



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SITUATION REPORT

Lebanon Humanitarian Emergency

USG Humanitarian Situation Report #35, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

September 6, 2006

Note: The last situation report was dated September 5, 2006.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- According to the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), a recent assessment of more than 400 health facilities in the conflict-affected areas of Lebanon found that 26 percent of all facilities are not functioning due to physical damage, lack of staff, or lack of accessibility, and that water and fuel shortages remain a serious concern. The Government of Lebanon's (GOL) Ministry of Health and WHO jointly conducted the assessment in August and examined dispensaries, health care centers, outpatient hospital departments, and hospitals in the affected districts. According to the assessment team, a total of 12 health buildings were totally destroyed and 38 severely damaged, with the most damage in Bent Jbail, followed by Marjayoun, Nabatiye, and the southern suburbs of Beirut. In addition, the assessment found that only one third of health facilities have access to safe water, and one fourth is linked to a sewerage system or a power supply.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE – LEBANON		SOURCE
Dead	1,187	GOL – September 6, 2006
Injured	4,398	GOL – September 6, 2006
Total Displaced Population	255,794	GOL – September 6, 2006
Estimated Returns to Date	718,390	GOL – September 6, 2006

Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Lebanon..... \$55,165,602
Total USG Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance Pledged to Lebanon \$230,000,000

CURRENT SITUATION

- As of September 6, the GOL's Higher Relief Council (HRC) reports that 1,187 Lebanese have been killed and approximately 4,398 injured. Nearly 975,000 Lebanese fled their homes at the height of emergency, but the HRC estimates that 718,390 displaced persons have returned to their home areas since August 14. Most of the remaining 255,794 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees are staying with host families.

Assessments

- USG partner International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) has conducted assessments throughout southern Lebanon, including the districts of Bent Jbail and Marjayoun. In Marjayoun, electricity, water, and communications have been restored to nearly the same levels as prior to the conflict. In Bent Jbail, repairs of power lines, water mains, and communication cables are progressing, and services are returning gradually to the district. The town of Bent Jbail remains without electricity and water supply, and telephone land lines are still out of order. By approximately September 9, district authorities expect the main power supply to Bent Jbail to be restored. Additional work remains in the town's neighborhoods and surrounding villages that were significantly damaged during the conflict.
- According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 7,000 residents—out of a population of 10,000—have returned to the village of Khiam, Marjayoun District. Initial damage estimates indicate 750 homes destroyed and another 1,000 homes heavily damaged but repairable, as well as an additional 1,000 residences lightly damaged. OCHA reports that Khiam is currently without electric power, and the internal water and sewage networks have been destroyed. A generator is providing electrical power to pump water from a natural spring.
- In Kfar Chouba, Hasbaya District, an interagency joint assessment mission reported there are no major health issues, and the health center is functioning and providing primary health care services, according to OCHA. In addition, the team found that electric power is available, residents have access to safe water, and food distributions have been conducted.
- According to OHCA, an interagency joint assessment mission conducted assessments in the villages of Deir Qanoun, Qana, Ramadya, Knisse, Hennyeh, and Zibqin near Tyre (Sur). In the villages, no major health problems were identified. The main concern for the villages is the lack of safe water, reliable power supply, and contamination by unexploded ordnance (UXO) that prevents access to homes and agricultural lands.
- An OCHA team visiting the villages of Zaoutar Gharbiya, Zaoutar Shargiya, and Yahmour in Nabatiye District found that the community priorities have shifted from emergency needs to recovery. The presence of UXO is a major constraint in all three villages, preventing access to land—the only source of income for most families. The team reports that more than 90 percent of the communities' land is inaccessible due to UXO. In Zaoutar Gharbiya and Yahmour, OCHA reports that cluster bomb explosions have killed 2 people and injured 13 since the ceasefire. Water also remains a concern in all three villages.

Environment

- Multi-agency cleanup efforts are underway in response to the estimated 15,000 metric tons (MT) of oil spilled along Lebanon's coastal waters in July. According to the USG Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), the U.N. Environmental Program (UNEP) reports that the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) have been fully trained in the use of equipment for cleanup of the oil spill and have started cleaning areas of Beirut's coastline. Additionally, teams from the European Commission (EC) are working with the GOL to support the cleanup effort. On August 24, the GOL's Ministry of the Environment (MOE) established an Oil Spill Operations and Coordination Center (OSOCC) to consolidate the efforts of UNEP, OCHA, the EC, and the Regional Emergency Marine Pollution Center (REMPEC).
- UNEP reported that two aerial surveys conducted on August 28 and 29 revealed that most of the oil at sea has evaporated and the damage was not as extensive as initially believed. Following the aerial surveys, the GOL and its international support team were able to determine that the El Jiye power station is not leaking as was previously feared. However, oil remains in large quantities in confined areas such as the ports and beaches.
- At the Stockholm Conference, the GOL requested \$50 million to support cleanup efforts. The operation is likely to take one year to complete.

Water and Sanitation

- According to OCHA, the villages of Deir Qanoun, Ramadya, Knisse, and Hennyeh in Tyre District are receiving water tankered directly from Ras el Ain. Water remains a concern in Zibqin and OCHA reports requests for assistance. According to OCHA, the town needs a generator to pump water, as well as a 75,000-liter water tank and approximately 3,000 meters of water pipes.

Food and Emergency Relief Supplies

- From August 30 to September 4, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) delivered 23,270 MT of bread to the southern suburbs of Beirut.
- The Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has provided 12 truckloads of blankets, water, powdered milk, tents, and approximately 2,000 food parcels to Khiam, according to OCHA. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are also providing water, food, hygiene packs, water storage tanks, diapers, tents, medical supplies, and a generator for the local clinic. The U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) is providing support for the delivery of water and conducting mobile clinic services for two hours each day.

UXO

- To date, 434 cluster bomb strike locations have been identified, according to the U.N. Mine Action Service (UNMAS). In addition, UNMAS' Mine Action Coordination Centre in Southern Lebanon (MACC-SL), UNIFIL, and LAF have destroyed 112 unexploded bombs and 13,871 cluster sub-munitions. There are currently 10 explosive ordnance disposal teams operating in Lebanon.

USG Partner Updates

- International Medical Corps (IMC) sponsored the distribution of 120,000 liters of water to families in Bent Jbail District and distributed water reservoirs to more than 80 families in southern Lebanon. In addition, IMC is conducting child-friendly mine awareness activities in affected villages.

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, arrived in the region to prioritize USG assistance. A Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team is supporting the DART.
- To date, USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) has provided 3,000 tarps, 40,000 blankets, and 18 emergency health kits in support of relief operations in Lebanon. The DART has consigned these relief supplies to International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), WHO, IMC, and Mercy Corps for delivery to nearly 300,000 beneficiaries in Beirut and southern Lebanon. Total USG-donated commodities are valued at more than \$590,000, including transport.
- 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, the U.N. Children's Fund (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 of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) has provided \$7.5 million to the U.N. Flash Appeal to UNHCR and the U.N. Relief Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) for protection, shelter, and emergency relief supplies, to the U.N. Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS), and to the 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 \$16.6 million to Catholic Relief Services (CRS), CHF International, IMC, IOCC, Mercy Corps, and World Vision for water and sanitation services, health services, psychosocial support, emergency shelter activities, the distribution of food and relief supplies, infrastructure rehabilitation, and/or cash-for-work activities. USAID/OFDA has also provided nearly \$26,000 to Church World Service (CWS) for security training for relief NGOs.
- The USG is providing nearly \$10 million in wheat flour, wheat, and lentil commodities. USAID's Office of Food for Peace is providing 1,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance to support WFP operations. Through the Food for Progress program, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is providing 25,000 MT of wheat to the GOL.
- The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Political and Military Affairs, Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement will provide \$420,000 in FY 2006 and up to \$2 million in FY 2007 to the Mines Advisory Group 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	\$3,436,150
CHF International	Water and sanitation, psychosocial support, and emergency relief supplies	North Lebanon, Bekaa, Mt. Lebanon, Beirut, South Lebanon, Nabatiye	\$2,665,969
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	\$2,113,457
IOM	Evacuation of third-country nationals	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
IOCC	Water and sanitation, health, psychosocial support, infrastructure rehabilitation, emergency relief supplies, and cash for work activities	Nabatiye, South Lebanon, South Beirut, Baalbek	\$1,999,427
Mercy Corps	Water and sanitation, nutrition, emergency relief supplies, health, food security and agriculture, and cash for work activities	Mt. Lebanon, South Lebanon, Nabatiye, Bekaa, Beirut	\$4,869,111
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	\$1,563,584
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	\$488,740
Multiple	DART administrative costs	Affected areas	\$166,448
TOTAL FY 2006 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON			\$55,165,602

¹ USG funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 6, 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