



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SITUATION REPORT

Lebanon Humanitarian Emergency

USG Humanitarian Situation Report #36, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

September 7, 2006

Note: The last situation report was dated September 6, 2006.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On September 6, the Government of Israel announced the end of the air and sea blockade imposed on Lebanon since July 13. The blockade ended at 1800 local time on September 7. A Middle East Airlines flight directly from Paris arrived in Beirut immediately after the blockade officially ended, indicating the resumption of airline traffic, according to international media reports. Italian, Greek, British, and French forces will assume control from the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) over key positions until German naval forces arrive in approximately two weeks. On September 7, German border and customs experts will help secure the Beirut International Airport, according to international media reports.
- On September 7, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) noted that the end of the sea and airport blockade will likely result in congestion in Lebanon's ports and airports due to the arrival of commercial traffic. According to WFP, 60,000 containers were already waiting for the lifting of the blockade to enter the country. The congestion may result in problems in loading humanitarian cargo for relief agencies. According to WFP, agencies are currently discussing the future role and requirements for the logistics cluster in Lebanon given the end of the blockade and the resumption of normal commercial traffic into Lebanon.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE – LEBANON		SOURCE
Dead	1,187	Government of Lebanon (GOL) – September 7, 2006
Injured	4,399	GOL – September 7, 2006
Total Displaced Population	255,544	GOL – September 7, 2006
Estimated Returns to Date	718,390	GOL – September 7, 2006

Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Lebanon..... \$55,350,133

Total USG Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance Pledged to Lebanon \$230,000,000

CURRENT SITUATION

- As of September 7, the GOL's Higher Relief Council (HRC) reports that 1,187 Lebanese have been killed and approximately 4,399 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 255,544 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees are staying with host families.

USG Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) Activities

- On September 6, the DART traveled to affected areas of Sidon (Saida) and Jezzine to monitor the progress of USG-funded activities. The team visited a school in Sidon that hosted up to 120 different IDPs at various times during the conflict and was rehabilitated by a USG partner after the IDPs' departure. Some of the IDPs that were staying at the school and have yet to return to their homes have now moved to the courthouse in Sidon. The school is now operational and expected to open on October 16, the beginning of the school year.
- The DART also visited a summer camp for children in Jezzine managed by a USG implementing partner. The camp, ordinarily a boarding school for vocational students, now hosts children from conflict-affected villages throughout the south and along the border area. The Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) provided tents, mattresses, blankets, and kitchen sets for the camp. Children are participating in psychological, social, conflict resolution, peace-building, and mine awareness activities.

Assessments

- On September 6, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) conducted an assessment of Yaroun, Bent Jbail District. The team reported that the main concern in the village is the lack of electricity supply, which may not be restored for approximately two months. According to the team, residents need household generators to draw water from rainwater cisterns.
- On September 7, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) conducted assessments in the villages of Maroun er Ras, Aainata, and Kounine in Bent Jbail District. The main concern for the villages is the lack of safe water for drinking and washing due to damaged pipelines. Villages residents are relying on water tank and cistern distribution. In Aainata, the UNICEF team noted that 1,500 out of 8,600 residents have returned to the village, with some staying in the mosque and others with host families.

- A UNICEF assessment in Bent Jbail town found 800 houses destroyed, 800 partially damaged, and 300 heavily damaged but repairable. In addition, schools, health centers, and civilian infrastructure were destroyed. UNICEF reported that 2,500 residents—out of a population of 7,000—have returned to the town.
- OCHA completed assessments in Khirbit Silim in Bent Jbail District and Qabrikha, Toulina, and Majdel Silim in Marjayoun District. In Khirbit Silim, the assessment team reported that approximately 90 percent of residents now have electricity for up to 12 hours per day, and 50 percent have access to water. The teams reported that the presence of unexploded ordnance (UXO) remains a significant problem.
- In Qabrikha, the OCHA team reported up to 100 homes destroyed and 75 damaged out of 480 homes. According to the team, there is still no electricity available in the village and the community is relying on water tank distribution and bottled water. A primary health care center damaged during the conflict remains closed.
- In Toulina, OCHA reported no electricity was available in the village, but that power is expected to be restored by September 10. Norwegian Church Aid has provided seven generators, used primarily to power water pumps. A primary health care center in the village operates two to three days a week due to staff shortages and lack of medicines. Three minor injuries have resulted from UXO, which remains scattered in the area.
- In Majdel Silim, the assessment team reported 200 houses destroyed and 300 to 400 damaged out of 700 homes. According to the team, electricity has not been restored to the village and municipal officials have requested generators to power water pumps. The team reported that UXO is scattered throughout the town.
- On September 4, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) conducted an assessment of Markaba village in Marjayoun District. The team reported that the lack of water remained the most urgent problem, as the conflict destroyed the central water tank and pumps. According to the team, the public school and village clinic are damaged and not functional, and UXO remains a significant problem for returnees. Municipal officials reported that of the 10,000 village residents, only 1,000 residents had returned to their homes, as most returnees are sheltering with family or friends. Officials identified a number of immediate needs for the village, including water trucking, household water tanks, generators, debris removal, tents, and hygiene kits. IOM has provided tents, emergency relief supplies, food, and water to Markaba residents.

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 International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), U.N. World Health Organization (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 the U.N. Relief 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 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 Catholic Relief Services (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	Nabatiye, South Lebanon, South Beirut, Baalbek	\$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	\$4,868,111
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	\$590,271
Multiple	DART administrative costs	Affected areas	\$250,448
TOTAL FY 2006 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON			\$55,350,133

¹ USG funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 7, 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