



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SITUATION REPORT

Lebanon Humanitarian Emergency

USG Humanitarian Situation Report #23, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

August 18, 2006

Note: The last situation report was dated August 17, 2006.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) is supporting Mercy Corps' emergency relief activities, including cash-for-work activities, in southern Lebanon. USAID/OFDA is currently procuring an additional 20,000 blankets and 2,000 tarps for Mercy Corps to distribute to affected populations.
- On August 18, USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) pledged to provide 1,000 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at more than \$600,000, in support of the U.N. World Food Program's (WFP) operations in Lebanon. USAID/FFP is re-programming 700 MT of wheat from ongoing operations in Jordan, and will transport 300 MT of lentils from pre-positioned stocks in Dubai.
- On August 18, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) provided an additional \$1.6 million to support relief efforts through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), bringing the total USG contribution to ICRC to more than \$5 million.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE - LEBANON		SOURCE
Dead	1,183	Government of Lebanon (GOL) - August 18, 2006
Injured	4,054	GOL - August 18, 2006
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	233,170	GOL - August 17, 2006
Displaced to Neighboring Countries	100,000	GOL - August 17, 2006
Total Displaced Population	333,170	GOL - August 17, 2006
Estimated Returns to Date	647,000	GOL - August 17, 2006

Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Lebanon.....\$27,573,240
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Pledged to Lebanon\$50,000,000

CURRENT SITUATION

- As of August 18, the GOL Higher Relief Council (HRC), reports that 1,183 Lebanese have been killed and approximately 4,054 injured. More than 980,000 Lebanese fled their homes at the height of emergency, but the HRC estimates that nearly 650,000 displaced persons have returned to their home areas since August 14. According to the HRC, 333,170 residents remain displaced, including 233,170 IDPs and approximately 100,000 refugees in neighboring countries. According to the USG Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), current figures represent rough estimates, as no relief organization or government agency is systematically monitoring population movements.

Returns

- The Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) continues to monitor border crossings along the Lebanon-Syria border 24 hours per day, providing transport and return packages to returnees in cooperation with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC). As of August 17, UNHCR estimates that 117,000 people have returned to Lebanon from Syria through both official and unofficial crossings. The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) reports that only 1,850 refugees remain in shelters in Damascus.
- According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), an estimated 200,000 IDPs have returned to the southern suburbs of Beirut, and 14,000 to 17,000 have returned to areas south of the Litani River. The HRC estimates that between 85 and 95 percent of the displaced have vacated IDP centers in Beirut and other areas.
- As of August 17, the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) reported that displaced persons had vacated most UNRWA schools, although the school in Ein el-Hilweh camp continues to host approximately 80 IDPs whose homes are located along the Lebanon-Israel border.
- The GOL has expressed its intention to open all schools in the country on schedule on October 1, so schools will not be available for housing should collective centers be needed in heavily damaged areas. According to Mercy Corps, the few IDPs remaining in collective centers in Aaley had moved in with host families by August 17. The centers have now been cleaned and closed to prepare for the resumption of classes. On August 16, Mercy Corps carried out door-to-door food distributions to reach IDPs and host families.
- On August 18, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported that it has established partnerships with 18 Lebanese non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to provide psychosocial assistance for the estimated 210,000 conflict-affected children. UNICEF continues to search for agencies to train teachers, social workers, and others on psychosocial support.

Damage Assessments

- Between August 15 and 17, Mercy Corps established an office in Nabatiye and conducted a rapid needs assessment in Nabatiye and Marjayoun districts. The assessments confirmed the need to repair bridges and roads to ensure continued mobility of people, trade, and humanitarian goods. Mercy Corps also reported that returning families will continue to need water, food, and hygiene kits until municipal water and sanitation services and market access are restored. Mercy Corps also identified the need for tarps and blankets to provide warmth and shelter while permanent dwellings are repaired. As of August 18, Mercy Corps has begun cash-for-work activities in Nabatiye and Marjayoun.
- On August 18, OCHA reported that a U.N. assessment mission visited 10 major population areas on routes between Jwayya, Tibnin, and Bent Jbail. OCHA reports that roads are mostly intact, with the exception of two large bomb craters close to Burj al Shmali. In Bent Jbail, an estimated 400 properties are destroyed, and 600 are significantly damaged. An estimated 8,000 to 10,000 IDPs continue to stay with host families, but only 300 remain in collective centers. According to OCHA, fuel remains an urgent need for generators, cooking, and water pumps.

Cash-For-Work

- On August 15, Mercy Corps began rapid-response cash-for-work programs in Nabatiye and Marjayoun districts. Cash-for-work provides an immediate injection of cash into recovering local markets and serves as a flexible resource for returning families to meet their basic needs. Mercy Corps is using local contractors to repair roads and bridges, replace windows and roofs on damaged buildings, and repair damage to water and sanitation infrastructure, with the goal of employing an estimated 2,000 members of returnee families. As of August 18, Mercy Corps had supplied fuel for reconstruction vehicles, rented backhoes and tractors, provided interim salaries for key laborers, and procured integral water and sanitation infrastructure items.
- Mercy Corps has made a commitment to the municipal authorities in Marjayoun and Nabatiye districts to refurbish all small roads and bridges destroyed by recent conflict in the two districts. Mercy Corps has finalized a contract for the repair of four road sites along the road from Jezzine to Nabatiye. Construction on these sites is due to begin on Monday, August 21, using cash-for-work to employ local laborers.
- In Nabatiye, Mercy Corps is renting a cistern to boost the municipality's destroyed water infrastructure, distributing water throughout heavily affected parts of the town. Mercy Corps has rented two trucks and is using cash-for-work to pay laborers to accompany the trucks throughout Nabatiye town to collect rubbish and clear rubble. On August 18, Mercy Corps delivered 8,316 liters of water to Nabatiye for the municipality to distribute to those in need.

Shelter

- According to the DART, UNHCR has convened a small working group, including international NGOs, ICRC, and OCHA, to finalize the U.N.'s shelter strategy. The working group and GOL representatives are scheduled to conduct a joint assessment of housing damage in the Tyre area on August 19 and 20, and in the Bekaa area on August 21 and 22. UNHCR expects to finalize the strategy shortly after assessments are completed.
- According to the DART, it is unclear how the GOL housing plans or statements made by Hezbollah will factor into the housing reconstruction effort. After the Israeli withdrawal from the south in 2000, the GOL provided \$20,000 to each family with a destroyed house and \$8,000 to those whose homes were partially destroyed. In recent days, Hezbollah announced plans to provide a year's rent for those who lost homes, in addition to financial support for reconstruction.

Health and Nutrition

- On August 17, a U.N. helicopter delivered medical supplies from Nicosia, Cyprus, to the hospital at Naquora. To support the large number of returning Lebanese, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) is sending more than 120 trauma kits and equipment for at least 120,000 operations to the hospital in Marjayoun, according to OCHA.
- UNRWA reports that morgues in some hospitals in southern Lebanon are struggling to manage the increasing number of bodies recovered from buildings as clearance work continues.
- OCHA reports that assessments are underway in Tyre and the Bekaa Valley, focusing on nutrition, immunization systems, and the public health care system.

Food and Emergency Relief Supplies

- On August 18, the U.N. dispatched four convoys to Marjayoun, Saida/Naquora, Masnaa, and Beirut/Tyre. The convoys are scheduled to deliver supplies for WFP, WHO, UNHCR, and UNFPA.
- Between August 15 and 17, Mercy Corps provided food rations, water, hygiene kits, blankets, and plastic sheeting to more than 30,000 beneficiaries in Nabatiye and Marjayoun, including 3,000 beneficiaries in Klayaat, a town in which more than 90 percent of infrastructure was destroyed.
- As a result of population movements, WFP reports that food aid deliveries at collective centers and schools in Beirut are no longer required. WFP reports that surplus food commodities received in Syria will be dispatched to Lebanon for distribution.
- As of August 18, WFP has provided a total of 1,815 MT of food commodities—including wheat flour, canned meat, pasta, lentils, vegetable oil, and high-energy biscuits—to approximately 327,300 people. WFP aims to provide food to

an estimated 550,000 people total. On August 18 and 19, WFP is scheduled to begin distributions of full food rations in the southern suburbs of Beirut for the most vulnerable residents who have lost their homes.

- UNHCR reports that tents and blankets are priority needs for returnees to southern Lebanon. On August 17, the Royal Jordanian Air Force and the Belgian Air Force transported more than 200 tents, 9,000 blankets, 2,000 plastic sheets, and a warehouse to Beirut. A French ship delivered five trucks, 100 rolls of plastic sheeting, 15,000 water containers, 30,000 blankets, and 5,000 kitchen sets. UNHCR is transferring supplies from Beirut to Tyre for distribution to affected populations. On August 18, U.N. convoys transported 8,100 blankets, 289 tents, 852 mattresses, and 240 kitchen sets to Tyre. The U.N. transported 821 tents from Beirut to Sidon, where UNHCR is also establishing warehouse facilities.

Logistics

- On August 17, the U.N. Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) approved roads in Masnaa, Nabatiyeh, and Marjayoun for humanitarian movement. On August 18, relief personnel and supplies were able to travel into Lebanon via the Yabous–Masnaa crossing, the fastest route between Damascus and Beirut. OCHA reports that access into Lebanon from Syria is improving daily.
- On August 17, U.N.-sponsored *M/V Vittoria* passenger catamaran service began, transporting approximately 40 passengers from Larnaca to Beirut. The next sailing is scheduled for August 21.

Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) and Landmines

- On August 17, the DART discussed ongoing mine and UXO clearance efforts with staff from the Mine Action Coordination Centre in Southern Lebanon (MACC-SL), established in 2002 by the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in collaboration with Lebanon's National Demining Office and the Government of the United Arab Emirates.
- MACC-SL currently has only one implementing partner—the U.K. NGO the Mines Advisory Group (MAG). Four MAG explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) teams are currently conducting intensive clearance efforts in Nabatiye and Tyre, and will expand operations to outlying villages after high-priority clearance tasks are completed in the cities. MACC-SL expects to receive two more EOD teams from Sweden on August 19. Thirteen more teams—five EOD, five battle area clearance, and three technical survey—are scheduled to arrive within the coming days.
- MAG reports that the UXO contamination in Lebanon is of greater scale than that of post-war Iraq in 2003. According to MACC-SL, the number of cluster bombs used in the last two weeks of the conflict increased the magnitude of the problem. MACC-SL estimates that approximately \$4 million will be needed for demining activities and will include this amount in the revised U.N. flash appeal.

Protection

- OCHA reports that public awareness materials are being distributed to television stations to help identify signs of stress among children and reinforce messages about the effects of exposure to violence. UNICEF continues to distribute UXO awareness materials to returnees.
- InterSOS, in partnership with the Al Mabarrat Association, is developing child-friendly spaces for IDP centers in Bekaa, Beirut, and southern Lebanon.
- According to the DART, the protection cluster is preparing to conduct an assessment of protection needs for both returnees and those IDPs who may not immediately return home. The Ministry of Social Affairs noted that its 15 social centers in the south are still operational and can be used as a platform for collecting such information.

Environment

- On August 16, the U.N. Environment Program and the International Maritime Organization held a meeting in Athens to develop an action plan to respond to the oil spill. The Lebanese Minister of the Environment, OCHA, and the European Union were in attendance. OCHA reported that donors have pledged \$64 million in assistance to clean up the spill.

Refugees

- UNHCR estimates that 43,000 to 63,000 refugees remain in Syria. Based on the current rate of returns, the Government of Syria anticipates that no more than 600 Lebanese refugees may remain in Syria.
- UNICEF is establishing nine child-friendly spaces at sites in Syria where Lebanese refugees are still located. Syrian Ministry of Health clinics near the Syria-Lebanon border have dispatched 60 mobile teams to provide health services to Lebanese returnees.

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. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has authorized \$50 million in USG humanitarian assistance to persons affected by conflict in Lebanon.
- On July 23, a USG DART, led by 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/OFDA, via U.S. military and ICRC 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 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 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 and information management.
- On July 31, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$3.4 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 Catholic Relief Services (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 International Medical Corps (IMC) for health services, psychosocial support, water and sanitation activities, and emergency relief supplies.
- On August 16, USAID/OFDA provided \$1.2 million to World Vision for water and sanitation services and the distribution of emergency relief supplies.
- On August 17, USAID/OFDA provided \$25,916 to Church World Service (CWS) to provide security sector training to NGO relief agencies.
- USAID/OFDA has released an Annual Program Statement (APS) soliciting proposals to address emergency needs in Lebanon. The APS is available at <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppId=10638&mode=VIEW>.
- On August 18, USAID/FFP pledged to provide 1,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at more than \$600,000, in support of WFP operations in Lebanon.
- State/PRM has contributed more than \$5 million to ICRC's emergency appeal for Lebanon and has provided \$5 million to the U.N. Flash Appeal, including \$2 million to UNHCR, \$2 million to UNRWA, and \$1 million to IOM.
- 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	\$2,836,582
CWS	Security sector training	Jordan	\$25,916
Mercy Corps	Water and sanitation, nutrition, emergency relief supplies, health, and food security and agriculture	Mt. Lebanon, South Lebanon, Nabatiye	\$3,369,250
IMC	Water and sanitation, health, psychosocial support, and emergency relief supplies	Mt. Lebanon, Beirut, Nabatiye, South Lebanon	\$1,913,457
World Vision	Water and sanitation and emergency relief supplies	North Lebanon, Mt. Lebanon, Bekaa, Beirut	\$1,265,623
WFP	Logistics and coordination	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
UNJLC	Logistics	Countrywide	\$300,000
UNICEF	Coordination and water and sanitation	Countrywide	\$2,500,000
OCHA	Coordination	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
OCHA/HIC	Information management	Countrywide	\$200,000
Multiple	Emergency relief supplies, including transport	Affected areas	\$394,162
Multiple	DART administrative costs	Affected areas	\$143,850
WFP	1,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Affected areas	\$612,400
ICRC	Protection, food, health, and water and sanitation	Countrywide	\$5,012,000
IOM	Evacuation of third-country nationals	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
UNHCR	Protection, shelter, and emergency relief supplies	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
UNRWA	Food, health, and emergency relief supplies	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
TOTAL FY 2006 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON			\$27,573,240

¹ USG funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 18, 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