



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SITUATION REPORT

Lebanon Humanitarian Emergency

USG Humanitarian Situation Report #27, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

August 24, 2006

Note: The last situation report was dated August 23, 2006.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Political and Military Affairs, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (State/PM/WRA) will provide \$420,000 in FY 2006 and up to \$2 million in FY 2007 to the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) for demining activities in Lebanon, subject to Congressional approval.
- The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) is contributing additional funds to support the U.N. Flash Appeal: \$2.2 million to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and \$300,000 to the U.N. Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS). State/PRM is also contributing an additional \$8.5 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE - LEBANON		SOURCE
Dead	1,183	Government of Lebanon (GOL) - August 23, 2006
Injured	4,059	GOL - August 23, 2006
Total Displaced Population	256,184	GOL - August 23, 2006
Estimated Returns to Date	718,000	GOL - August 23, 2006

Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Lebanon..... \$47,837,298
Total USG Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance Pledged to Lebanon \$230,000,000

CURRENT SITUATION

- As of August 23, the GOL Higher Relief Council (HRC) reports that 1,183 Lebanese have been killed and approximately 4,059 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, most of the remaining 256,184 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees are staying with host families.
- According to UNHCR, an estimated 5,000 IDPs remain in Chouf, 1,300 in Aley, and 952 in U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) camps, mostly in northern Lebanon. In addition, 2,500 refugees remain in Syria. According to UNHCR, the majority of remaining IDPs and refugees may not return due to destroyed homes.
- On August 23, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) reported that an estimated 200 IDPs arrived in Sidon (Saida) due to insecurity and the presence of unexploded ordnance (UXO). The USG Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) does not perceive this new movement as a trend, but continues to monitor the situation.

Returns

- On August 23, UNHCR reported that nearly 5,000 refugees returned from Syria, bringing cumulative recorded returns to 151,351, not including an estimated 10,000 or more returns through unmonitored crossings. On August 23, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent withdrew volunteers from the Jusiya and Dabusiya crossings. According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the number of passengers traveling on UNHCR-provided buses is declining, although buses remain on standby for refugee transport.

Damage Assessments

- USG partner International Medical Corps (IMC) has conducted assessments throughout southern Lebanon, including the districts of Bent Jbail, Hasbaya, Nabatiye, Chouf, Tyre (Sur), and Marjayoun. IMC reports that water availability varies widely from village to village depending on the destruction level and wealth of the community. Almost all villages cite the lack of electricity as the main cause of water shortages. Some communities have already made temporary arrangements by arranging for water trucking or by renting or buying generators.
- USAID partner CRS, in collaboration with local partners, has also conducted assessments in southern Lebanon. The presence of UXO in Kfour, Nabatiye District, has prevented residents from assessing damage to homes. In El Hazze, Sidon District, despite some damage to bridges and homes, income generation opportunities are available as small shops have re-opened, and local carpenters are now working. CRS reports that 75,000 residents are currently living in Tyre, or half of the pre-conflict population; most are fishermen and day laborers who have been without income for 40 days.
- On August 24, following a joint U.N. assessment of the border villages of Meiss El Jabal, Houla, and Markaba, UNHCR reported a need for tents, blankets, mattresses, hygiene kits, kitchen sets, jerry cans, and baby milk.
- With USG support, the OCHA Humanitarian Information Center (HIC) has produced a map consolidating information from recent interagency damage assessments in southern Lebanon. OCHA/HIC is working to create a similar map for the Bekaa Valley, based on assessments in six villages. OCHA/HIC has encouraged all non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to provide assessment information accompanied by place (P) codes to ensure a systematic means of linking data.

Health and Nutrition

- The U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) reports that preliminary results of the health facility assessment indicate that 50 to 70 percent of all primary health care facilities in Bent Jbail and Marjayoun districts have been completely destroyed. According to ICRC, most major hospitals in south Lebanon did not sustain major damage, although there is currently no functioning hospital in Bent Jbail.
- IMC has distributed the contents of one USG-donated emergency health kit to two IMC-supported health centers in Burj Hammoud. In addition, IMC delivered another USG emergency health kit, complimentary medical supplies, 100 bed sets, and 5 UNHCR tents to Salah Ghandour Hospital in Bent Jbail.
- From August 15 to 18, ICRC provided 20,000 liters of fuel to hospitals in El Bass, Balzan Camp, Jabal Amel, Hiram, and Nabatiye. To date, ICRC has delivered 62,000 liters of fuel to run vital civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, Lebanese Red Cross health centers, and water pumps in isolated villages in Tyre, Marjayoun, and Rashaya districts.
- ICRC has also provided dressings, surgical supplies, and medicine for chronic diseases to health facilities in Jib Jannine, Tell Shiha, and Bent Jbail. ICRC is also arranging to procure locally a one-month supply of medicines for the treatment of chronic diseases for 200,000 patients. According to OCHA, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)/Belgium is providing medication for chronic diseases, other essential drugs, and surgical equipment to health facilities in Bent Jbail and Tebnin. Local pharmacies have also been providing essential drugs to hospitals on a loan basis, according to WHO.
- MSF distributed 1,500 hygiene kits in Baalbek and is preparing to provide psychosocial support to returnees.

Food, Water, and Emergency Relief Supplies

- On August 24, the U.N. dispatched four U.N. convoys from Beirut with food and water for south Beirut, Qana, Maarake, and Ramesh. A fifth U.N. convoy left Tyre for Sidiqine, delivering 2,500 blankets, 1,060 plastic sheets, 200 tents, and other relief items. The U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) distributed 45,000 liters of drinking water to villages of Khiam, Kafer Kela, and Ebel Es Saqy, east of Nabatiye.
- On August 23, OCHA reported that Mercy Corps provided tents for 480 returnees in Khiam and Markaba, two villages in the south which sustained significant infrastructural damage. Mercy Corps also distributed food rations for more than 7,000 people in Nabatiye and Marjayoun districts.
- On August 23, UNHCR distributed 850 blankets, 750 mattresses, 225 tents, 180 kitchen sets, and 410 plastic sheets in the following villages of Nabatiye District: Zebdin, Harouf, Jabsheet, Alduweir, Sharqya, and Ansar.
- To date, USG partner World Vision has provided food assistance, water and sanitation items, and emergency relief supplies to an estimated 40,570 IDPs and other beneficiaries throughout Lebanon.
- As of August 22, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) has distributed nearly 3,000 MT of food to 530,000 people, including 381,000 people within Lebanon and 149,000 returning from Syria. WFP reports that 1,379 MT have been dispatched in the nine days since the cessation of hostilities, compared to only 1,450 MT during the 20 days of conflict, according to OCHA.

Shelter

- Because of the high standard of living and the expectation that the GOL will assist in rebuilding houses, the DART has received reports that tents or tarps are not suitable for IDPs, even temporarily. According to the DART, the GOL's basic shelter reconstruction package will consist of one room, a kitchen, and bathroom at a cost of \$7,000 to \$10,000 per unit.

UXO and Landmines

- UXO have killed 8 people and injured 32 others, according to the Mine Action Coordination Center in Southern Lebanon (MACC-SL). To date, MACC-SL has recorded 249 individual cluster bomb strike locations. Demining teams have demolished 445 UXO in Yohmor, Smayieh, Ras Al Ain, Tebnin, and Aita Al Jabal. According to OCHA, six battalions of Lebanese army engineers are conducting demining activities in Nabatiye. OCHA reports that residential areas of western and eastern Zawtar have now been cleared, although additional demining is necessary in the fields around Zawtar. By August 26, at least 13 new mine clearance teams are scheduled to arrive in Lebanon.

Education

- According to OCHA, preliminary assessments report that the conflict has destroyed up to 50 schools in southern Lebanon and caused major damage to 300 others. The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) is working with the Ministry of Education to provide 350,000 Lebanese schoolchildren with school bags containing notebooks, pencils, and other materials. In Beirut and other areas, UNICEF is supporting rehabilitation of more than 150 schools that provided shelter to IDPs during the conflict.

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, 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 the U.N. Joint Logistics Center (UNJLC) for logistics and coordination, UNICEF for water and sanitation activities, and OCHA and OCHA/HIC for coordination and information management. State/PRM has provided \$7.5 million to the U.N. Flash Appeal to UNHCR and UNRWA for protection, shelter, and emergency relief supplies and to International Organization for Migration (IOM) for transportation of third-country nationals. State/PRM has also contributed more than \$13.5 million to ICRC's emergency appeal for protection, food, health, and water and sanitation activities.
- USAID/OFDA has provided \$9.4 million to Mercy Corps, 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. USAID/OFDA has also provided \$25,916 to Church World Service (CWS) for security training for 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 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at nearly \$625,000, in support of WFP operations in Lebanon.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has provided 25,000 MT of hard red winter wheat to the GOL. Valued at \$9.2 million including transport, the wheat contribution is part of USDA's Food for Progress program.
- State/PM/WRA will provide \$420,000 in FY 2006 and up to \$2 million in FY 2007 to MAG for demining activities in Lebanon, subject to Congressional approval.
- 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 training for relief workers	Jordan	\$25,916
ICRC	Protection, food, health, and water and sanitation	Countrywide	\$13,512,000
IMC	Water and sanitation, health, psychosocial support, and emergency relief supplies	Mt. Lebanon, Beirut, Nabatiye, South Lebanon	\$1,913,457
IOM	Evacuation of third-country nationals	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
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
UNDSS	Safety and security for humanitarian operations	Countrywide	\$300,000
UNJLC	Logistics	Countrywide	\$300,000
UNICEF	Coordination and water and sanitation	Countrywide	\$2,500,000
UNHCR	Protection, shelter, and emergency relief supplies	Countrywide	\$4,200,000
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
GOL	25,000 MT of USDA Food for Progress Assistance	Countrywide	\$9,200,000
Multiple	Emergency relief supplies, including transport	Affected areas	\$445,502
Multiple	DART administrative costs	Affected areas	\$144,168
TOTAL FY 2006 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON			\$47,837,298

¹USG funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 24, 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