



# UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SITUATION REPORT

## Lebanon Humanitarian Emergency

USG Humanitarian Situation Report #16, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

August 11, 2006

*Note: The last situation report was dated August 10, 2006.*

### KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- USG implementing partners have identified support to host families as a critical gap, as most agencies have tailored assistance toward internally displaced persons (IDPs) in public buildings rather than those staying with host families, according to the USG Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART). The needs of IDPs in many homes and villages is surpassing the local capacity to respond, and some IDPs are leaving overcrowded houses and villages to travel further north and into Syria. In exceptional cases, more than 40 IDPs have been reported living in 1 house. Many IDPs are paying rent but will be unable to do so indefinitely. According to USG implementing partners, relief programs, such as a stipend system, must be incorporated to support both IDPs and host families and avoid exacerbating tensions. According to the DART, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) has begun collecting information on IDPs residing with host families from municipality authorities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in order to address humanitarian needs.
- Not all IDPs and refugees will be able or willing to return home when the conflict ends. According to the DART, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that up to 300,000 IDPs may not be able to return home, due to destroyed homes, villages, or continuing Israeli occupation, and some IDPs may wish to resettle permanently. The number of IDPs and refugees whose residences sustained minimal damage could be as large as 600,000, or approximately two-thirds of the total IDP population in Lebanon, and these groups may return home within 72 hours after fighting ends. Even if returns are rapid, UNHCR reported that there are likely to be split families, with some members returning first to assess conditions. Continued population displacements are threatening the established political and sectarian balance in Lebanon, generating anxiety among IDP host communities that the displacement may become permanent, according to the DART.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE - LEBANON		SOURCE
<b>Dead</b>	1,056	Government of Lebanon (GOL) - August 11, 2006
<b>Injured</b>	3,600	GOL - August 11, 2006
<b>IDPs</b>	695,762	GOL - August 11, 2006
<b>Displaced to Neighboring Countries</b>	231,000	GOL - August 11, 2006
<b>Total Displaced Population</b>	971,361	GOL - August 11, 2006

**Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Lebanon.....\$22,067,801**  
**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. The GOL Higher Relief Council (HRC) reports that 1,056 people have been killed and 3,600 people have been injured. As of August 11, HRC reported that 971,361 people have fled their homes—an increase of approximately 55,000 in recent days—more than one forth of Lebanon’s population. Most IDPs are located in South Beirut, Mount Lebanon, Chouf, and Aaley, and others are located in and around Bekaa (Al Biqa), Byblos, Kesrouane, and El Metn. Although an estimated 130,000 people remain in southern Lebanon, primarily in the coastal cities of Tyre (Sur) and Sidon (Saida), local authorities report that only 25,000 people are in villages along the Israel-Lebanon border, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). HRC reports that an estimated 605,000 displaced persons are staying with relatives and friends, and 135,361 are located in 859 schools and public institutions throughout the country. Approximately 231,000 have fled to neighboring countries, including 180,000 to Syria. Since the conflict began on July 12, an estimated 7,000 private homes or apartments, 630 kilometers of roads, 73 bridges, and 29 key installations—including airports, seaports, water and sewage treatment plants, and power plants—have been significantly damaged or destroyed, according to HRC.

#### *Humanitarian Access*

- Ongoing conflict between the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) and Hezbollah continues to restrict humanitarian access in southern Lebanon. While IDF granted concurrence for all U.N. convoys requested on August 11—from Beirut to Baalbek in northern Lebanon, and from Beirut to Nabatiye and Sidon in southern Lebanon—no relief convoys have reached areas south of the Litani River since August 7, according to OCHA. IDF has yet to approve U.N. requests to make repairs to damaged infrastructure, including a temporary bridge that would allow relief agencies to deliver assistance to Tyre.

### **Logistics**

- WFP and the U.N. Joint Logistics Center (UNJLC) have developed an integrated strategy for the transport of emergency relief supplies via air, sea, and land into Lebanon. The U.N. will receive and repackage goods for onward distribution at established operational consolidation centers throughout Lebanon. U.N. agencies have pledged to provide 2 vessels to transport supplies from Cyprus to Lebanese ports, and 100 trucks to distribute supplies from the ports to 10 designated delivery points throughout Lebanon. UNJLC will be responsible for scheduling and tracking in-country distribution of U.N. relief commodities and will work with WFP liaisons to coordinate convoy notification and clearance with IDF.

### **Health and Nutrition**

- On August 10, OCHA reported that 24 private hospitals throughout Lebanon have requested emergency fuel supplies, and some hospitals in the south have a shortage of food commodities. The U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) is working to provide a 10-day supply of fuel to hospitals with the most urgent needs. OCHA reported that Jabel Amel hospital in Tyre estimates that food supplies will be exhausted by August 12.
- Following rapid nutrition assessments in Beirut on August 8 and 9, the U.N. has concluded that food distributions are meeting international standards. WHO is working with HRC, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), and NGOs to sustain high quality nutrition and mobilize IDPs to become involved in preparing their own meals.

### **Food and Emergency Relief Supplies**

- As part of the U.N.'s strategy to deliver relief assistance via all available transport options, WFP has now established a humanitarian air bridge for humanitarian cargo into Beirut. On August 10, the Jordanian Air Force delivered a U.N. shipment of 9,000 blankets, 192 mattresses, and medical supplies to Beirut. Additional flights from Copenhagen and Amman are scheduled to deliver mattresses, water containers, plastic sheeting, and kitchen sets, according to OCHA.
- On August 10, OCHA reported that population displacement, increasing insecurity, and damage to infrastructure are disrupting the main cereal harvest and food supply chain throughout Lebanon. According to the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), this could lead to a major food crisis.
- On August 9, USG partner Mercy Corps distributed food, hygiene kits, and blankets to approximately 3,500 beneficiaries in 4 villages in central Lebanon, in response to targeted assessments in the villages on August 8. Mercy Corps is preparing to shift from providing dried food commodities to ready-to-eat and canned food supplies, as ongoing fuel shortages are hindering the ability of IDPs to cook food.
- On August 10, UNHCR distributed 400 blankets, 200 mattresses, 460 water containers, 50 rolls of plastic sheeting, and 352 kitchen sets to IDPs sheltering in 8 schools and public buildings in Maaisrat, north of Beirut.

### **Protection**

- On August 8, IDF granted access to an International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Lebanese Red Cross convoy to evacuate 250 people from the villages of Addayseh, Meiss el Jebel, Mhaybib, and Houla. Since July 12, Lebanese Red Cross staff have evacuated 776 people, transported 5,452 people in need of medical care, and collected 256 bodies, according to ICRC.

### **Environment**

- On August 10, OCHA reported that a European Union and Ministry of the Environment team visited oil-spill affected areas near Beirut and identified the need for specific equipment to aid in clean-up efforts. In response to requests for assistance from the GOL, Norway is providing nine metric tons of supplies for the clean-up effort, and Cyprus and Ireland will be providing additional equipment, according to the European Commission.
- According to an initial assessment conducted by the U.N. Environment Program (UNEP) and OCHA, damage to the Syrian coast is currently limited, and clean-up efforts have been reasonably effective to date.

### **Recovery**

- The GOL Prime Minister's Office is working with the U.N. Development Program (UNDP) to develop proposals for recovery activities. According to OCHA, recovery partners have identified public services and housing loans as priorities for recovery assistance when conditions permit.

### **Refugees**

- Following the August 9 attack on Ein el-Hilweh camp, approximately 50 Palestinian refugees have fled to Sidon to escape hostilities. The Ein el-Hilweh camp is the largest of the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, providing shelter to approximately 45,700 people, although the current population has increased to approximately 60,000 due to the influx of IDPs.

## **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, led by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), 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, 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 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.
- On August 8, USAID/OFDA provided \$1.9 million to IMC for health services, psychosocial support, water and sanitation activities, and emergency relief supplies.
- 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 14,905 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 2006<sup>1</sup>**

<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
CRS	Water and sanitation, psychosocial support, food, emergency shelter, and emergency relief supplies	Beirut	\$2,836,582
IMC	Water and sanitation, health, psychosocial support, and emergency relief supplies	Affected areas	\$1,913,457
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
<b>TOTAL FY 2006 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON</b>			<b>\$22,067,801</b>

<sup>1</sup>USG funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 11, 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)