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**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**  
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)  
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)

## ***Lebanon – Complex Emergency***

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July 21, 2006

### **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- On July 12, conflict began between the Israeli Defense Forces and Hezbollah. As a result, more than 300 people in Lebanon have died and more than 800 have been injured, according to the United Nations (U.N.) Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Insecurity is preventing humanitarian agencies from accurately assessing the number of displaced people within Lebanon. The U.N. estimates that up to 500,000 people may be affected, most of whom have taken shelter with relatives or in second homes. Approximately 66,000 people have found shelter in schools and other public buildings, according to the U.N. Approximately 140,000 people, of whom 100,000 require assistance, have reportedly entered Syria.
- Due to severe damage of infrastructure including roads and bridges, southern Lebanon remains inaccessible. Insecurity is limiting the transport of emergency relief supplies. According to media reports, Israel has called for the evacuation of civilians south of the Litani River, approximately 25 miles north of the Lebanon-Israel border. Despite challenges to the humanitarian response, several U.N. agencies have teams on the ground in Lebanon.
- The U.S. Government (USG) is deploying disaster relief experts to the region to conduct humanitarian assessments and coordinate USG humanitarian assistance.

<b>NUMBERS AT A GLANCE - LEBANON</b>		<b>SOURCE</b>
<b>Total Affected Population</b>	500,000	U.N. - July 20, 2006
<b>Total Number Displaced to Syria</b>	140,000	OCHA - July 20, 2006
<b>Total Number Dead</b>	300	OCHA - July 20, 2006
<b>Total Number Injured</b>	800	OCHA - July 20, 2006

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

#### *Critical Humanitarian Needs*

- According to U.N. agencies, urgent health requirements include the provision of essential medicine, access to both health and trauma care, and distribution of chlorine water treatment tablets. Sanitary conditions are poor in schools where displaced persons have found shelter. Unsafe drinking water poses a number of health hazards. Displaced persons are confronting increasing challenges to obtaining food and other essential items. Infrastructure damage has severely disrupted the food supply chain, according to a U.N. World Food Program (WFP) assessment team in Beirut.

#### *Logistics*

- The destruction of infrastructure in southern Lebanon has greatly hampered humanitarian access to affected areas. The international community is working to establish a corridor for the safe transport of humanitarian goods and personnel throughout affected areas of Lebanon. According to a BBC news article published on July 21, Ambassador Dan Gillerman, Permanent Representative of Israel to the U.N., announced that a humanitarian corridor for food, medicine, and other commodities would open on July 21 or 22. WFP has established a Joint Logistics Center and developed a plan to facilitate the movement of relief commodities to affected areas in Lebanon.

#### *U.N. Response*

- Several U.N. agencies such as the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, the U.N. Children's Fund, and OCHA have sent teams to Lebanon. U.N. agencies are implementing the cluster approach, a system that standardizes lead agencies for designated sectors. The first formal health cluster meeting was scheduled to take place on July 21. As the logistics lead, WFP is coordinating logistics to support the humanitarian response. The U.N. plans to issue a Flash Appeal for Lebanon on July 24 to support humanitarian services for an initial period of three to six months.

### **USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

- Five USAID disaster relief experts will begin to arrive in the region in the coming days as part of a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART). Following initial humanitarian assessments, technical experts may deploy to the region to provide additional assistance. A Response Management Team has been activated to provide support from Washington, D.C.

**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. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for the complex emergency in Lebanon can be found at [www.interaction.org](http://www.interaction.org). Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Lebanon may be available at [www.reliefweb.org](http://www.reliefweb.org).
- 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](http://www.usaid.gov) – Keyword: Donations
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or (703) 276-1914
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)