



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SITUATION REPORT

Lebanon Humanitarian Emergency

USG Humanitarian Situation Report #11, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

August 6, 2006

Note: The last situation report was dated August 5, 2006.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Fuel shortages remain a major concern in Lebanon. Hospitals in northern Lebanon are expected to close within 7 to 10 days and those in southern Lebanon may close in 5 to 7 days, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The U.S. Navy is scheduled to escort a tanker with approximately 87,000 metric tons (MT) of gas and diesel fuel, sufficient to sustain energy needs in Lebanon for at least a month, through the Israeli Navy blockade. Although the Israeli Navy had granted the tankers permission to sail, the ships had not entered Lebanese waters out of security concerns.
- On August 5, the U.N. approved the resumption of U.N. supply convoys through the border crossing at Aarida, suspended since the August 4 bombing of key bridges along the coastal road north from Beirut. However, OCHA reports that the Beirut–Aarida road can no longer be used as the primary means of transport for relief goods, and significant delays can be expected as a result of heavy civilian traffic. The U.N. continues to restrict the movement of personnel.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE - LEBANON		SOURCE
Dead	933	Government of Lebanon (GOL) – August 6, 2006
Injured	3,322	GOL - August 6, 2006
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	695,762	GOL - August 6, 2006
Displaced to Neighboring Countries	220,000	GOL - August 6, 2006
Total Displaced Population	915,762	GOL - August 6, 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 6, 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 the coastal cities of Tyre (Sur) and Sidon (Saida) 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.
- 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.

Health

- On August 5, WHO reported the following urgent needs: fuel for hospitals and cold chains, essential medicines for chronic diseases, chlorine tablets for safe drinking water, hygiene education to minimize the number of diarrhea cases, and psychosocial support, particularly for children.
- On August 7, the nutrition sub-cluster group—which includes the Lebanese Pediatric Society, Lebanese Nutrition Society, and Action Contre la Faim—is scheduled to present a consolidated action plan to address nutritional needs, according to the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF).
- The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has established field offices in Tyre and Marjayoun and delivered medical supplies for wounded and chronically ill persons in Marjayoun and Jezzine. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is operating a clinic in Tyre and supporting hospitals in Jezzine and Nabatiye. According to WHO reports, two hospitals in Tyre are fully functioning with support from ICRC and MSF.
- According to WHO, the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) has reported cases of diarrhea, acute respiratory infection, skin infections and infestations, and chronic illnesses among the nearly 3,500 Lebanese displaced persons sheltered in UNRWA schools.

Water and Sanitation

- On August 4, UNICEF provided the Lebanese Red Cross with 75 family water kits, or enough for 750 families, as well as diapers and feminine hygiene items, to distribute throughout Beirut.
- As of August 3, UNICEF reports that 48 of the 50 water tanks ordered locally have been delivered. Following an assessment, UNICEF is scheduled to deliver 10 of these tanks to newly identified IDP locations in Beirut.

Emergency Relief Supplies

- On August 6, a relief convoy departed Beirut to deliver relief supplies to Zahle, in the Bekaa Valley. UNICEF reports that the convoy carried 100 family water kits and essential drugs for distribution by the Lebanese Red Cross.
- UNHCR and the Aga Khan Development Network are currently establishing warehouses and offices in the Syrian cities of Damascus, Aleppo, Tartus, and Homs. OCHA reports that all U.N. agencies can access the emergency relief supplies, including plastic sheeting, jerry cans, kitchen sets, kerosene stoves, mattresses, blankets, sheets and pillows, underwear, diapers, and other personal hygiene products.

Food

- To date, WFP has received 1,820 MT of food commodities through local and international purchases. An additional 2,734 MT are expected to be available by August 10, according to OCHA. By August 7, four flights are expected to deliver 42 MT of high energy biscuits to Beirut. According to U.N. reports, current food supplies delivered to southern Lebanon are enough to feed 80,000 people for a week.
- On August 4, U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) distributed food to civilians in Al Qawzah and Ramyah villages. UNIFIL also provided water and medical assistance to affected populations in the village of Ibil as Saqy.

Coordination

- On August 5, OCHA chaired the first coordination meeting in Tyre and a general coordination meeting in Beirut. Attendees included representatives of local government, local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), HRC, international NGOs, and U.N. agencies.
- NGO security coordination meetings are now being held twice weekly, according to OCHA.
- UNDP is working with the Ministry of Social Affairs to coordinate the execution of the rapid assessment form and the distribution of aid to local NGOs.
- On August 4, the newly appointed U.N. Humanitarian Coordinator traveled to Naqoura and Tyre in southern Lebanon to meet with representatives of local government, U.N. agencies, and NGOs. The U.N. is in the process of establishing an office in Tyre.

Environment

- On August 8, the U.N. Development Program (UNDP) is scheduled to conduct a national assessment of acute environmental issues, including the July 13 oil spill.

Refugees

- Of the estimated 150,000 Lebanese refugees in Syria, approximately 67,000 are located at public sites, including schools and youth camps, while others are staying with host families or in hotels or apartments, according to OCHA. Other displaced persons, particularly Palestinians, are waiting to enter Syria at the Jdaide–Masnaa border crossing, and require medical care, sanitation, and mattresses and pillows, according to OCHA. UNHCR estimates that 5,000 to 8,000 Lebanese arrive in Syria daily, but notes that a number of males are returning to Lebanon on family matters.
- Inter-agency assessments have accounted for nearly 40,000 of the refugees in public sites in the Damascus area; assessments of additional public sites are ongoing in Dara, Aleppo, Hama, Homs, and Latakia. OCHA is tracking refugee locations and movements through a Consolidated Assessment Tracking sheet, which lists approximately 160 sites hosting the 40,000 refugees identified in public sites to date. According to OCHA, relief agencies will now designate focal points for each site, to respond to needs identified during assessments and avoid duplication.
- UNRWA is meeting the needs of more than 2,000 Palestinian refugees from the Lebanon crisis, including 1,612 who are staying at eight UNRWA schools in Yarmouk, Damascus. UNRWA is coordinating delivery of relief supplies from U.N. agencies and private donors.
- The Syrian MOH, with support from UNICEF and WHO, has begun a vaccination campaign for refugee children in Syria. According to WHO, children under 5 have received polio and measles vaccinations, and all children between 5 and 15 years of age have received meningitis vaccinations. UNICEF has also provided 150,000 capsules of vitamin A to be distributed during the vaccination campaign. Measles, polio, and meningitis are highly contagious diseases that can spread rapidly when people live in crowded conditions. Vitamin A boosts the immune system, resulting in fewer cases of night blindness and reduced morbidity among children with diarrheal problems.
- In Syria, WFP has received or is in the process of procuring approximately 800 MT of food commodities. Since July 31, WFP has distributed approximately 3 MT of food per day to an estimated 11,000 refugees in Syria.
- The Syrian Arab Red Crescent has requested support for water treatment and maintenance, as well as the provision of hygiene materials, in some refugee sites, according to OCHA. UNRWA has requested additional water storage, pumping, and sanitation facilities in schools in Yarmouk.

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), led by the U.S. Agency for International Development, 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 DART has consigned these relief supplies to ICRC, WHO, the International Medical Corps (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 the U.N. Joint Logistics Center (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, \$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 6, 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