



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SITUATION REPORT

Lebanon Humanitarian Emergency

USG Humanitarian Situation Report #39, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

September 15, 2006

Note: The last situation report was dated September 12, 2006.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On September 15, the U.S. Agency for International Development’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) provided more than \$14.3 million to address emergency needs in conflict-affected areas in Lebanon. USAID/OFDA contributed \$2 million to American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA) for food security and agriculture and livelihood recovery activities to affected populations in South Lebanon Governorate.
- USAID/OFDA is providing additional support to four current USG partners. Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is receiving an additional \$2.9 million to support protection and food security and agriculture activities as well as to expand shelter and water and sanitation activities. CHF International will support livelihoods, food security and agriculture, and health activities with nearly \$2.6 million in additional funds. International Medical Corps (IMC) is receiving an additional \$3.3 million for the expansion of water and sanitation and health activities. Mercy Corps is receiving an additional \$3.5 million to expand activities in a variety of sectors, including food security and agriculture, health, nutrition, protection, water and sanitation, and shelter activities.
- On September 14, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) released the findings of a rapid food security assessment conducted from August 27 to September 10 in Beirut, Mount Lebanon, Bekaa, and southern Lebanon. The assessment concluded that food availability rather than food access was more of a concern, but that the end of the air and maritime blockade has begun to alleviate this situation. The assessment identified the loss of income as the main threat to food security in Lebanon, and the most affected are workers in the agriculture and fishing sectors, casual laborers, and people employed in the tourism industry.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE – LEBANON		SOURCE
Dead	1,187	Government of Lebanon (GOL) – September 15, 2006
Injured	4,399	GOL – September 15, 2006
Total Displaced Population	215,413	GOL – September 15, 2006
Estimated Returns to Date	758,771	GOL – September 15, 2006

Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Lebanon..... \$69,659,767
Total USG Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance Pledged to Lebanon \$230,000,000

CURRENT SITUATION

- As of September 15, the GOL’s Higher Relief Council (HRC) reports that 758,711 displaced persons have returned to their home areas since August 14. At the height of the emergency, HRC estimated that nearly 975,000 Lebanese fled their homes. Most of the remaining 215,413 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees are staying with host families. According to HRC, 1,189 Lebanese were killed and approximately 4,399 injured during the conflict.
- A month since the cessation of hostilities came into effect, most active conflict in Lebanon has ceased, the humanitarian emergency has stabilized, and relief agencies have expanded operations in southern Lebanon with improved security and greater access to affected areas.

Shelter

- On September 12, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) presented a list of the 73 most-affected villages south of the Litani River prepared by the shelter cluster. The list ranks villages in order of magnitude of the destruction, with rankings based on assessment data provided by municipalities or non-governmental organizations (NGOs). According to UNHCR, the criteria for the rankings includes the number of houses, level of destruction of houses, and the proportion of damaged to undamaged houses within each village. This criteria ensures that small, heavily damaged villages are also included in the list. UNHCR noted that the list can be used as a guide for the distribution of repair kits and as a tool for targeting villages for transitional and/or permanent shelter projects.
- According to the USG Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), an accurate needs assessment is still needed to obtain specific data about housing damage, what kind of cash or in-kind assistance has already been distributed, and which households are considered “vulnerable” based on criteria agreed upon by the GOL and UNHCR to ensure appropriate targeting of assistance. In addition, unexploded ordnance (UXO) clearance of housing sites and immediate surrounding areas will have to be completed before repair of damaged houses can safely begin.
- The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that with the onset of winter, the shelter cluster is prioritizing the provision of relief commodities, such as mattresses, blankets, and heating fuel, to ensure that

beneficiaries have one warm room in each home. The shelter cluster is also focusing on providing additional relief commodities and, where possible, financial assistance to host families hosting displaced populations.

Food Security

- According to WFP's food security assessment, food shortages were most evident in southern Lebanon. However, the assessment team found that consumers were still able to purchase food despite price increases, which reduced their choice of products. According to the assessment team, food commodities are now available at affordable prices. The assessment also found that remittances and social support will be crucial to the recovery of the most affected populations. The assessment confirmed that the nutritional status of IDPs and returnees has not been threatened despite the fact that their diet was compromised during the conflict.
- The assessment team recommended that WFP continue to provide food assistance until October 24, but to reduce the beneficiary caseload from 500,000 to 350,000, given that food needs have significantly diminished with the cessation of hostilities and the lifting of the blockade. The team also noted that WFP food assistance is not appropriate in Lebanon's livelihood recovery process, and job creation through a food-for-work mechanism would not be applicable as cheaper immigrant labor is usually employed for manual jobs.
- At the end of September, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will be conducting a needs and damage assessment mission in the agriculture, forestry, and fishery sectors.

UXO

- On September 13, the U.N. Development Program's (UNDP) Mine Action Center reported that 87 people were victims of mines and UXO between August 14 and September 10. Comparing these numbers to data gathered since 2000 by the GOL's National Demining Office, UNDP noted that this number almost equals the yearly rate of 2000 and 2001 when 119 and 93 people respectively suffered accidents or were killed by mines and UXO. In addition, UNDP indicated that the number of victims during the last four weeks exceeds the combined total number between 2003 and 2005 inclusive.

Logistics

- Commercial air traffic into Lebanon is quickly resuming, according to OCHA. By September 11, airline traffic was only 27 percent below pre-conflict levels. However, despite the resumption of air traffic, tourism—a key sector in the Lebanese economy—will continue to feel the adverse effects of the conflict during the coming months as many tourists cancelled vacations to Lebanon during the Ramadan and Christmas periods, according to OCHA.

Early Recovery

- As requested by the GOL's Minister of Finance, UNDP has developed draft terms of reference for the Lebanon Early Recovery Fund (LERF), according to OCHA. The purpose of the LERF is to allow donors to pool resources and rapidly provide funding to the GOL's early recovery projects and programs that will be implemented within a timeframe of six months.

USG Partner Updates

- On September 9, Mercy Corps reported that villagers throughout Marjayoun District continue to request bottled water. Mercy Corps noted that most villagers have a well or reservoir system in their homes that typically address water needs throughout the summer months; these systems still have adequate water supply. Upon further questioning from Mercy Corps staff, villagers complained about a grey powder that covers buildings and crops and reportedly is making many people sick. Since the rains began on August 20 in southern Lebanon, many villagers have stopped using their wells due to a belief that the grey powder was washed by the rain into their water supply.
- On September 11, Mercy Corps installed playground equipment in Baalbek District, where Mercy Corps had previously identified a scarcity of playgrounds and equipment for young children and sports facilities for youth.
- On September 11, a team from Mercy Corps monitored the distribution of food and hygiene kits and conducted needs assessments in several villages in Nabatiye District. The team identified the following issues in all the villages: sporadic supply of electricity (4-5 hours per day) and water (2-5 days per week); agriculture represents roughly 50 percent of income to the villages, but farmers are unable to harvest crops due to mines and UXO; concerns about cluster bombs around and inside homes in some villages; and the importance of assistance for needy families in the communities.
- CRS is scheduled to complete seven psychosocial summer camps by September 17. Each camp lasts four to five days and serves 100 to 150 children.
- From September 15 to 16, CRS is delivering 7,500 family hygiene kits, 2,500 baby hygiene kits, 3,000 family food kits, 2,000 baby food kits, 40,848 liters of water, and 60.3 metric tons (MT) of food commodities for distribution in Sidon (Saida) and Marjayoun districts.

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, the DART, led by 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 the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), U.N. World Health Organization (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 U.N. Joint Logistics Center (UNJLC) for logistics and coordination, U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) for water and sanitation activities, and OCHA and 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 contributed nearly \$31 million to ANERA, CRS, CHF International, IMC, International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), Mercy Corps, and World Vision for distribution of food and relief supplies, food security and agriculture, health services, infrastructure rehabilitation, livelihood recovery activities, nutrition, protection, psychosocial support, transitional shelter activities, and/or water and sanitation services. USAID/OFDA has also provided nearly \$26,000 to Church World Service (CWS) for security training for relief NGOs.
- The USG has provided 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) 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>
ANERA	Food security and agriculture and livelihoods	South Lebanon	\$2,000,000
CRS	Water and sanitation, psychosocial support, food, shelter, emergency relief supplies, food security and agriculture, and protection	Bekaa, Beirut, Mt. Lebanon, North Lebanon, Nabatiye, South Lebanon	\$6,358,073
CHF International	Water and sanitation, psychosocial support, health, livelihoods, food security and agriculture, and emergency relief supplies	Bekaa, Beirut, Mt. Lebanon, Nabatiye, North Lebanon, South Lebanon	\$5,261,358
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	Bekaa, Beirut, Mt. Lebanon, Nabatiye, South Lebanon	\$5,413,917
IOM	Evacuation of third-country nationals	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
IOCC	Water and sanitation, health, psychosocial support, infrastructure rehabilitation, emergency relief supplies, and livelihoods	Bekaa, Nabatiye, South Beirut, South Lebanon	\$1,999,427
Mercy Corps	Water and sanitation, shelter, nutrition, emergency relief supplies, health, food security and agriculture, school rehabilitation, protection, and livelihoods	Mt. Lebanon, South Lebanon, Nabatiye, Bekaa, Beirut	\$8,369,973
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	\$240,448
TOTAL FY 2006 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON			\$69,659,767

¹ USG funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 15, 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/