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**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**  
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)  
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)

## ***Lebanon – Complex Emergency***

Information Bulletin #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

July 22, 2006

*NOTE: The last information bulletin was dated July 21, 2006.*

### **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- According to international media sources, more than 25,000 people have evacuated from Lebanon to Cyprus as of July 22. The large influx of people into Cyprus, and the corresponding need for adequate shelter, food, social services, and outbound transportation, is straining the island's infrastructure.
- A USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) will be operational on July 23. U.S. government (USG) logistics specialists are currently working to procure and pre-position humanitarian relief supplies.

<b>NUMBERS AT A GLANCE - LEBANON</b>		<b>SOURCE</b>
<b>Total Affected Population</b>	600,000	U.N. World Health Organization - July 22, 2006
<b>Total Number Displaced to Syria</b>	150,000	U.N. World Health Organization - July 22, 2006
<b>Total Number Dead</b>	350	U.N. World Health Organization - July 22, 2006
<b>Total Number Injured</b>	1,000	U.N. World Health Organization - July 22, 2006

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

- Conflict began between the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) and Hezbollah on July 12. Continuing insecurity within Lebanon is preventing humanitarian agencies from accurately assessing the number of people affected. Of particular concern to the humanitarian community is the large number of displacements. According to the United Nations (U.N.) World Health Organization (WHO), the estimated number of displaced people has increased to 600,000, of whom 150,000 have reportedly crossed the Syrian border. Approximately 95,000 people have taken shelter in schools.

#### *Access*

- According to the U.N. Emergency Relief Coordinator Jan Egeland, the most serious humanitarian problem is the lack of humanitarian access in affected areas. Due to destruction of infrastructure and ongoing insecurity, movement in Beirut is difficult, and southern Lebanon continues to be nearly inaccessible. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is working with the IDF to negotiate safe passage of humanitarian personnel and relief supplies. According to ICRC reports, a convoy of 24 tons of food and other items arrived in Tyre from Beirut on July 21.

#### *Health*

- Three main hospitals in southern suburbs of Beirut, as well as the majority of primary health centers in other affected areas, are not operational, according to WHO. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working with affected persons have reported a shortage of medication for chronic conditions. In shelters for displaced persons, cases of diarrhea have been reported.

#### *Evacuations*

- According to local media reports on July 22, the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon announced plans to evacuate civilians from the Lebanese-Israeli border in the coming days. The evacuation will be contingent on the security situation on the ground and will likely take time, given the possible number of evacuees.

### **USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

- A USAID DART, composed of disaster relief experts, will be operational in the region on July 23. The DART will perform humanitarian assessments to determine which technical experts will deploy to the region and how the USG may best assist affected populations. A Washington, D.C.-based USAID Response Management Team (RMT) has been activated to provide daily support to the DART.
- Members of the RMT and other USG logistics specialists are working to procure and pre-position humanitarian relief supplies, including tarps, blankets, and emergency health kits. The RMT is working to expedite the distribution of commodities to humanitarian organizations in affected areas.
- On July 21, representatives from USAID and the U.S. Department of State briefed members of InterAction, a coalition of more than 160 U.S.-based private relief, development, and refugee assistance organizations, on plans to deploy a DART to the region. Representatives of nearly 20 international NGOs, many of which are operating in Lebanon, attended the meeting.

**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. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for the complex emergency in Lebanon can be found at [www.interaction.org](http://www.interaction.org). Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Lebanon may be available at [www.reliefweb.org](http://www.reliefweb.org).
- 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](http://www.usaid.gov) – Keyword: Donations
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or (703) 276-1914
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)