



# UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SITUATION REPORT

## Lebanon Humanitarian Emergency

USG Humanitarian Situation Report #4, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

July 30, 2006

*Note: The last situation report was dated July 29, 2006.*

### KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On July 30, an Israeli air strike killed more than 50 people, mostly women and children, in the southern Lebanese village of Qana, according to international media reports. The attack, the deadliest yet after 19 days of fighting, destroyed a building in which several displaced families had sought shelter. The Government of Israel (GOI) reportedly warned civilians to leave the village several days prior. Following the attack, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice postponed a visit to Lebanon, after the Government of Lebanon (GOL) pledged to only consider a full and immediate ceasefire. The USG and the GOI continue to press for a comprehensive settlement rather than an immediate ceasefire.
- Following the Israeli attack, approximately 500 people protested in central Beirut, according to international media reports. Some protestors broke car windows and broke into the main U.N. building until political leaders intervened. According to the U.N. Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS), the situation is under control and all staff are safe. The U.N. office in Damascus was closed as a precautionary measure.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE - LEBANON	SOURCE	
<b>Dead</b>	620	GOL - July 30, 2006
<b>Injured</b>	3,225	GOL - July 30, 2006
<b>Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)</b>	787,659	GOL - July 30, 2006 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Displaced to Neighboring Countries</b>	210,000	GOL - July 30, 2006
<b>Total Displaced Population</b>	700,000 to 900,000	GOL - July 30, 2006; OCHA - July 28, 2006 <sup>2</sup>

**Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Lebanon.....\$11,803,052**  
**Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Pledged to Lebanon .....\$30,000,000**

### CURRENT SITUATION

- Ongoing insecurity in Lebanon continues to prevent relief agencies from accurately assessing the growing number of people affected. As of July 30, the GOL's Higher Relief Council (HRC) reported that 620 people have been killed and 3,225 people have been injured. HRC reports that an estimated 907,000 people, or one-fourth of Lebanon's population, have fled their homes, although current OCHA estimates indicate 700,000 have been displaced. The majority of displaced are located in Beirut, Tyre (Sur), Sidon (Saida), Chouf, and Aley. Although most displaced are staying with relatives and friends, an estimated 122,000 are located in schools in Lebanon, and 210,000 have fled to Syria, Jordan, Cyprus, and other Gulf countries, according to HRC.

#### *Health*

- As of July 30, urgent health needs include chlorine tablets for drinking water and hygiene education, particularly for displaced populations residing in shelters. At least one hospital in Lebanon has reportedly stopped functioning due to the lack of safe water, and the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) has received reports of skin infections due to poor hygiene. The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) is distributing safe water and installing water tanks in Aaley, southeast of Beirut, according to U.N. reports. WHO is working to obtain chlorine tablets and preparing a health education campaign for shelters.
- The Lebanese Ministry of Health (MOH) continues to lack sufficient medicines and supplies, particularly for the treatment of chronic illnesses such as HIV/AIDS. WHO has provided the MOH with a month's supply of medicines.
- WHO is working to establish compatible disease surveillance systems in Lebanon and Syria, in order to facilitate monitoring and allow comparisons. According to WHO, the MOH and other health partners have agreed to use WHO's epidemiological surveillance form to monitor Lebanese in shelters.
- On July 30, WHO released a matrix on the major health responses from numerous U.N. agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working across Lebanon. According to WHO, the matrix will be continuously updated as partners provide additional information.

<sup>1</sup> An estimated 122,000 IDPs are staying in 652 schools. Other IDPs have sought shelter with family, friends, and churches.  
<sup>2</sup> Estimates of the total displaced population range from 700,000, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), to more than 900,000, according to the GOL.

### **Humanitarian Access**

- The Office of the U.N. Special Coordinator (UNSCO) reports that the U.N. is currently unable to access areas in the south due to increased insecurity. On July 30, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) postponed half of planned assessments and distributions scheduled in Mount Lebanon, Sidon, and the Chouf mountains, pending a review by UNHCR's security officer. According to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) in Damascus, a U.N. convoy traveling from Arida for Beirut on July 30 was diverted to Tripoli due to security concerns. Two U.N. convoys were prevented from delivering assistance in the Sidon and Tyre areas, but UNSCO reports that three convoys have been approved to depart July 31 for Tyre, Jezzine, and Al Mash.
- WFP continues to work to establish a Cyprus-Beirut air corridor but reports that the GOI has not responded to its request, according to the U.S. Embassy in Amman. The U.N. is prepared to carry registered NGO consignments on U.N. ships traveling between Cyprus and Beirut. However, UNSCO confirmed with the WFP-managed U.N. Humanitarian Cargo Coordination Center in Beirut that the next U.N. vessel will not depart Cyprus before August 3.

### **Refugees**

- UNHCR, in collaboration with the Syrian Red Crescent, continues to provide assistance to approximately 20,000 Lebanese refugees living in communal shelters in Syria. Syrian families, who are currently hosting an estimated 80,000 additional refugees, will also require relief supplies to continue providing assistance, according to UNHCR.
- According to WHO reports, sporadic cases of mumps and measles have been reported in areas where Lebanese refugees are housed in Syria. WHO is currently establishing a disease surveillance system in several shelters, in collaboration with the Government of Syria and relief agencies providing medical assistance. WHO reports that interagency assessments are ongoing in two new shelters for an estimated 3,000 Lebanese refugees.

### **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. During a visit to the region, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice authorized \$30 million in immediate USG humanitarian assistance to persons affected by conflict in Lebanon.
- On July 23, a USG Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) arrived in the region to conduct assessments and determine priorities for USG humanitarian assistance. A Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team is supporting the DART.
- On July 23, USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) began to procure and pre-position humanitarian relief supplies, including 1,000 tarps, 20,000 blankets, and 10 emergency health kits in Cyprus, to support the needs of approximately 155,000 beneficiaries. From July 25 to 29, the U.S. Military transported these supplies to Beirut. The U.S. Embassy consigned health kits to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), WHO, and International Medical Corps (IMC) for delivery to affected populations in Beirut and southern Lebanon. Mercy Corps is distributing the blankets and tarps.
- On July 26, USAID/OFDA provided \$7 million to support the U.N. Flash Appeal for Lebanon, including \$3.3 million to WFP and the U.N. Joint Logistics Center (UNJLC) for logistics, \$2.5 million to UNICEF for water and sanitation activities, and \$1.2 million for OCHA and OCHA's Humanitarian Information Center (HIC) for coordination activities.
- The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) has contributed an initial \$3.4 million to ICRC in support of its emergency appeal for Lebanon and an additional \$1 million to the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
- The USG will program additional assistance to other relief agencies based on upcoming humanitarian assessments.
- In addition to evacuating more than 14,312 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. military personnel in the joint operating area are currently participating in the evacuation of U.S. citizens as well as humanitarian operations.

**U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON IN FY 2006<sup>1</sup>**

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
WFP	Logistics	Affected areas	\$3,000,000
UNJLC	Logistics	Affected areas	\$300,000
UNICEF	Water and sanitation	Affected areas	\$2,500,000
OCHA	Coordination	Affected areas	\$1,000,000
OCHA/HIC	Coordination	Affected areas	\$200,000
Multiple	Emergency relief supplies, including transport	Affected areas	\$247,202
	DART administrative costs	Affected areas	\$143,850
ICRC	Emergency relief activities	Affected areas	\$3,412,000
IOM	Emergency relief activities	Affected areas	\$1,000,000
<b>TOTAL FY 2006 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON</b>			<b>\$11,803,052</b>

<sup>1</sup>USG funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of July 30, 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](http://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](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)