



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SITUATION REPORT

Lebanon Humanitarian Emergency

USG Humanitarian Situation Report #24, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

August 21, 2006

Note: The last situation report was dated August 18, 2006.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On August 21, U.S. President George W. Bush announced \$180 million in USG humanitarian and reconstruction assistance to Lebanon, for a total of \$230 million in USG assistance pledged to date.
- Humanitarian access is expected to improve as the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) and U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) expand troop strength in southern Lebanon. To date, the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) have reportedly withdrawn from two-thirds of positions in southern Lebanon, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). On August 19, the first UNIFIL reinforcements arrived from France.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE - LEBANON		SOURCE
Dead	1,183	Government of Lebanon (GOL) - August 21, 2006
Injured	4,055	GOL - August 21, 2006
Total Displaced Population	256,184	GOL - August 21, 2006
Estimated Returns to Date	718,000	GOL - August 21, 2006

Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Lebanon.....\$27,585,640

Total USG Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance Pledged to Lebanon\$230,000,000

CURRENT SITUATION

- As of August 21, the GOL Higher Relief Council (HRC) reports that 1,183 Lebanese have been killed and approximately 4,055 injured. More than 980,000 Lebanese fled their homes at the height of emergency, but the HRC estimates that 718,000 displaced persons have returned to their home areas since August 14. According to the HRC, 256,184 residents remain displaced, or 77,000 less than reported on August 17. The HRC and U.N. agencies report that most collective centers are now empty, and the majority of remaining displaced is staying with extended families and neighbors or in damaged buildings.

Returns

- As of August 21, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimated that up to 140,000 people had returned to Lebanon from Syria, through both official and unofficial crossings. Syria continues to host an estimated 2,500 Lebanese refugees, most of whom are either elderly or in need of medications for chronic illnesses. UNHCR also reports that Syrian migrant workers are starting to return to Lebanon.
- The U.N. continues to monitor returns in border areas. In Jwayya, more than 90 percent of the original 20,000 residents have reportedly returned, OCHA reports. In Bint Jbail, 1,000 of the original 15,000 inhabitants have returned to date.

Damage Assessments

- Following an interagency assessment mission to southern Lebanon—including Markabe, Houle, Meiss El Jabel, Nabatiye, and Ayta Ash Shaab—the U.N. reported a lack of water and power, sporadic communications with some damage to landline and cellular networks, and extensive damage to roads, fuel stations, commercial properties, schools, health facilities, and civilian homes. In Markabe, an estimated 50 percent of buildings were destroyed. In Nabatiye, 50 percent of homes were destroyed and numerous unexploded ordnance (UXO) remain. Approximately 70 percent of homes and other properties were destroyed or badly damaged in and around Ayta Ash Shaab, near Ramesh. All communities have requested bottled water and prepared food, according to OCHA.
- From August 16 to 19, an interagency team conducted a rapid assessment of the Bekaa Valley—including West Bekaa, Baalbek, and Akkar—to view the conditions of internally displaced person (IDPs), returnees, and service centers and to assess bomb damage. The most significant infrastructural damage was in the Baalbek and Hermel area. In North Bekaa, the water supply system is in need of urgent repairs. In Baalbek, an estimated 2,000 homes were destroyed. Community members have provided food to affected populations in all districts; relief agencies and the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) have supplemented these efforts. The assessment team received reports of drug shortages, particularly for the treatment of chronic diseases. According to OCHA, the governorate is scheduled to release a final report by August 25.
- The U.N. Program for Satellite Applications (UNOSAT) is working with OCHA to conduct a satellite imagery-based damage assessment, in combination with field verification by UNOSAT and OCHA staff. These damage assessments will be useful in early recovery planning, OCHA reports. Preliminary versions of the assessment map for some areas of southern Lebanon are now available.

Health and Nutrition

- The GOL Ministry of Public Health (MOH), supported by the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), has begun an assessment of all 800 health facilities in Lebanon. Preliminary reports indicate that the major concentration of damage to primary health care centers and hospitals is in Bent Jbail, Marjayoun, south of Tyre (Sur), and Baalbek, where the Hekmeh Hospital is no longer functioning. On August 19, a joint assessment team visited the two main hospitals in Nabatiye. Both hospitals reported a satisfactory amount of drugs and medical supplies, and neither sustained significant damage. However, WHO reports that the hospitals need fuel to ensure continued function of essential services.
- As of August 20, the MOH reports that immunization coverage throughout Lebanon has exceeded targets. According to WHO, vaccinations for polio, meningitis, and measles, mumps, and rubella have achieved coverage rates of 117 percent or more, as the immunization campaign which initially targeted Lebanese children in public sites was later extended to children living in neighboring host families and hotels.

Water and Sanitation

- According to the USG Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF)'s "who-what-where" map indicates that international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have already assessed most affected areas in southern Lebanon and Bekaa, and report that potable water supply remains an urgent need. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) reports that electricity due to a damaged electrical grid in the south remains the most critical problem, as electricity is required to power water pumps. NGOs identified needs for work on main pipelines, generators, fuel pumps, reservoirs, chlorination, septic tanks, sewage systems, catchment ponds, and water quality testing.
- The GOL is working to repair main water lines. With USG support, ICRC sanitation engineers are working with local specialists to repair secondary water lines. Relief agencies are already providing bottled water to as many communities as possible, while other communities are equipped with rainwater catchment tanks.
- Given the number of communities that are currently cut off from their normal water sources, tankering will be necessary for the next several weeks. UNICEF has requested ten trucks per day to deliver 100,000 liters of drinking water in southern Lebanon during the next two weeks. The Ministry of Energy and Water (MOEW), supported by WHO, is currently assessing all drinking water supply sources in South Lebanon. MOEW is establishing a water quality monitoring system, and WHO is procuring a mobile laboratory for continuous monitoring, according to OCHA reports.
- According to OCHA, electricity rationing is affecting water supplies in many areas. The Sakhrabin Wells Water Treatment Plant is unable to fully function, directly impacting service for 80,000 to 100,000 people in Nabatiye District. However, USG partner Mercy Corps is renting a cistern to supply water until the municipality's water production capacity is restored. In El Qaim, one of the most devastated villages in Marjayoun, Mercy Corps has purchased 200 water tanks and committed to pay for the operation of the main cistern to keep pumps filled and supplying water until the municipal system is functioning again.
- Coverage of water and sanitation project implementation is incomplete, as not all international NGOs have begun activities. In addition, the UNICEF cluster meeting does not cover all water and sanitation activities in country. Only the Beirut district water authority is represented, and few Lebanese NGOs participate.

Food and Emergency Relief Supplies

- The U.N. Joint Logistics Center (UNJLC) reported that there is currently no backlog of humanitarian commodities and cargo in Cyprus airports or ports. UNJLC attributed the low volume of humanitarian cargo consignment from Cyprus to Lebanon via the UNJLC common pipeline to the fact that aid agencies are using the overland route from Syria. The next voyage of the *M/V Anamcara*, the WFP-chartered vessel for common pipeline humanitarian cargo transport, is scheduled for August 21. WFP reported that the *M/V Anamcara* now has cold chain capacity for such items as vaccines. ICRC reported that for the first time since the beginning of the emergency, ICRC ships are making unrestricted voyages within Lebanon and will travel directly from Sidon (Saida) to Tyre in the coming days.
- From August 19 to 20, USG partner Mercy Corps distributed relief supplies in El Qaim and Markaba, southern Lebanon. In El Qaim, Mercy Corps provided tents for immediate shelter for 320 beneficiaries, and distributed food rations for 2,220 beneficiaries. In Markaba, Mercy Corps provided tents for temporary shelter for 160 beneficiaries.
- To date, Mercy Corps has provided food, hygiene kits, education materials, and blankets to nearly 64,000 beneficiaries in the districts of Hasbaye, Jezzine, Marjayoun, Nabatiye, and Sidon; food, water, and emergency relief supplies to more than 50,000 IDPs in 26 villages in Aley and Baabda districts; and 1,000 infant kits complemented by hygiene and health education to families in Bourj Al Barjne.
- On August 17, seven ICRC convoys carried food, fuel, and other relief items to villages around Tyre and near Bent Jbail and Ramesh. With USG support, ICRC has provided food and other basic items to 30,953 families; 1 million liters of drinking water to IDPs in 30 schools in the Beirut area; 50,000 liters of fuel to hospitals and other essential services, and items such as water pumps, drugs, surgical equipment, and medical supplies for a dozen medical facilities, WHO reports.

Logistics

- From August 18 to 20, the U.N. dispatched 10 relief convoys to destinations including Ayta Ash Shaab, Houla, Tyre, Marjayoun, Jezzine, Kfar Jarra, Kfar Huna, Sidon, Naqoura, and Masnaa. Convoys delivered food, water, medicine, mattresses, blankets, and shelter materials.
- As of August 20, OCHA reports that the *M/V Gulf Nomad* and *M/V West Point* continued offloading fuel in Beirut and Tripoli, respectively. The delivery of diesel and gasoline from these tankers will relieve the strain on public infrastructure and improve the ability of relief agencies to respond.
- Royal Jordanian Airlines is operating three flights per day from Amman to Beirut; Middle Eastern Airlines (MEA) is looking to operate additional flights via the same route, OCHA reports. In addition, British Airways has resumed limited service to Beirut. Due to the resumption of flights into Beirut, the U.N.-sponsored catamaran *M/V Vittoria* is expected to terminate passenger service the week of August 21, according to WFP.
- OCHA reports that the destruction of more than 140 bridges and severe damage to roads is hindering aid deliveries throughout Lebanon. At the Port of Beirut, a lack of stevedoring capacity is delaying onward movement of aid supplies.
- According to UNHCR, traffic along the Damascus–Beirut highway has returned to pre-conflict levels. On August 19, WFP established a Consolidation and Loading Point (CLP) in Damascus, and is scheduled to phase out the Aarida CLP. WFP reports that improvements in the Damascus to Beirut route will reduce the transportation cost of items from Syria.

UXO and Landmines

- The Mine Action Coordination Center in Southern Lebanon (MACC-SL), established by the U.N. Mine Action Services (UNMAS), continues to send teams throughout southern Lebanon to locate UXO. As of August 20, the teams have confirmed 51 strike locations—out of a projected 200 strikes—and have covered approximately 40 percent of damaged areas, according to OCHA. In addition, MACC-SL has located at least 20 air-dropped bombs, ranging in size from 500 to 2,000 pounds. MACC-SL estimates it could take up to a year to clear all UXO from southern Lebanon, from both current and previous conflicts.

Environment

- The DART reports that the U.N. Environmental Program (UNEP) is assisting with oil spill clean-up efforts in Lebanon. Norway has provided equipment and training for the LAF to clean the Byblos port. Although the GOL Ministry of the Environment reports further equipment needs, the LAF is now fully trained in use of the equipment and needs no additional technical assistance, according to UNEP. The LAF is scheduled to begin clean-up efforts on areas of Beirut's coastline in the coming days. The oil spill stretches from the El Jiyee power plant north to near Tartus, Syria. Although no aerial surveys have been completed, experts report that most of the estimated 15,000 tons of oil remains at sea.

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. President George W. Bush has authorized \$230 million in USG humanitarian and reconstruction assistance for 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 prioritize USG 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 and ICRC 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, International Medical Corps (IMC), and Mercy Corps for delivery to approximately 235,000 beneficiaries in Beirut and southern Lebanon.
- USAID/OFDA has provided \$7 million to support the U.N. Flash Appeal for Lebanon to WFP and UNJLC for logistics, UNICEF for water and sanitation activities, and OCHA and OCHA's Humanitarian Information Center (HIC) for coordination and information management. The U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) has provided \$5 million to the U.N. Flash Appeal to support UNHCR, the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
- USAID/OFDA has provided \$9.4 million to Mercy Corps, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), IMC, and World Vision for water and sanitation services, health services, psychosocial support, emergency shelter activities, and the distribution of food and relief supplies. State/PRM has contributed \$5 million to ICRC's emergency appeal for Lebanon. USAID/OFDA has provided \$25,916 to Church World Service (CWS) for security sector training to relief NGOs.
- USAID/OFDA has released an Annual Program Statement (APS) soliciting proposals to address emergency needs in Lebanon. The APS is available at <http://www.grants.gov>.
- USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) is providing 1,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at nearly \$625,000, in support of WFP operations in Lebanon.
- 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

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
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
CWS	Security sector training	Jordan	\$25,916
ICRC	Protection, food, health, and water and sanitation	Countrywide	\$5,012,000
IOM	Evacuation of third-country nationals	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
IMC	Water and sanitation, health, psychosocial support, and emergency relief supplies	Mt. Lebanon, Beirut, Nabatiye, South Lebanon	\$1,913,457
Mercy Corps	Water and sanitation, nutrition, emergency relief supplies, health, food security and agriculture, and cash for work activities	Mt. Lebanon, South Lebanon, Nabatiye	\$3,369,250
OCHA	Coordination	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
OCHA/HIC	Information management	Countrywide	\$200,000
UNJLC	Logistics	Countrywide	\$300,000
UNICEF	Coordination and water and sanitation	Countrywide	\$2,500,000
UNHCR	Protection, shelter, and emergency relief supplies	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
UNRWA	Food, health, and emergency relief supplies	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
World Vision	Water and sanitation and emergency relief supplies	North Lebanon, Mt. Lebanon, Bekaa, Beirut	\$1,265,623
WFP	Logistics and coordination	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
	1,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$624,800
Multiple	Emergency relief supplies, including transport	Affected areas	\$394,162
Multiple	DART administrative costs	Affected areas	\$143,850
TOTAL FY 2006 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON			\$27,585,640

¹ USG funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 21, 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