



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SITUATION REPORT

Lebanon Humanitarian Emergency

USG Humanitarian Situation Report #10, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

August 5, 2006

Note: The last situation report was dated August 4, 2006.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Transport of relief supplies into and around Lebanon remains the primary humanitarian concern. The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) is working to establish alternate supply routes into Lebanon, after the August 4 bombing in northern Beirut destroyed key bridges linking Beirut with northern Lebanon and Syria, where WFP has established a supply hub. The U.N. Department of Safety and Security has suspended all movement between Beirut and Aarida, a town on the Lebanon-Syria border.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE - LEBANON		SOURCE
Dead	933	Government of Lebanon (GOL) – August 5, 2006
Injured	3,322	GOL - August 5, 2006
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	695,762	GOL - August 5, 2006
Displaced to Neighboring Countries	220,000	GOL - August 5, 2006
Total Displaced Population	915,762	GOL - August 5, 2006

Total U.S. Government (USG) Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Lebanon.....\$20,154,344
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 number of people affected. As of August 5, the GOL Higher Relief Council (HRC) reported that 933 people have been killed and 3,322 people have been injured. HRC reports that 915,762 people, or one-fourth of Lebanon’s population, have fled their homes. Most IDPs are located in South Beirut, Mount Lebanon, Chouf, and Aaley, and some are located in and around Bekaa and northern Lebanon. Although some IDPs remain in Tyre (Sur) and Sidon (Saida), coastal cities in southern Lebanon, few people remain in southern Lebanese villages, and many who initially moved to southern cities have now fled further north. HRC reports that an estimated 565,000 displaced persons are staying with relatives and friends, and 130,762 are located in 761 schools and public institutions throughout the country. An estimated 220,000 have fled to neighboring countries, including 150,000 to Syria.
- The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports that ongoing assessments of villages south of the Litani River continue to indicate widespread population movement. Of the villages surveyed to date, less than 20 percent of the original population remains. According to the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), some families have moved multiple times, and a complete assessment of IDPs throughout Lebanon is necessary to determine current locations for the estimated one million people who lived below the Litani River prior to the crisis.

Humanitarian Access

- The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Lebanon reports that it lacks real access to many areas in southern Lebanon, particularly in the security zone, and is unable to conduct either comprehensive assessment missions or significant relief deliveries. According to ICRC, conditions in each village vary significantly, as some villages lack access to water sources, while others need fuel to power water pumps.
- ICRC’s primary concern is for communities in the security zone along the Lebanon-Israel border. During an assessment mission to the village of Aitaroun, an ICRC team found people traumatized, in hiding or wounded, and chronically ill with no access to medical care. ICRC reports that the remaining population represents the most vulnerable residents, as those able to leave have already left. To date, insecurity has prevented ICRC from meeting acute water and food needs identified more than a week ago. ICRC has specifically requested assistance in gaining access to At Tayyabah, a village in the security zone where more 60 bodies remain trapped under rubble.

Logistics

- WFP is working to ensure the continued arrival of emergency relief supplies into and around Lebanon. On August 5, WFP teams assessed damage to the Aarida-Beirut road and examined alternate land routes. However, it remains unclear if alternate routes are capable of supporting the heavy tonnage trucks required to deliver relief supplies.
- Due to the disruption of WFP’s supply chain via the Aarida-Beirut road, OCHA reports that WFP is working to shift the focus of transportation from land to sea. As a result, WFP’s humanitarian hub in Cyprus has gained increased importance as a means of delivering urgently needed relief supplies into Lebanon’s ports of Beirut, Tyre, and Tripoli. However, WFP emphasizes that it will need several days to fully establish the Cyprus route.

- On August 3, WFP and U.N. Joint Logistics Center (UNJLC) held the first logistics cluster meeting in Cyprus to discuss plans for the U.N. humanitarian cargo transport service between Cyprus and Lebanon. According to the USG Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), led by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), WFP expects a “roll-on, roll-off” vessel, which will facilitate cargo loading and unloading, to arrive in Cyprus on or about August 9. The vessel can carry fuel and humanitarian cargo for NGOs, U.N. agencies, and other relief agencies. NGOs should submit cargo transport requirements to lebanon.cargo@unjlc.org. OCHA reports that U.N. agencies and NGOs are also requested to send pipeline information to UNJLC to ensure sufficient cargo transport for all relief agencies. To date, no passenger transport is available between Cyprus and Beirut, either from WFP or ICRC.
- OCHA reports that UNJLC is currently establishing a road condition reporting system that will be shared among humanitarian agencies by the end of the week.

Health

- On August 4, the Ministry of Health (MOH) suspended the ongoing measles vaccination campaign for IDP children after bombing in Beirut prevented staff from reaching work sites. The MOH is conducting the Beirut campaign, with support from the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and WHO, to vaccinate an estimated 18,000 children who are currently staying in crowded public facilities in the Beirut area. UNICEF reports that an additional 55,000 children are scheduled to receive vaccinations during next week’s national campaign, which will focus on displaced children in Mount Lebanon and other areas of the country. Children between the ages of 9 months and 15 years are receiving measles vaccinations, and children under 5 are receiving polio vaccinations and vitamin A. Measles and polio are highly contagious diseases that can spread rapidly when families are living in crowded conditions. Vitamin A helps to prevent night blindness and reduces morbidity among children with diarrheal problems.
- On August 4, WHO led the third health cluster meeting in Beirut. According to the International Medical Corps (IMC), there is no reliable data on which hospitals in Lebanon are still functioning and which are closed. IMC added that drugs remain available within the country through the MOH, but distribution networks have been disrupted by the conflict. In addition, large population movements have increased demand in areas receiving an influx of IDPs, and supply to these areas has not kept pace. However, chronic medicines remain an urgent need as they must be imported and it is difficult to match the requirements of chronic patients who need specific drugs.
- As of August 4, ICRC health teams have delivered vital medical supplies for the treatment of wounded and chronically ill persons in Marjayoun and Jezzine. According to ICRC, hospitals in Marjayoun and Jezzine received injection materials, disinfectants, dressings, dialysis supplies, catheters, surgical gloves, antibiotics, and drugs for surgery and anaesthesia. A Lebanese Red Cross Society dispensary in Jezzine received drugs for cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and other illnesses.

Shelter

- At the request of the GOL, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation continue to work to establish two IDP camps in Beirut. UNHCR will supply tents, blankets, mattresses, and kitchen sets for communal kitchens; Oxfam will provide water and sanitation facilities; and the French military will ensure the camp is connected to Beirut’s main electrical grid and a backup generator. The GOL is providing labor to construct the camp and will use a participatory approach to identify IDPs to be housed in the camp. The Lebanese Ministry of Social Services will be involved in services for IDP residents. According to the DART, UNHCR knows of no other camp plans at this time.

Emergency Relief Supplies

- Caritas/Lebanon reports that prices for basic food and relief items are now prohibitively expensive within Lebanon. According to OCHA, Caritas is now purchasing supplies in neighboring areas.
- On August 2, an ICRC team provided 9,000 liters of fuel for essential civilian infrastructure, including the hospital and Lebanese Red Cross dispensary in Tibnin, as well as water pumps in Tibnin and the surrounding villages of Kafra, Aita Jebel, Kaddata, and At Tiri. ICRC also distributed 6,634 ready-to-eat meals and 125 blankets in villages around Tibnin as well as 650 family food parcels to IDPs in Tyre.

Refugees

- UNHCR reports that refugees continue to arrive, despite difficulties in accessing the Syrian border. According to UNHCR, 6,500 refugees entered Syria on August 4. Approximately 5,500 arrived via the Dabboushieh and Jushieh crossing points near Homs, and 1,000 persons arrived from Aarida. This represents an increase from the 3,500 to 5,000 average that UNHCR observed from August 2 to 4.
- According to UNICEF, the U.N. has finished assessing 170 shelters in the Damascus area. The U.N. estimates that 40,000 persons are currently living in shelters, but cautions that informal movement between shelters is significant.

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 DART arrived in the region to determine priorities for USG humanitarian assistance. A Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team is supporting the DART.
- USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA), via U.S. military transport, has provided 1,000 tarps, 20,000 blankets, and 18 emergency health kits in support of relief operations in Lebanon. The U.S. Embassy in Beirut has consigned these relief supplies to ICRC, WHO, IMC, and Mercy Corps for delivery to approximately 235,000 beneficiaries in Beirut and southern Lebanon.
- On July 26, USAID/OFDA provided \$7 million to support the U.N. Flash Appeal for Lebanon, including \$3.3 million to WFP and UNJLC for logistics, \$2.5 million to UNICEF for water and sanitation activities, and \$1.2 million to OCHA and OCHA's Humanitarian Information Center (HIC) for coordination.
- On July 31, USAID/OFDA provided \$3.3 million to Mercy Corps for water and sanitation services, psychosocial activities, and the distribution of food and relief supplies.
- On August 3, USAID/OFDA provided \$2.8 million to Catholic Relief Services (CRS) for water and sanitation services, psychosocial support, emergency shelter activities, and the distribution of food and relief supplies.
- The U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) has contributed \$3.4 million to ICRC's emergency appeal for Lebanon, and \$1 million to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and \$2 million to UNHCR in support of the U.N. Flash Appeal.
- In addition to evacuating more than 14,839 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>
Mercy Corps	Water and sanitation, psychosocial support, emergency relief supplies, and food	Beirut	\$3,369,250
Catholic Relief Services	Water and sanitation, psychosocial support, food, emergency shelter, and emergency relief supplies	Beirut	\$2,836,582
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	\$392,662
	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
UNHCR	Emergency relief activities	Affected areas	\$2,000,000
TOTAL FY 2006 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON			\$20,154,344

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