



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SITUATION REPORT

Lebanon Humanitarian Emergency

USG Humanitarian Situation Report #38, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

September 12, 2006

Note: The last situation report was dated September 8, 2006.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On September 12, the USG donated 25,000 metric tons (MT) of U.S. wheat to the Government of Lebanon (GOL). U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Jeffrey D. Feltman presided over a ceremony during which the donation was presented to the Minister of Trade and Economy Sami Haddad. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provided the hard red winter wheat, valued at \$9.2 million including transport, to the GOL for food security and agricultural development, as part of USDA's Food for Progress program.
- Humanitarian operations continue to transition to recovery and reconstruction activities. On September 11, the USG Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) reported that U.N. agencies plan to phase out the emergency response by October 24, the end date of the U.N. flash appeal. Cluster coordination will transition from emergency assistance to development activities led by the U.N. Development Program (UNDP) between October 1 and 24.
- Relief agencies continue to relocate and shift operations to the humanitarian assistance hub in Tyre (Sur). The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that the last general coordination meeting in Beirut will take place on September 17; general coordination meetings in Tyre will continue until September 30. According to the DART, cluster lead agencies report that Tyre meetings will focus on operational issues while Beirut meetings, which are being reduced in number, will focus on strategy.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE – LEBANON		SOURCE
Dead	1,187	GOL – September 12, 2006
Injured	4,399	GOL – September 12, 2006
Total Displaced Population	215,413	GOL – September 12, 2006
Estimated Returns to Date	758,771	GOL – September 12, 2006

Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Lebanon..... \$55,350,133
Total USG Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance Pledged to Lebanon \$230,000,000

CURRENT SITUATION

- As of September 12, the GOL's Higher Relief Council (HRC) reports that 1,187 Lebanese were killed and approximately 4,399 injured during the conflict. Nearly 975,000 Lebanese fled their homes at the height of emergency, but the HRC estimates that 758,771 displaced persons have returned to their home areas since August 14. Most of the remaining 215,413 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees are staying with host families.

Protection

- Unexploded ordnance (UXO) poses the single greatest protection threat. In addition to the clearance of UXO, additional protection needs include removal of hazards posed by damaged infrastructure and houses, interventions for educators to identify symptoms of post-traumatic stress, outreach activities that incorporate reconciliation and conflict-resolution, and community education about the role and responsibilities of peacekeeping troops to ensure that children and women are not exploited. Led by the GOL's Ministry of Social Affairs and the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the protection cluster group is implementing a strategy to ensure that protection issues are addressed.
- According to the DART, aid agencies were unable to conduct direct distributions and monitoring during the conflict due to insecurity. Despite this limitation, there have not been reports of significant assistance gaps overall, although pockets of need may exist among vulnerable groups such as people residing with host families that have not yet been reached or assessed. Agencies have begun monitoring to ensure that distribution is impartial and based on need.

UXO

- As of September 9, more than 450 different cluster bomb strike locations have been identified, and the U.N. Mine Action Service's (UNMAS) Mine Action Coordination Center in Southern Lebanon, Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF), and U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) teams have destroyed more than 15,000 individual cluster sub-munitions thus far. According to the U.N., 14 civilians have been killed by cluster munitions and 66 others have been injured by UXO. In addition, eight LAF personnel have been injured or killed by UXO. A majority of the incidents occurred as residents assessed damage to their homes or engaged in agricultural activities.
- As part of the ongoing UXO awareness campaign, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) has developed a brochure depicting the contexts in which civilians may encounter cluster bombs. UNICEF has also included UXO information on the label of bottled water delivered to communities where UXO is commonly found.

Health

- According to the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), health organizations in Tyre have begun holding coordination meetings following reports that several mobile health clinics operating in and around the city were duplicating services and areas of coverage. Relief agencies agreed on criteria for the mobile clinics, including locations and health services to be provided, such as consultation, treatment, health education, and immunization based on Ministry of Public Health's regulations.
- In the September 8 Health Cluster Bulletin, WHO urged donor agencies not to send additional drug donations to Lebanon as various assessments have confirmed that drugs are available and stocks are adequate in-country. WHO also noted that this is to avoid over prescription of drugs and environmental health problems in disposing of drugs.
- According to WHO, no disease outbreaks have been reported in conflict-affected areas of Lebanon to date. However, the large-scale damage to the water and sewage networks remains a health concern.

Water and Sanitation

- At the September 8 water and sanitation cluster meeting, agencies reported that water needs remain in Markaba and Taibe, Marjayoun District. Local populations will require water tankering or bottled water until repairs are complete.
- A representative from the South Lebanon Water Authority reported that primary water pipelines have been rehabilitated, but that problems in secondary lines would become apparent as water networks come on line. According to the representative, three major pumping stations serving the Bent Jbail and Marjayoun areas were damaged and need rehabilitation. In addition, 11 reservoirs are destroyed and 20 damaged in South Lebanon. The Water Authority plans to conduct testing of the damaged reservoirs to assess whether repair is possible or full replacement is necessary. Current water demand is high due to cleanup and reconstruction works. The water authority representative noted that lack of electricity will continue for some time, making generators to pump water an urgent need.
- Pipelines in major streets of Haret Hreik Municipality sustained the most significant damage in southern Beirut's suburbs, according to a representative from the Beirut and Mount Lebanon Water Authority at the meeting.
- Following an assessment on September 11, UNICEF reported that bottled water needs have been met in Ramesh, Bent Jbail District.

Assessments

- On September 11, OCHA conducted assessments in Chamaa, Chihine, Tair Harfa, and Majdel Zoun in Sour District. The team reported that the main concerns in the villages are lack of electricity and need for water tanks. According to OCHA, there are no reports of UXO in the villages, although the presence of UXO in surrounding agricultural lands remains unclear.
- On September 9, UNHCR conducted assessments in Borj Qalaouiye, Hadatha, and Soultaniye in Bent Jbail District and Taibe in Baalbek District. UNHCR reports extensive damage in Borj Qalaouiye, with 20 destroyed houses and 80 heavily damaged. The team also reported UXO contamination in the village.
- In Hadatha, the team indicated that most families have lost their economic livelihoods and are experiencing psychosocial difficulties. In Soultaniye and Taibe, the team reported significant damage to houses and identified the need for water tanks and generators.

USG Partner Updates

- During the week of September 4, International Medical Corps (IMC) distributed 195 water tanks to villages in southern Lebanon to replace those damaged during the conflict. With a capacity of 1,000 liters, each tank stores a week's worth of water for a family of five.

USG ACTION

- On July 25, U.S. Ambassador 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, the 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.
- 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 the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) and U.N. Joint Logistics Center (UNJLC) for logistics and coordination, 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 \$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, International Orthodox Christian Charities (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, USDA provided 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 (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	\$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	\$4,868,111
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	\$590,271
Multiple	DART administrative costs	Affected areas	\$250,448
TOTAL FY 2006 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON			\$55,350,133

¹ USG funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 12, 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/