



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SITUATION REPORT

Lebanon Humanitarian Emergency

USG Humanitarian Situation Report #21, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

August 16, 2006

Note: The last situation report was dated August 15, 2006.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Since the ceasefire began on August 14, approximately 200,000 Lebanese residents have returned to their home areas, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). This number includes approximately 74,000 Lebanese refugees who have returned from Syria, according to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Through support to multiple U.N. agencies and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners on the ground, the USG is providing assistance to returnees throughout Lebanon.
- Of the 200,000 returning residents, the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) estimates that approximately 14,000 to 17,000 people have moved south of the Litani River. According to UNIFIL, approximately 2,000 people have returned to the villages of Beit Leif, Zidqine, Kfra Dibnin, Al Duharya, and Yarine, near Naqoura.
- On August 15, the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) requested continued concurrence for air, sea, and ground movement of humanitarian aid into and around Lebanon. The Government of Israel (GOI) warned that failing to seek IDF concurrence for movement may place relief convoys in danger.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE - LEBANON	SOURCE ¹	
Dead	1,152	Government of Lebanon (GOL) - August 16, 2006
Injured	3,700	GOL - August 16, 2006
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	522,000	UNHCR - August 16, 2006
Displaced to Neighboring Countries	231,000 ²	GOL - August 14, 2006
Total Displaced Population	980,393	GOL - August 14, 2006

Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Lebanon.....\$25,334,924
 Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Pledged to Lebanon\$50,000,000

CURRENT SITUATION

- As of August 16, the GOL Higher Relief Council (HRC) reports that 1,152 Lebanese have been killed and approximately 3,700 injured, according to OCHA. However, since the ceasefire began, an estimated 200,000 residents have returned to their home areas. The HRC reports that more than 40 percent of IDPs sheltering in schools and other public centers have departed. As of August 15, UNHCR estimates approximately 522,000 IDPs are still sheltering in public locations or with host families. As population movements subside and relief agencies obtain improved access, more precise information should become available.

Returns

- In coordination with U.N. humanitarian clusters, UNHCR is preparing consolidated assistance packages to returnees. Key priorities include facilitating transport for the most vulnerable; identifying needs, particularly for emergency shelter; and continuing the information campaign on the danger of unexploded ordnance (UXO).
- UNHCR continues to monitor returnee movement and provide temporary shelter at the four Lebanon-Syria border crossings, according to OCHA. From the Dabusiya crossing, the majority of the Lebanese returns are traveling to Tripoli, Akar, and villages around Hisa. From the Jusieh crossing, 90 percent of returnees are bound for Baalbek and Al Bukar, and the remaining 10 percent are traveling toward their homes in southern Beirut and South Lebanon. From the Aarida border crossing, most returnees are traveling to Beirut, Tyre (Sur), and Tripoli. At the Masnaa border crossing, the entry point closest to Damascus, Lebanese workers are repairing infrastructure to allow increased numbers of refugees to return. UNHCR teams reported that in many areas to the east and north of Beirut, initial returnees were often male members of families returning home to identify conditions.
- In coordination with UNCHR and the Aga Khan Foundation, WFP is providing each returning refugee with either high-energy biscuits or fresh bread and canned meat. As of August 15, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) had pre-positioned 8 metric tons (MT) of high energy biscuits for distribution at border crossings, according to OCHA. UNHCR is coordinating with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to facilitate

¹ The GOL has not directly provided updated figures on the affected population since the ceasefire took effect. As of August 16, numbers dead and injured have been reported through OCHA, and UNHCR has reported numbers of internally displaced. However, the number Lebanese refugees and the total displaced population have not been updated since August 14.

² An estimated 74,000 displaced to neighboring countries have returned since August 14, according to UNHCR.

the organized return of 10,000 refugees. UNHCR has provided transportation from Homs, Syria to multiple Lebanese cities, including Tripoli, Beirut, Sidon (Saida), Hermel, Baalbek, Zahle, and Tyre.

- To date, IOM has evacuated approximately 13,000 third country nationals (TCNs) from Lebanon. IOM is transporting relief supplies on return trips back into the region, including more than 20 MT of medicine, biscuits, tea, and blankets from Bangladesh and the Philippines.

Landmine and Unexploded Ordnance

- UNIFIL estimates that approximately 2,600 ordnance struck Lebanon every day during the recent conflict, of which 10 percent—or approximately 8,500—may remain unexploded. On August 16, UNIFIL observed two unexploded cluster bombs in the village of Hinniyah and one unexploded aerial bomb in Jabal al Butm. A UNIFIL de-mining team from the Chinese contingent is continuing to clear UXO.
- On August 15, the U.N. Mine Action Service (UNMAS) identified at least 200 unexploded cluster munitions near the Tebnin hospital. UNMAS reports that cluster munitions in Nabatiye, around Kfar Roumane, have now been cleared from the road to allow passage for returnees.
- On August 16, a mine clearance team from UNMAS and the United Kingdom-based Mine Action Group (MAG) is scheduled to arrive in Tyre. By August 20, UNIFIL and MAG are scheduled to produce a road map identifying dangerous areas and passable routes in southern Lebanon.
- UNMAS, in cooperation with local NGOs, has sent a team to Nabatiye to disseminate UXO education leaflets and posters to increase UXO awareness. On August 16, UNICEF provided television spots promoting the UXO awareness campaign to LBCI, Future TV, NBN, New TV, and TeleLiban stations. In addition, Radio One, Lubnan Al-Horr, and Sawt Lubnan are scheduled to broadcast UXO campaign radio messages.

Logistics

- On August 17, the WFP-chartered *Vittoria M* will begin a twice-weekly passenger catamaran service on Mondays and Fridays between Cyprus and Beirut, according to the U.N. Joint Logistics Center (UNJLC). The ship, which can accommodate 300 people, will provide free passage to authorized personnel from U.N. agencies, OCHA-accredited NGOs, and the diplomatic community.
- According to UNJLC, the GOL has only authorized the use of diesel-powered trucks and buses. The GOL is currently prohibiting diesel-powered four-wheel drive vehicles, such as Land Cruisers, to enter the country. However, negotiations are underway to temporarily waive this restriction for the humanitarian community.

Damage Assessments

- According to OCHA, an initial inter-agency assessment mission to the southern suburbs of Beirut has observed extensive destruction to homes. WFP reports that approximately 200,000 people have returned to the southern suburbs, and 50,000 residents of Haret Hreik are in need of assistance, including food, drinking water, medicine, and mattresses. OCHA reports that in Haret Hreik, the conflict has destroyed 2,500 housing units and damaged 5,000 others.
- UNIFIL has conducted additional damage assessments in its area of operation. UNIFIL reports that homes have been destroyed in the following villages: 80 percent of houses in Ghanduriyah, 60 percent in Zibqin, 50 percent in Jabal al Butm and Bayyadah, 30 percent in Bayt Leif, and 25 percent in Kafra.
- On August 16, UNIFIL and OCHA are scheduled to begin assessing bridges and roads in the Tyre area, according to OCHA. In addition, an interagency roads and logistics assessment team is scheduled to travel to Zahle and Baalbek.

Shelter

- The USG Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) reports that UNHCR is revising its plan for transitional shelter in consultation with the GOL. UNHCR estimates that it will take 18 to 24 months to rebuild housing, at an approximate cost of \$8,000 per partially destroyed housing unit. UNHCR aims to provide assistance to 5,000 extremely vulnerable families, as well as 4,000 families in need of simple home repairs.
- On August 15, DART met with representatives of the HRC to share information on USG humanitarian programs and gauge priorities for returns. The GOL estimates that 15,000 housing units have been destroyed throughout the country, including 4,500 homes in Beirut.

Food and Emergency Relief Supplies

- To date, USG partner International Medical Corps (IMC) has delivered hygiene supplies, house cleaning products, baby formula, and powdered milk to IDPs in Beirut suburbs and in areas throughout Mount Lebanon and South Lebanon.
- On August 16, the ship *Anamcara* departed Beirut for Tyre with 19 trucks of food, medical supplies, water, hygiene items, and fuel, according to OCHA. The fuel will be used to supply hospitals and support basic humanitarian needs.
- On August 16, WFP reportedly delivered 111 MT of food commodities to Ramesh, or enough for 7,500 people for 1 week. In addition, WFP transported 150 MT of food to Hasbaya, to provide for 10,000 beneficiaries for 1 week.
- On August 16, a 9-truck convoy is scheduled to deliver UNHCR and Première Urgence relief supplies to Tyre. In addition, a U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) convoy is scheduled to transport food for 5,000 residents in Wavel Camp in Baalbek.

- On August 16, two UNHCR-chartered C-130 planes arrived in Beirut from Amman transporting tents, mattresses, and emergency relief supplies. In addition, UNHCR transported 910 tents to Sidon and loaded five trucks for Tyre with tents, blankets, and mattresses.
- UNIFIL is currently providing medical assistance and water to a number of local villages in its area of operations, and has distributed food to the villages of Hinniyah, Zibqin, Bint Jubayl, Kafra and Bayt Leif.

Health

- USG partner IMC reports that children are in urgent need of mental health services. IMC's mobile medical teams have noted increasing signs of emotional stress among displaced children, including noticeable changes in behavior, heightened levels of fighting, and the development of phobias. IMC is working with the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA) and MOSA to formulate a comprehensive approach to psycho-social issues.
- IMC is providing emergency medical services through fixed and mobile clinics in Aley, Tyre, Sidon, and Zahle districts. Following initial assessments, IMC is preparing to provide support to health facilities in Byblos and Batroun.
- In cooperation with the American University in Beirut and the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA), IMC has produced health education materials to be distributed nationwide. IMC is also working with the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) and MOSA to establish a nationwide training program for health educators.
- The Ministry of Health, with support from WHO, is scheduled to complete a comprehensive assessment of all 600 health facilities in Lebanon in two weeks. According to WHO, the recovery strategy for the health system in southern Lebanon will focus on establishing fixed health facilities, rather than providing services through mobile clinics.
- WHO is preparing to distribute 67 MT of fuel to 18 hospitals in Tyre, Sidon, and Nabatiye. The fuel should enable these hospitals to function for approximately 10 days.
- The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) are providing fuel for hospitals in Tyre, as well as drugs for chronic illnesses in Baalbek. MSF continues to provide medical supplies to four hospitals in Tyre and seven hospitals in Jezzine, Nabatiye, Jobb Jannine, Qaraaoun, and Niha. MSF is treating approximately 120 patients per day in 3 outpatient clinics in Sidon. MSF mobile teams are treating 400 patients per week in Tyre and 650 patients per week in Beirut.

Water and Sanitation

- In Kesrouane District, IMC continues to provide emergency relief supplies and is working with local municipal authorities to assist with water chlorination procedures.
- Two national water and sanitation experts are scheduled to begin assessments in Tyre on August 16.

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. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has authorized \$50 million in 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, WHO, 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 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.
- On August 8, USAID/OFDA provided \$1.9 million to IMC for health services, psychosocial support, water and sanitation activities, and emergency relief supplies.
- On August 16, USAID/OFDA provided \$1.2 million to World Vision for water and sanitation services and the distribution of emergency relief supplies.
- State/PRM has contributed \$3.4 million to ICRC's emergency appeal for Lebanon, \$1 million to IOM, and \$4 million in support of the U.N. Flash Appeal, including \$2 million to UNHCR and \$2 million to UNRWA.
- In addition to evacuating nearly 15,000 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 2006¹

Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
CRS	Water and sanitation, psychosocial support, food, emergency shelter, and emergency relief supplies	North Lebanon, Bekaa, Mt. Lebanon, Beirut, South Lebanon, Nabatiye	\$2,836,582
Mercy Corps	Water and sanitation, nutrition, emergency relief supplies, health, and food security and agriculture	Mt. Lebanon, South Lebanon, Nabatiye	\$3,369,250
IMC	Water and sanitation, health, psychosocial support, and emergency relief supplies	Mt. Lebanon, Beirut, Nabatiye, South Lebanon	\$1,913,457
World Vision	Water and sanitation and emergency relief supplies	North Lebanon, Mt. Lebanon, Bekaa, Beirut	\$1,265,623
WFP	Logistics	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
UNJLC	Logistics	Countrywide	\$300,000
UNICEF	Water and sanitation	Countrywide	\$2,500,000
OCHA	Coordination	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
OCHA/HIC	Coordination	Countrywide	\$200,000
Multiple	Emergency relief supplies, including transport	Affected areas	\$394,162
	DART administrative costs	Affected areas	\$143,850
ICRC	Protection, food, health, and water and sanitation	Countrywide	\$3,412,000
IOM	Evacuation of third-country nationals	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
UNHCR	Protection, shelter, and emergency relief supplies	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
UNRWA	Food, health, and emergency relief supplies	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
TOTAL FY 2006 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON			\$25,334,924

¹USG funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 16, 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

USG bulletins appear on the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/