.N. agencies, HRC, and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA). A nine-truck convoy will deliver relief supplies to IDPs in the north. Three convoys are scheduled to travel to the south, including a four-truck convoy for Naquora, an eight-truck convoy for the border village of Ramesh, and a six-truck convoy for Tibbin.
- A convoy from the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which was diverted to Tripoli on July 30 due to security concerns, arrived in Beirut on July 31. Another UNHCR convoy from Syria is expected to transport tents on August 1. On July 31, UNHCR and municipal authorities distributed mattresses and blankets in the Aaley Valley.
- On July 31, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), a USAID partner, provided hygiene items and a one-week supply of food provisions to more than 1,000 families in Hasbaya, Borj el Muluk, Marjayoun, and Kleia villages south of Tyre, and Kfar Kila, Taybe, Khiam, and Addayseh villages near the Israel-Lebanon border. ICRC convoys destined for Aitaroun and Marwahin villages close to the Israel-Lebanon border were unable to distribute relief items or evacuate stranded populations due to ongoing insecurity.
- Save the Children (SC) is supporting 11 Lebanese partners in southern Lebanon and Beirut, according to OCHA. SC is providing food and emergency relief items to IDP children and families in 52 centers in southern Lebanon, including 36 centers in Sidon and 11 centers in Jezzine. SC has also provided emergency food boxes to 50 families in Tyre.
- USAID partner Mercy Corps is providing essential supplies to 100,000 IDPs living in schools in Lebanon. Daily distributions of food and relief supplies continue in numerous villages and towns in the Chouf area, east of Beirut.
- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is establishing a presence in southern Lebanon to facilitate access to IDPs and migrants unable to flee the conflict. IOM is planning activities in Sidon and Tyre in coordination with local NGO partners and ICRC.
- Catholic Relief Services (CRS), in partnership with Caritas/Lebanon and the Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center (CLMC), is providing emergency assistance to more than 84,000 IDPs, particularly in southern Lebanon and Mount Liban. Activities include distribution of food and hygiene kits, medical assistance, psychosocial support, and hygiene education. CLMC is also providing emergency shelter and relief supplies to several hundred refugees.

#### **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 Disaster Assistance Response Team (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, USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) began to 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 consigned health kits to ICRC, WHO, and the International Medical Corps for delivery to affected populations in Beirut and southern Lebanon. Mercy Corps is distributing the blankets and tarps.
- 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 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 emergency relief supplies.
- The U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration has contributed \$3.4 million to ICRC's emergency appeal for Lebanon, and \$1 million to IOM and \$2 million to UNHCR in support of the U.N. Flash Appeal.
- The USG will program additional assistance to other relief agencies based on upcoming humanitarian assessments.
- In addition to evacuating more than 14,759 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>
Mercy Corps	Water and sanitation, psychosocial support, emergency relief supplies, and food	Beirut	\$3,369,250
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	\$294,537
	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
<b>TOTAL FY 2006 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON</b>			<b>\$17,219,637</b>

<sup>1</sup>USG funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 1, 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)