



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SITUATION REPORT

Lebanon Humanitarian Emergency

USG Humanitarian Situation Report #7, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

August 2, 2006

Note: The last situation report was dated August 1, 2006.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On August 1, heavy exchanges of fire continued along the Blue Line, particularly in the central border village of Aita al-Shaab, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Ongoing conflict continues to restrict humanitarian access. The U.N. reports that multiple convoys have now been cancelled due to Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) operations near the destination areas. Many villages near the Israel-Lebanon border remain inaccessible.
- According to OCHA, cluster leads, or relief agencies with primary responsibility for one or more sectors, are currently working to prepare the Humanitarian Operational Plan for Lebanon based on five projected scenarios for the next two months: a continuation of hostilities, a humanitarian truce, a cessation of hostilities, a ceasefire, and an intensification of hostilities. Clusters will define priority activities and locations, target populations, and resource requirements under each scenario. According to OCHA, the operational plan is scheduled to be completed by August 5.
- According to international media reports, the Government of Israel (GOI) has pledged to allow emergency fuel supplies safe passage into Lebanon. On August 3, two tankers are scheduled to carry a total of 87,000 metric tons (MT) of gas and diesel fuel to ports in Lebanon to meet emergency fuel needs.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE - LEBANON		SOURCE
Dead	841	Government of Lebanon (GOL) – August 2, 2006
Injured	3,243	GOL - August 2, 2006
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	693,760 ¹	GOL - August 2, 2006
Displaced to Neighboring Countries	220,000	GOL - August 2, 2006
Total Displaced Population	913,760	GOL - August 2, 2006

Total U.S. Government (USG) Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Lebanon.....\$17,219,637
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Pledged to Lebanon\$30,000,000

CURRENT SITUATION

- Ongoing insecurity in Lebanon continues to prevent relief agencies from accurately assessing the growing number of people affected. As of August 2, the GOL Higher Relief Council (HRC) reported that 841 people have been killed and 3,243 people have been injured. HRC reports that 913,760 people, or one-fourth of Lebanon's population, have fled their homes. Most displaced are located in South Beirut, Tyre (Sur), Sidon (Saida), Chouf, and Aaley. Although an estimated 565,000 displaced persons are staying with relatives and friends, an estimated 128,000 are located in schools and public institutions in Lebanon, and 220,000 have fled to neighboring countries, including 150,000 to Syria.
- Residents of many villages in the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon's (UNIFIL) area of operations, along the Lebanon-Israel border, have fled from southern Lebanon to safer areas. In the 35 villages accessed to date, UNIFIL estimates that 75 to 80 percent of the population has fled. According to OCHA, less than 27,000 people remain in the 35 villages, out of an original population of more than 116,000. No information is yet available on other villages.
- The U.N. Development Program (UNDP) estimates that 30,000 people have independently fled the conflict area in southern Lebanon since July 31, according to OCHA. An estimated 10,000 IDPs arrived in Sidon, bringing the total IDP population to 120,000, and 300 arrived in Tyre, where there are now a total of 31,000 IDPs. Other IDPs have proceeded to Beirut and Rashaya.

Unsolicited Aid

- U.N. agencies are working with HRC to ensure that relief commodities arriving in Lebanon match identified needs. Unsolicited aid hinders the arrival of urgently needed supplies by blocking ports of entry, warehouse space, and overland distribution networks. Any organization providing in-kind donations should confirm needs with HRC prior to delivery. WHO reports that funds for local or regional procurement of essential medicines remain a priority over in-kind donations.
- The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Syria is working with HRC and national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies to verify needs prior to sending unsolicited shipments, currently stored in warehouses at the Syrian-Lebanese border. According to the Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM), ICRC headquarters has assigned a full time staff person to help match consignments already in Syria to urgent needs.

¹ This includes 128,760 sheltered in 761 schools and an estimated 565,000 sheltered with families, friends, churches, and mosques.

Humanitarian Needs and Response

- On August 1, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) worked with major international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) involved in food assistance to share current and planned activities, according to OCHA. WFP is currently preparing for a joint food assessment. To date, 1,400 MT, out of the projected 10,000 MT, have arrived in Lebanon.
- WHO is currently mobilizing staff to deploy to southern Lebanon to meet emergency health needs, according to OCHA. WHO is also preparing to open an emergency office in Cyprus to support the Cyprus Ministry of Health in managing the public health aspects of refugees and third country nationals arriving from Lebanon. WHO is also preparing a weekly mortality and morbidity summary, which will be widely disseminated to all health partners.
- On August 2, UNICEF, in coordination with the Ministry of Health and WHO, began a measles campaign in Beirut. National NGOs are working to immunize all children from 9 months to 15 years in 144 IDP locations in Beirut, according to WHO. Children from 9 months to 5 years will also receive Vitamin A, which helps to prevent night blindness and reduces morbidity among children with diarrheal problems.
- On August 1, ICRC reported that it has not been able to reach affected populations in Aytarun for nearly a week.
- ICRC has launched a website to help families locate missing family members at www.familylinks.icrc.org. People in the conflict area can register to announce that they are safe; family members can check the site for lists of names of individuals and their contact information; and families can register the names of those they are trying to find.

Emergency Relief Supplies

- U.N. convoys continue to deliver relief supplies to southern Lebanon. However, due to ongoing military operations, relief agencies continue to lack consistent, open access to affected populations. Certain areas, particularly those near the Israel–Lebanon border, remain entirely inaccessible.
- According to the USG Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), WFP has raised IDF cancellations of convoys to the south as a serious concern in delivering assistance to affected populations. On August 1, WFP cancelled two out of three scheduled U.N. convoys because IDF did not give concurrence for the convoys to proceed. The only approved convoy traveled to the southern village of Tebnin, delivering food commodities, 10,000 liters of drinking water, and water kits with soap and water purification tablets for 4,200 people. The Lebanese Red Cross is distributing the relief items to the surrounding villages, including Qana and Majdl Silm. WFP has rescheduled the convoys to Naqoura and Ramesh for August 3. Between July 30 and August 2, WFP had to cancel five convoys.
- On August 2, two U.N. convoys departed Beirut for Sidon (Saida) and Tyre (Sur) carrying food commodities, hygiene and sanitary products, water supplies, and medicines. Between July 26 and August 1, the U.N. successfully completed six convoys to affected areas in southern Lebanon.
- On August 1, USAID partner Mercy Corps delivered USG-donated blankets and tarps to affected populations in Aaley. In addition, Mercy Corps distributed USG-donated blankets and other relief commodities to an estimated 200 people in the southern city of Marjayoun. Distribution continues in both areas.

Refugees

- UNHCR/Damascus reports that all four crossings along the Syrian border remain open, although the number of refugees entering from the south has decreased to ongoing conflict. UNCHR is monitoring crossings at four border stations on the Lebanon/Syria border, according to State/PRM.

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. During a visit to the region, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice authorized \$30 million in immediate USG humanitarian assistance to persons affected by conflict in Lebanon.
- On July 23, a USG Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) arrived in the region to determine priorities for USG humanitarian assistance. A Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team is supporting the DART.
- On July 23, USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) began to pre-position humanitarian relief supplies, including 1,000 tarps, 20,000 blankets, and 10 emergency health kits in Cyprus, to support the needs of approximately 155,000 beneficiaries. From July 25 to 29, the U.S. Military transported these supplies to Beirut. The U.S. Embassy consigned health kits to ICRC, WHO, and the International Medical Corps for delivery to affected populations in Beirut and southern Lebanon. Mercy Corps is distributing the blankets and tarps.
- On July 26, USAID/OFDA provided \$7 million to support the U.N. Flash Appeal for Lebanon, including \$3.3 million to WFP and the U.N. Joint Logistics Center (UNJLC) for logistics, \$2.5 million to UNICEF for water and sanitation activities, and \$1.2 million to OCHA and OCHA's Humanitarian Information Center (HIC) for coordination.
- On July 31, USAID/OFDA provided \$3.3 million to Mercy Corps for water and sanitation services, psychosocial activities, and the distribution of food and emergency relief supplies.
- State/PRM has contributed \$3.4 million to ICRC's emergency appeal for Lebanon, and \$1 million to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and \$2 million to UNHCR in support of the U.N. Flash Appeal.
- In addition to evacuating more than 14,759 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. military personnel in the joint operating area are currently participating in the evacuation of U.S. citizens as well as humanitarian operations.

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON IN FY 2006¹

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Mercy Corps	Water and sanitation, psychosocial support, emergency relief supplies, and food	Beirut	\$3,369,250
WFP	Logistics	Affected areas	\$3,000,000
UNJLC	Logistics	Affected areas	\$300,000
UNICEF	Water and sanitation	Affected areas	\$2,500,000
OCHA	Coordination	Affected areas	\$1,000,000
OCHA/HIC	Coordination	Affected areas	\$200,000
Multiple	Emergency relief supplies, including transport	Affected areas	\$294,537
	DART administrative costs	Affected areas	\$143,850
ICRC	Emergency relief activities	Affected areas	\$3,412,000
IOM	Emergency relief activities	Affected areas	\$1,000,000
UNHCR	Emergency relief activities	Affected areas	\$2,000,000
TOTAL FY 2006 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON			\$17,219,637

¹USG funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 2, 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