



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SITUATION REPORT

Lebanon Humanitarian Emergency

USG Humanitarian Situation Report #29, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

August 28, 2006

Note: The last situation report was dated August 25, 2006.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Humanitarian agencies are working closely with the Government of Lebanon (GOL) to prepare for the August 31 Donors' Conference in Stockholm, which will focus on emergency and early recovery needs. According to the USG Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), during the past week, aid organizations in Lebanon have begun transitioning operations to southern Lebanon due to improved security and greater access to affected areas.
- On August 27, the U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) donated additional relief commodities to the Lebanon relief effort. USG partner Mercy Corps will distribute the nearly 20,000 blankets and 2,000 tarps to affected populations in Lebanon. To date, the USG has provided relief commodities, valued at more than \$560,000 including transport, to serve the needs of nearly 300,000 Lebanese.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE - LEBANON		SOURCE
Dead	1,187	GOL - August 28, 2006
Injured	4,067	GOL - August 28, 2006
Total Displaced Population	255,986	GOL - August 28, 2006
Estimated Returns to Date	718,198	GOL - August 28, 2006

Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Lebanon..... \$47,965,448
Total USG Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance Pledged to Lebanon \$230,000,000

CURRENT SITUATION

- As of August 25, the GOL Higher Relief Council (HRC) reports that 1,187 Lebanese have been killed and approximately 4,067 injured. More than 980,000 Lebanese fled their homes at the height of emergency, but the HRC estimates that 718,198 displaced persons have returned to their home areas since August 14. According to the HRC, most of the remaining 255,986 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees are staying with host families.

Returns

- On August 23, USG partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS) conducted a needs assessment of the newly-opened IDP center at the Sidon (Saida) Court House. According to CRS, 40 families—approximately 200 people—have moved to the center from villages in the Bent Jbail area. According to CRS, four to five families are arriving at the center each day and are being housed in a nearby municipal facility. The municipality and a local organization are providing assistance to the IDPs.

Water and Sanitation

- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) report that sufficient water is available in wells in affected areas, according to the DART. However, much of southern Lebanon still lacks electricity to pump the water due to the damaged power grid. NGOs report that power is likely to remain intermittent for some time, due to infrastructure damage.

Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) and Landmines

- On August 28, the U.N. Mine Action Service (UNMAS) reported that teams have surveyed approximately 80 percent of southern Lebanon and have identified 359 cluster bomb strike locations and 200 unexploded aircraft bombs to date, according to the DART. According to UNMAS, demining teams have destroyed 2,000 individual mines.
- Approximately 5 NGO and 40 Lebanese Armed Forces UXO disposal teams are on the ground, and an additional 100 personnel are scheduled to arrive by September 1, according to UNMAS. As of August 26, UNMAS reports that UXO have killed 8 civilians and injured 38 others since the August 14 ceasefire.

Food, Water, and Emergency Relief Supplies

- On August 26, Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) distributed blankets, tents, plastic sheets, jerry cans, kitchen sets, mattresses, and cooking stoves to villages in Nabatiye District. UNHCR also provided blankets, mattresses, tents, kitchen sets, plastic sheets, and jerry cans to seven municipalities in the Sidon area, as well as emergency relief supplies to 290 IDPs in the city of Sidon.
- The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) is supporting the Beirut and Mount Lebanon Water Authorities to repair water supply facilities in Sidon and Ayta Al Jabbal, with approximately 95,000 inhabitants using these water supply systems, according to OCHA.
- On August 25, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) reported that it signed its first agreement with bakeries to provide bread in the southern suburbs of Beirut. To date, WFP has signed agreements with five bakeries to provide bread in

southern Lebanon. Due to the blockade and resulting wheat shortage, WFP is providing the GOL with 12,500 metric tons (MT) of wheat to distribute to bakeries for bread production.

Health

- On August 28, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) reported that the recent immunization campaign in Greater Beirut and Sidon vaccinated approximately 20,900 children against measles and 8,400 against polio. The GOL Ministry of Health (MOH), WHO, and UNICEF conducted the campaign in conjunction with NGO partners.
- On August 26, the MOH and WHO launched the Early Warning and Response System (EWARS) in Nabatiye, according to WHO. EWARS will provide information on potential disease outbreaks in affected areas.

Logistics

- On September 4, WFP is scheduled to stop passenger service via the *M/V Vittoria* for humanitarian personnel between Larnaca, Cyprus, and Beirut. Maritime passenger service is no longer needed due to increased commercial air options.

Livelihoods

- According to the U.N. Development Program (UNDP), the recent conflict resulted in the damage of ports and the destruction of fishermen's assets, destroying the livelihoods of approximately 3,500 fishermen. A shutdown of the fishing sector has had a significant multiplier affect on coastal communities due to the impact on people working in related services such as retail business, transportation, netting, and boat mechanics.

USG Partner Updates

- The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which is receiving more than \$13.5 million in USG resources, is working to repair generators, reservoirs, and pumps; in Tyre (Sur) and Marjayoun, ICRC's local partners are working on repairs to water mains in conjunction with district water authorities. Mercy Corps has contracted for minor repairs in Marjayoun and Nabatiye, and International Medical Corps (IMC) is repairing wells in Bent Jbail and Marjayoun.
- On August 24, a Mercy Corps team conducted a rapid assessment in Baalbek District. According to Mercy Corps, local authorities noted the following urgent needs: the restoration of water services, the provision of food and relief supplies for IDPs, emergency shelter, repairs to schools, assistance to families who can no longer afford to send their children to schools, and livelihoods assistance to shop owners whose shops were damaged or destroyed and to farmers who lost crops and animals. On August 25, in cooperation with a local agency and municipal authorities, Mercy Corps delivered food rations and hygiene kits for 2,500 beneficiaries in Iaat and surrounding towns. On August 26, Mercy Corps replaced a damaged water pump in Baalbek, providing water delivery capacity of 150 cubic meters/hour.
- Between August 26 and 27, Mercy Corps continued to deliver drinking water, food rations, and diapers to villages in Baalbek, Nabatiye, and Marjayoun districts, supplying 6,750 liters of bottled drinking water, 383 boxes of diapers, and food rations for more than 17,000 beneficiaries in 10 villages in Nabatiye and Marjayoun districts, and hygiene kits, food boxes, and blankets to nearly 4,000 beneficiaries in Baalbek. From August 26 to 27, IMC delivered more than 300 hygiene kits to Bent Jbail district and arranged for the provision of fuel for water pumping in the district. On August 28, IMC is scheduled to begin daily delivery of 100 to 200 water tanks to affected villages.
- On August 27, CRS began community infrastructure projects, including cleaning and minor repairs to a public school in Sidon that had hosted IDPs. CRS teams have also conducted assessments to gauge the potential for community infrastructure projects in Jezzine and Sidon municipalities.

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, a USG DART, led by USAID, arrived in the region to prioritize USG assistance. A Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team is supporting the DART.
- 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 ICRC, WHO, IMC, and Mercy Corps for delivery to nearly 300,000 beneficiaries in Beirut and southern Lebanon.
- USAID/OFDA has provided \$7 million to support the U.N. Flash Appeal for Lebanon to WFP and the U.N. Joint Logistics Center (UNJLC) for logistics and coordination, UNICEF for water and sanitation activities, and OCHA and OCHA/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 and 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 provided \$9.4 million to Mercy Corps, CRS, IMC, and World Vision for water and sanitation services, health services, psychosocial support, emergency shelter activities, and the distribution of food and relief

supplies. USAID/OFDA has also provided nearly \$26,000 to Church World Service (CWS) for security training for relief NGOs.

- 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>.
- USAID's Office of Food for Peace is providing 1,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at nearly \$625,000, in support of WFP operations in Lebanon.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has provided 25,000 MT of hard red winter wheat to the GOL. Valued at \$9.2 million including transport, the wheat contribution is part of USDA's Food for Progress program.
- 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 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>
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 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	Mt. Lebanon, Beirut, Nabatiye, South Lebanon	\$1,913,457
IOM	Evacuation of third-country nationals	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
Mercy Corps	Water and sanitation, nutrition, emergency relief supplies, health, food security and agriculture, and cash for work activities	Mt. Lebanon, South Lebanon, Nabatiye, Bekaa, Beirut	\$3,369,250
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	\$1,265,623
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	\$561,502
Multiple	DART administrative costs	Affected areas	\$156,318
TOTAL FY 2006 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON			\$47,965,448

¹USG funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 28, 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