



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SITUATION REPORT

Lebanon Humanitarian Emergency

USG Humanitarian Situation Report #9, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

August 4, 2006

Note: The last situation report was dated August 3, 2006.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Early on August 4, Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) expanded attacks into northern Beirut for the first time in the three-week conflict, according to international media reports. The newly targeted areas include Mount Lebanon, where thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Beirut and southern Lebanon have recently sought refuge. The bombing reportedly damaged or destroyed critical bridges along the northern coastal highway, which serves as the main outlet by land to northern Lebanon and Syria and consequently the main supply route for relief supplies into Lebanon. According to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), the agency responsible for coordinating the transport of relief supplies into Lebanon, the damaged infrastructure will hinder the transport of essential goods and personnel from the north and across the border in Aarida, Syria.
- On August 4, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) reported that it has only conducted three or four assistance missions since the conflict began. According to ICRC, humanitarian conditions are rapidly deteriorating in southern Lebanon, and improved access is urgently needed, particularly for affected populations along the Israel-Lebanon border. For more than a week, ICRC has been unable to return to Aitaroun, a village east of Bent Jbail, where ICRC teams identified acute water, food, and health needs.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE - LEBANON		SOURCE
Dead	907	Government of Lebanon (GOL) – August 4, 2006
Injured	3,293	GOL - August 4, 2006
IDPs	693,760	GOL - August 4, 2006
Displaced to Neighboring Countries	220,000	GOL - August 4, 2006
Total Displaced Population	913,760	GOL - August 4, 2006

Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Lebanon.....\$20,056,219
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 3, the GOL Higher Relief Council (HRC) reported that 907 people have been killed and 3,293 people have been injured. HRC reports that 913,760 people, or one-fourth of Lebanon’s population, have fled their homes. Most IDPs are located in South Beirut, Mount Lebanon, Chouf, and Aaley, and some are located in and around Bekaa and northern Lebanon. However, some IDPs remain in Tyre (Sur), Sidon (Saida), and villages throughout southern Lebanon. HRC reports that an estimated 565,000 displaced persons are staying with relatives and friends, and 128,000 are located in 761 schools and public institutions throughout the country. An estimated 220,000 have fled to neighboring countries, including 150,000 to Syria.
- The USG Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), led by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), reports that few people remain in villages in southern Lebanon. Many who initially moved to cities such as Tyre and Sidon later moved further north during the cessation of air attacks on July 31 and August 1. According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), thousands of people have fled north from Tyre in recent days, reportedly reducing Tyre’s population—including IDPs that had sought refuge in Tyre from the surrounding area—from more than 100,000 to 15,000 people.
- OCHA notes that lack of access to areas in southern Lebanon is hindering its ability to assess needs and identify gaps. According to the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), some families have moved multiple times, and a complete assessment of IDPs throughout Lebanon is necessary to determine current locations for the estimated 1 million people who lived below the Litani River prior to the crisis. OCHA is in the process of establishing an office in Tyre in order to facilitate future assessments.

Logistics

- OCHA reports that the new WFP Director of Logistics has met with the HRC to identify GOL priorities and discuss cooperation between the U.N. and the GOL. The U.N. Development Program (UNDP) has compiled information on road conditions in the south to assist with the coordination of relief convoys. According to OCHA, road conditions continue to vary as a result of ongoing conflict, and unexploded ordnances are increasingly present in the rubble and along roads. On August 3, the U.N. Joint Logistics Center (UNJLC) logistics cluster in Lebanon established a web site to facilitate communication: www.unjlc.org/lebanon.

- WFP reports that convoys carrying relief supplies and personnel from Syria to Lebanon were cancelled as a result of the bombings. WFP has not yet been able to assess road damage due to a lack of IDF concurrence. As of August 4, WFP is exploring possible alternative routes in the Lebanon interior.
- Due to a variety of reasons, few humanitarian convoys traveled to southern Lebanon on August 3 and 4. The U.N. postponed a relief convoy scheduled to travel to Jezzine on August 3, as it lacked sufficient armored escort vehicles in Beirut. On August 4, insecurity in Beirut forced WFP to postpone convoys to Tyre and Rashidiyeh, because WFP truck drivers were unable to leave their homes in south Beirut due to ongoing bombing. However, one WFP convoy was able to travel to Jezzine on August 4 to deliver food commodities, water, medical supplies, and hygiene kits. As of August 4, WFP has completed 10 relief convoys to southern Lebanon, supplying Tyre, Jezzine, Sidon, Qana, and Tebnin.
- On August 4, WFP conducted the first direct U.N. flight into Beirut airport, carrying humanitarian cargo. The newly established air corridor is essential due to recent damage to the main overland transportation route into Lebanon from Syria. However, the amount of aid deliverable by air is relatively small compared with overland and sea routes. Between August 4 and 7, the Government of Portugal is funding a total of four flights to deliver 42 metric tons (MT) of WFP high-energy biscuits, 4 MT of WHO medical supplies, and other urgently-needed relief supplies.
- As of August 4, the two tankers scheduled to deliver urgently need fuel into Beirut and Tripoli remain off the coast of Cyprus, pending IDF security guarantees, according to international media reports.

Health

- According to the DART, WHO has held two health cluster coordination meetings to date. WHO reports that the private sector runs 94 percent of Lebanon's health system, and the Ministry of Health (MOH) supports four public hospitals.
- The MOH, with support from the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) and WHO, continues to conduct a measles vaccination campaign for IDP children. An estimated 18,000 children between the ages of 9 months and 15 years are scheduled to receive vaccinations in Beirut this week. An additional 55,000 children are scheduled to receive vaccinations during next week's national campaign, according to OCHA.

Water and Sanitation

- Water and sanitation services remain the most urgent humanitarian needs, according to the DART. UNICEF reports that an estimated 2,000 people fled Tebnin on August 2, and only an estimated 25 percent of the population remains in the area. According to UNICEF, remaining residents and IDPs, who are seeking shelter indoors and in public spaces, including the hospital, urgently require potable drinking water. UNICEF has distributed water and sanitation items for an estimated 80,000 people to date, according to USAID's representative in Geneva.

Shelter

- Although IDPs are currently managing without formal camps, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reports that camps may be necessary if the situation continues to deteriorate. To ease the burden on host families accommodating IDPs and decongest crowded schools scheduled to reopen in mid-September, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is working with the GOL to establish IDP camps in Beirut. On August 4, UNHCR reported that it is preparing a camp for 800 to 1,000 IDPs at a retired railway depot in Furn El Shubbak District, Beirut. UNHCR reports that the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation is working to develop a second camp in the Borj Hammoud stadium.

Environment

- The U.N. Environmental Program (UNEP) and OCHA Environment Unit have coordinated with partners to develop an initial list of sites that pose, or may pose, acute environmental risks. These sites include damaged industrial facilities, as well as environmental hazards such the July 13 oil spill now threatening the Lebanese and Syrian coast. UNEP and OCHA will share their findings with the Ministry of Environment and others before beginning an assessment and mitigation activities, according to OCHA.

Coordination

- On August 4, USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) representatives met with members of the non-governmental organization (NGO) community to answer questions and share information on the humanitarian response in Lebanon.

Refugees

- UNHCR estimates that 5,000 Lebanese continue to arrive daily in Syria. This number has fallen from a peak of 20,000 per day from 2 weeks ago. The northern border point Jusieh, which previously received up to 600 arrivals per day, counted an estimated 1,300 arrivals on July 31 and 2,500 arrivals on August 1. UNHCR attributes this increase in part to increasing arrivals from the Bekaa area around Baalbek. According to UNHCR, the condition of arriving refugees is reportedly worsening, as many are now arriving on foot. To increase border monitoring, UNCHR is opening new offices in the Syrian cities of Aleppo, Homs, and Tartus, according to the State Department's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM). On August 4, UNHCR staff traveled Thursday to southern Syria on an assessment mission in the Dara area, where Lebanese and Palestinians have arrived.

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 determine priorities for USG humanitarian assistance. A Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team is supporting the DART.
- On July 23, 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.
- On August 3, USAID/OFDA provided \$2.8 million to Catholic Relief Services (CRS) for water and sanitation services, psychosocial support, emergency shelter activities, and the distribution of food and emergency relief supplies.
- On August 4, USAID/OFDA transported eight additional emergency health kits to Cyprus; ICRC will transport these health kits into Beirut and distribute the supplies to affected populations. Each health kit serves the needs of 10,000 people for 3 months.
- State/PRM 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.
- In addition to evacuating more than 14,839 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 2006¹

<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
Catholic Relief Services	Water and sanitation, psychosocial support, food, emergency shelter, and emergency relief supplies	Beirut	\$2,836,582
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
TOTAL FY 2006 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON			\$20,056,219

¹USG funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 4, 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