



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SITUATION REPORT

Lebanon Humanitarian Emergency

USG Humanitarian Situation Report #15, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

August 10, 2006

Note: The last situation report was dated August 9, 2006.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On August 9, Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) air strikes inadvertently hit the Ein el-Hilweh Palestinian Refugee Camp near Sidon (Saida), killing 2 people and injuring 10 others, according to the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA). The Ein el-Hilweh camp is the largest of the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, providing shelter to approximately 45,700 people, although the current population has increased due to the influx of IDPs.
- According to UNRWA/Lebanon, UNRWA is currently providing shelter to more than 18,000 Lebanese internally displaced persons (IDPs) and Palestinian refugees who have recently fled insecure areas. UNRWA reports that the number of new arrivals has doubled in the past two weeks, and several hundred new IDPs are arriving daily.
- On August 9, the water and environmental sanitation cluster in Lebanon reported that affected populations are finding it increasingly difficult to access water in areas of southern Lebanon. Communities that use fuel-powered generators to operate wells are of particular concern, as fuel throughout Lebanon is in increasingly short supply, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
- As of August 9, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) had distributed drinking water, water purification tablets, hygiene kits, vaccines for polio and measles, and recreational kits for a total of 467,934 beneficiaries. UNICEF continues to urge communities to prioritize bottled water for the most vulnerable, including children and hospital patients. To date, UNICEF has received no reports of waterborne disease outbreaks, according to OCHA.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE - LEBANON		SOURCE
Dead	1,032	Government of Lebanon (GOL) - August 10, 2006
Injured	3,589	GOL - August 10, 2006
IDPs	695,762	GOL - August 10, 2006
Displaced to Neighboring Countries	220,000	GOL - August 10, 2006
Total Displaced Population	915,762	GOL - August 10, 2006

Total U.S. Government (USG) Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Lebanon.....\$22,067,801
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 number of people affected. As of August 9, the GOL Higher Relief Council (HRC) reported that 1,032 people have been killed and 3,589 people have been injured. HRC reports that 915,762 people, or one-fourth of Lebanon's population, have fled their homes. Most IDPs are located in South Beirut, Mount Lebanon, Chouf, and Aaley, and others are located in and around Bekaa (Al Biqa), Byblos, Kesrouane, and El Metn. Although some IDPs remain in the coastal cities of Tyre (Sur) and Sidon, few people remain in southern Lebanese villages, and many who initially moved to southern cities have now fled further north. HRC reports that an estimated 565,000 displaced persons are staying with relatives and friends, and 130,762 are located in 834 schools and public institutions throughout the country. An estimated 220,000 have fled to neighboring countries, including 180,000 to Syria. Since the conflict began on July 12, an estimated 6,900 private homes or apartments, 630 kilometers of roads, 73 bridges, and 29 key installations—including airports, ports, water and sewage treatment plants, and power plants—have been significantly damaged or destroyed, according to HRC.
- According to OCHA, local authorities estimate that 130,000 people remain in southern Lebanon, including residents and IDPs in the Tyre area, 40,000 Palestinians in the Tyre refugee camp, and 25,000 people living in areas near the Israel-Lebanon border, south of the Blue Line.

U.N. Coordination

- The U.N. World Food Program (WFP), in coordination with other U.N. agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), is working to develop a U.N. radio network to facilitate communication between relief agencies operating in Lebanon. As of August 10, WFP reported that the central and northern coastal regions have sufficient coverage; WFP is preparing an assessment in Tyre to extend the network to southern Lebanon.
- OCHA reports that the U.N. humanitarian coordination office in Tyre is providing maps and safety and security briefings to U.N. and NGO staff in the area.

Humanitarian Access

- Ongoing insecurity, and the resulting damage to roads and bridges, continues to restrict humanitarian access to affected populations. On August 9, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that emergency relief supply levels in Beirut have decreased due to delays in the arrival of convoys traveling from Aarida to Beirut. Damaged infrastructure and the subsequent increase in weight restrictions on alternate routes have forced convoys to carry fewer supplies.
- On August 10, the U.N. received concurrence from the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) for 1 convoy, out of a total of 11 planned, to travel to southern Lebanon. The approved convoy delivered water, food, hygiene kits and emergency relief supplies to Sidon.
- The U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and the U.N. Area Coordinator in Tyre continue to wait for IDF concurrence to repair the provisional bridge—destroyed during an August 7 air strike—connecting Tyre to Sidon. As a result, a shipment carrying food, ambulances, and medical supplies has been unable to travel from Sidon to Tyre, according to the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO).
- The U.N. Tyre office is working to pre-position relief goods in Tyre, through sea transport from Cyprus, to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance to affected populations in southern Lebanon. According to the USG Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), current north-south supply routes face challenges in delivering assistance to the south, including increasingly difficult road conditions and daily uncertainty over whether convoys will receive IDF permission to travel. The U.N. is considering establishing additional hubs in Sidon and Zahle to decentralize operations.

Health

- WHO continues to coordinate health activities via the U.N. health cluster meeting. In coordination with health partners, WHO is maintaining a matrix with details on relief agencies and activities in Lebanon, available at www.virtualhlc.org.
- On August 9, WHO reported that Young Men's Christian Organization (YMCA) delivered 2 months of medical supplies, including chronic disease medications, to dispensaries in Beirut, for approximately 40,000 beneficiaries. In addition, WHO provided chronic disease medications to the Ministry of Health for distribution. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is supplying medicines to health facilities in Jezzine, Nabatiye, and Jobb Jannine, as well as to dispensaries in El Qmatiye and Kaifoun.
- The GOL, the Government of Syria, and NGOs working in the health sector have approved the establishment of WHO's Early Warning and Disease Surveillance Systems, according to OCHA. Beginning the week of August 14, health partners will begin implementing the system simultaneously in Lebanon and Syria, according to WHO.

Food and Emergency Relief Supplies

- As the designated U.N. office for logistics in Lebanon, WFP is actively coordinating the delivery of appropriate relief commodities to affected populations throughout Lebanon. WFP is working to deliver as many emergency relief supplies as possible to southern Lebanon while also distributing food to IDPs staying in schools in Beirut. WFP plans to monitor the effectiveness of food distributions through NGO partners in Sidon, Tyre, Bekaa Valley, and Beirut.
- According to the DART, WFP is working to reach IDPs who are residing with host families and has begun contacting municipality authorities and NGOs to obtain this information.
- In order to pre-position supplies in multiple areas throughout Lebanon, WFP is working to expand the number of U.N. warehouses. The U.N. currently has warehouses in Beirut and Tyre but plans to establish warehouses in Tripoli and Aarida.

Environment

- On August 9, three oil spill experts, commissioned by the European Union, arrived in Beirut to provide technical support to the GOL Ministry of the Environment. The team has begun initial clean-up activities, including training of local staff, but insecurity could continue to prevent assessments of the coastline, according to OCHA.

Protection

- On August 9, WHO reported that UNIFIL has evacuated 175 civilians from Hulam, and provided medical assistance and water to Ibil al Saqy village.
- On August 9, a container holding leaflets dropped by an Israeli plane hit a gas station within the main UNRWA compound in downtown Beirut. The container failed to open in the air and caused considerable damage, although no staff were injured, according to UNRWA. UNRWA has cordoned off the area until demining experts can establish if there is an explosive charge in the container.

Refugees

- According to UNHCR, the number of daily arrivals crossing into Syria from Lebanon has decreased to approximately 10,000 per week. UNHCR has noted a reduction from 1,500 to 200 per day at some border crossings, particularly those near damaged roads. Approximately 70 percent of recent arrivals are reported to be women and children.
- As of August 9, UNRWA has registered a total of 3,484 Palestine refugees who have fled from Lebanon to Syria. Approximately 2,700 of these refugees are in Damascus. According to UNRWA, additional Palestine refugees may have arrived in Syria without registering.

- As of August 9, WFP had completed assessments of 80 percent of shelters for Lebanese populations in Damascus, Homs, and Tartuffe, according to the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration (State/PRM). Since August 6, WFP has distributed food on a daily basis to approximately 12,600 beneficiaries in Damascus. WFP has sufficient food supplies to meet the needs of 20,000 people for 3 months.
- MSF is providing medical and relief supplies, including cooking equipment, mattresses, stoves, and hygiene kits, to approximately 8,500 Lebanese in Damascus, Tartos, and Homs.

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 DART, led by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), arrived in the region to determine priorities for USG humanitarian assistance. A Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team is supporting the DART.
- USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA), via U.S. military transport, has provided 1,000 tarps, 20,000 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 approximately 235,000 beneficiaries in Beirut and southern Lebanon.
- 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 relief supplies.
- On August 3, USAID/OFDA provided \$2.8 million to CRS for water and sanitation services, psychosocial support, emergency shelter activities, and the distribution of food and relief supplies.
- On August 8, USAID/OFDA provided \$1.9 million to IMC for health services, psychosocial support, water and sanitation activities, and emergency relief supplies.
- State/PRM has contributed \$3.4 million to ICRC's emergency appeal for Lebanon, \$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 14,905 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>
Mercy Corps	Water and sanitation, psychosocial support, emergency relief supplies, and food	Beirut	\$3,369,250
Catholic Relief Services	Water and sanitation, psychosocial support, food, emergency shelter, and emergency relief supplies	Beirut	\$2,836,582
IMC	Water and sanitation, health, psychosocial support, and emergency relief supplies	Affected areas	\$1,913,457
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	\$392,662
	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			\$22,067,801

¹USG funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 10, 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