



# UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SITUATION REPORT

## Lebanon Humanitarian Emergency

USG Humanitarian Situation Report #12, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

August 7, 2006

Note: The last situation report was dated August 6, 2006.

### KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Relief agencies report that military activity is increasingly threatening U.N. convoys in southern Lebanon. On August 6, an Israeli Defense Forces' (IDF) strike narrowly missed a U.N. humanitarian convoy traveling north of Tyre (Sur). According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the IDF strike hit a vehicle traveling directly in front of the convoy, killing all passengers. In a separate incident, a missile struck a van near the convoy on the return trip to Beirut, killing the driver. Although no U.N. personnel or assets sustained damage as a result of the strikes, the U.N. is finding it progressively difficult to find drivers willing to continue working in insecure areas.
- On August 7, Israeli air strikes destroyed a provisional bridge over the Litani River connecting Tyre to Sidon (Saida) and northern Lebanon, according to international media reports. On August 8, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) is scheduled to assess damages and determine whether the bridge can be repaired or if a detour is necessary.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE - LEBANON		SOURCE
<b>Dead</b>	958	Government of Lebanon (GOL) – August 7, 2006
<b>Injured</b>	3,369	GOL - August 7, 2006
<b>Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)</b>	695,762	GOL - August 7, 2006
<b>Displaced to Neighboring Countries</b>	220,000	GOL - August 7, 2006
<b>Total Displaced Population</b>	915,762	GOL - August 7, 2006

**Total U.S. Government (USG) Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Lebanon.....\$20,154,344**  
**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 number of people affected. As of August 7, the GOL Higher Relief Council (HRC) reported that 958 people have been killed and 3,369 people have been injured. HRC reports that 915,762 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 others are located in and around Bekaa and northern Lebanon. Although some IDPs remain in the coastal cities of Tyre and Sidon in southern Lebanon, few people remain in southern Lebanese villages, and many who initially moved to southern cities have now fled further north. HRC reports that an estimated 565,000 displaced persons are staying with relatives and friends, and 130,762 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 U.N. Development Program (UNDP), in collaboration with HRC, has developed a form for IDP registration. According to UNDP, the Ministry of Education will collect information from IDPs staying in schools within 24 hours. The Ministry of Social Affairs will be responsible for registering IDPs staying with host families and in public buildings.

#### Humanitarian Access

- The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) reports that access to southern Lebanon has been insufficient to meet humanitarian needs. Since the conflict began on July 12, ICRC has conducted only three actual assistance missions in southern Lebanon, to Ramesh, Tebnin, and Hasbaya.

#### Health

- As of August 7, approximately 8,000 children in 80 of the 144 IDP centers have received measles vaccinations, and 3,000 have received polio vaccinations, according to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF). 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 the national campaign, according to OCHA.
- USG-donated emergency health kits have been distributed to hospitals and primary health centers in Aaley, Chouf, Choueifat, Hasbaya, Marjayoun, Nabatiye, and Tebnin.

#### Logistics

- Accord to the USG Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), WFP is considering staggering future convoys along the Beirut–Aarida road in order to cope with poor road conditions resulting from the August 4 bombing and congestion on the alternate, narrow coastal road. Although U.N. relief convoys continue to travel from Aarida to Beirut, the U.N. is working to increase transportation of relief commodities via sea routes, which are now seen as a safer, more reliable

alternative to land routes. The U.N. is working to deliver supplies from Cyprus to Tyre. Due to its proximity to affected populations in southern Lebanon, sea transport to Tyre represents a viable alternative to the Aarida–Beirut road.

- Fuel shortages remain a major concern in Lebanon and are now threatening humanitarian operations. To date, three hospitals in southern Lebanon have reportedly closed due to fuel shortages, and additional hospitals may close in the coming days, according to OCHA.

#### ***Water and Sanitation***

- On August 7, three trucks transported a total of 30,000 liters of water to Tyre. UNICEF has sent water supplies in every U.N. convoy to date, but significant water needs remain in the south.
- In Beirut, UNICEF continues to distribute water tanks and hygiene kits to IDPs in schools. According to UNICEF, a hygiene awareness program is scheduled to begin in Beirut on August 7. Due to U.N. security restrictions, UNICEF is working with the Lebanese Red Cross and partner non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to expand hygiene awareness programs to southern Lebanon.

#### ***Food and Emergency Relief Supplies***

- On August 7, a U.N. convoy delivered wheat flour, vegetable oil, and canned meat to Sidon. On August 6, U.N. convoys delivered relief supplies, including bottled water, hygiene kits, and essential drugs, to Tyre and Zahle. According to WFP, this was the first relief convoy to reach Zahle since conflict began on July 12.

#### ***Refugees***

- According to the State Department’s Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM), a total of 200,000 Lebanese refugees or third country nationals have arrived in Syria to date. However, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that only 150,000 refugees remain in Syria, as others have either transited to neighboring countries or returned to Lebanon. Since August 2, the number of refugees entering Syria has increased from 5,000 to approximately 10,000 per day, according to UNHCR.
- The U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) is meeting the needs of 405,000 registered Palestinian refugees and providing assistance to Lebanese IDPs who have sought protection inside UNRWA camps and school sites. According to the DART, UNRWA is currently hosting 14,204 IDPs in 12 official camps and 26 UNRWA schools. Of this number, 10,228 are Palestinians who had been living outside the camps and 3,976 are Lebanese who have sought protection in the camps.

#### **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, led by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), arrived in the region to determine priorities for USG humanitarian assistance. A Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team is supporting the DART.
- USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA), via U.S. military transport, has provided 1,000 tarps, 20,000 blankets, and 18 emergency health kits in support of relief operations in Lebanon. The DART has consigned these relief supplies to ICRC, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), the International Medical Corps (IMC), and Mercy Corps for delivery to approximately 235,000 beneficiaries in Beirut and southern Lebanon.
- On July 26, USAID/OFDA provided \$7 million to support the U.N. Flash Appeal for Lebanon, including \$3.3 million to 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 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 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 relief supplies.
- State/PRM has contributed \$3.4 million to ICRC’s emergency appeal for Lebanon, \$1 million to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and \$2 million to UNHCR in support of the U.N. Flash Appeal.
- In addition to evacuating more than 14,905 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. 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
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	\$392,662
	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>\$20,154,344</b>

<sup>1</sup>USG funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 7, 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)