



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SITUATION REPORT

Lebanon Humanitarian Emergency

USG Humanitarian Situation Report #34, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

September 5, 2006

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

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- In a meeting with the USG Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), U.K. Department for International Development (DFID) staff reported visiting most of the affected areas in the south, with the exception of Naqoura, and confirmed that recovery is proceeding rapidly. According to DFID, widespread vulnerability is not present, although pockets of needs remain, particularly in smaller towns and villages. In discussions about repairs to infrastructure, DFID remarked that temporary bridges are not necessary, as diversions have been created around downed bridges and solid replacements are already in place.
- The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is currently conducting a comprehensive assessment of all villages—approximately 200—south of the Litani River. The assessment teams, including experts in economic security, water and sanitation, health, and protection, will visit both standing and destroyed villages. During the visits, team members are distributing food packets and kitchen and hygiene kits to those in need.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE – LEBANON		SOURCE
Dead	1,187	Government of Lebanon (GOL) – September 5, 2006
Injured	4,398	GOL – September 5, 2006
Total Displaced Population	255,794	GOL – September 5, 2006
Estimated Returns to Date	718,390	GOL – September 5, 2006

Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Lebanon..... \$55,101,808
Total USG Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance Pledged to Lebanon \$230,000,000

CURRENT SITUATION

- As of September 5, the GOL Higher Relief Council (HRC) reports that 1,187 Lebanese have been killed and approximately 4,398 injured. Nearly 975,000 Lebanese fled their homes at the height of emergency, but the HRC estimates that 718,390 displaced persons have returned to their home areas since August 14. Most of the remaining 255,794 internally displaced persons (IDPs) are staying with host families.

Remaining Displaced Populations

- According to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), although a recent joint U.N. needs assessment indicated that only 130 Lebanese civilians remain in Syria, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) reported that approximately 3,000 Lebanese persons of concern (POCs) remain in the country. SARC plans to assist these POCs.

Livelihoods

- From August 18 to 24, Save the Children conducted a rapid livelihoods assessment in parts of southern Lebanon, covering much of Tyre (Sur) and Bent Jbail districts. According to the assessment team, the timing of the conflict is significant for livelihoods, as the harvesting period for tobacco—a primary source of income for many residents—was disrupted. In addition, July to August was traditionally the peak season for the return of overseas Lebanese, who normally swell village populations by up to 50 percent from June through September and stimulate the local economy. The teams reported that there is a strong economic capacity to cope with the damage. The team recommended that two of the main interventions to restore livelihoods would be the reconstruction of homes and businesses and the clearance of mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO). The team also recommended that compensation be paid to cover economic damage from the conflict, such as lost tobacco harvest or damaged capital equipment for businesses.

Health

- On September 1, DART members attended the weekly health cluster meeting, chaired by the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO). As noted in previous meetings, WHO reminded participants that there is no need for additional medicine. In addition, WHO advised that all health interventions must be in accordance with GOL regulations and the GOL's Ministry of Health (MOH) health protocols; health organizations should submit a short description of activities and areas of operation to the Ministry of Social Affairs/Handicap International database. The recently established humanitarian hub and weekly health cluster meetings in Tyre present an opportunity to address many of the coordination issues raised.

Logistics

- On September 4, a Qatar Airways flight landed at the Beirut International Airport; this was the first flight that arrived in Lebanon without passing through Amman, Jordan, according to WFP.
- The WFP-contracted *M/V Vittoria* discontinued passenger service between Cyprus and Beirut for U.N., non-governmental organization (NGO), and donor personnel on September 4.
- According to the U.N. Relief Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), on September 4, the U.N. Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) changed the U.N.'s security level to Phase III in areas north of the Litani River. For areas south of the Litani River, Phase IV will remain in effect, restricting international staff to those involved in emergency or humanitarian relief operations.

Water and Sanitation

- On September 5, WHO reported providing one metric ton (MT) of chlorine for the Tyre water pumping station, as well as 200 kg for the Wadi Gilo pumping station that supplies water to the village of Yanouh, which reported several cases of diarrhea on the week of August 28, although WHO confirmed that the cases did not represent a significant increase from the normal seasonal trend.
- WHO is scheduled to provide rapid water testing kits for Tyre, Marjayoun, Bent Jbail, Nabatiye, and Hasbaiya districts. WHO, in coordination with the MOH, is establishing regional laboratories for water testing in the south. In addition, WHO provided two water purification systems and related training to the Nabatiye and Tyre government hospitals.

Food and Emergency Relief Supplies

- The Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has begun delivering blankets, sheets, mattresses, kitchen sets, diapers, and soap to 900 families in the Beirut neighborhoods of Borj al Barajneh, Chiah, and Hay el Sellom.

UXO

- According to the DART, the presence of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and mines continues to be the most significant security concern in conflict-affected areas of Lebanon. The U.N. Mine Action Service (UNMAS) reported that 405 cluster bomb strike locations have been identified as of September 2. Teams have destroyed 3,000 individual cluster sub-munitions, although UNMAS estimates that many more have been destroyed by the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) and the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

USG Partner Updates

- On September 1, Mercy Corps completed road repair work on four sites along the Jezzine–Marjayoun road, following 14 days of work on the sites by a team of laborers. The road passes through 13 towns and villages, and serves an estimated 10,000 travelers every month.
- From approximately September 1 to 4, Mercy Corps conducted an informal assessment of the impact of the conflict on crops and livestock in the Baalbek area. During the conflict, many vegetable and fodder farmers were unable to care for their crops in the important agricultural area, resulting in disease, spoilage, and low yields. Farmers report that stress to young fruit trees could delay some production by up to two years. In addition, dairy farmers report that many cows have stopped producing milk, as farmers were unable to feed or milk their cows during the conflict.
- From September 1 to 4, Mercy Corps delivered 6,750 liters of bottled water, food rations for 17,103 beneficiaries, and 383 boxes of diapers to villages in Nabatiye and Marjayoun districts, as well as hygiene kits, food boxes, and blankets to 3,925 beneficiaries in Baalbek District.
- On September 4, World Vision, in coordination with municipality officials, conducted a water and sanitation assessment of 8 villages in Bent Jbail District and 27 villages in Marjayoun District. In the Marjayoun villages, the assessment team reported the need for 4,803 household water tanks and 12 generators. In the Bent Jbail villages, the teams identified the need for 2,203 household water tanks and 5 generators. The team noted difficulty in accessing some areas of Bent Jbeil District and will make additional attempts to reach these villages.
- In Marjayoun District, World Vision provided household water containers, hygiene kits, water purification tablets, and jerry cans to 10 villages. In addition, World Vision continues to provide 4,000 liters of water to 400 families every week.
- On September 4, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) began a five-day youth summer camp in Jezzine District for 150 children and youth. Camp activities will focus on addressing psychosocial conflict trauma with younger children as well as on providing activities on youth leadership and conflict transformation.

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 the U.S. Agency for International Development, arrived in the region to prioritize USG assistance. A Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team is supporting the DART.

- To date, USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (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, International Medical Corps (IMC), and Mercy Corps for delivery to nearly 300,000 beneficiaries in Beirut and southern Lebanon. Total USG-donated commodities are valued at more than \$590,000, including transport.
- 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's Humanitarian Information Center (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 UNRWA for protection, shelter, and emergency relief supplies, to 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 \$16.6 million to CRS, CHF International, IMC, International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), Mercy Corps, and World Vision for water and sanitation services, health services, psychosocial support, emergency shelter activities, the distribution of food and relief supplies, infrastructure rehabilitation, and/or cash-for-work activities. USAID/OFDA has also provided nearly \$26,000 to Church World Service (CWS) for security training for relief NGOs.
- The USG is providing nearly \$10 million in wheat flour, wheat, and lentil commodities. USAID's Office of Food for Peace is providing 1,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance to support WFP operations. Through the Food for Progress program, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is providing 25,000 MT of wheat to the GOL.
- 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	\$3,436,150
CHF International	Water and sanitation, psychosocial support, and emergency relief supplies	North Lebanon, Bekaa, Mt. Lebanon, Beirut, South Lebanon, Nabatiye	\$2,665,969
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	\$2,113,457
IOM	Evacuation of third-country nationals	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
IOCC	Water and sanitation, health, psychosocial support, infrastructure rehabilitation, emergency relief supplies, and cash for work activities	South Lebanon, Nabatiye	\$1,999,427
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	\$4,869,250
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	\$1,563,584
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	\$591,255
Multiple	DART administrative costs	Affected areas	\$156,318
TOTAL FY 2006 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON			\$55,101,808

¹USG funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 5, 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