



# UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SITUATION REPORT

## Lebanon Humanitarian Emergency

USG Humanitarian Situation Report #18, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

August 13, 2006

Note: The last situation report was dated August 12, 2006.

### KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- U.N. agencies remain poised to increase relief operations in Lebanon, pending implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1701, which calls for a cessation of hostilities, humanitarian access to civilian populations, and the restoration of Government of Lebanon (GOL) control across southern Lebanon. According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), top U.N. priorities include establishing additional inter-agency coordination hubs to improve access to isolated areas; increasing relief convoys, with Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) concurrence; expanding sea convoys through Tripoli, Tyre (Sur), and Naqoura; improved planning for shelter and emergency relief supplies to support the potential return home of displaced Lebanese; rehabilitating key road infrastructure; and clearing unexploded ordnance (UXO), particularly in affected areas in southern Lebanon.
- Throughout Lebanon, the continued influx of internally displaced persons (IDPs) is stretching local coping mechanisms and the capacity of relief agencies to respond, according to OCHA. In Beirut and other areas, overcrowded conditions and ongoing insecurity have led some IDPs to flee further north and into Syria. According to the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF), IDPs are increasingly moving away from hosting families to already overcrowded public centers. As the conflict continues, host families increasingly require assistance to continue supporting IDPs.
- As of August 12, relief agencies continued to lack access to all IDPs, particularly for the estimated 120,000 people living south of the Litani River. On August 12, the IDF did not grant concurrence for any of the six U.N. convoys scheduled to provide relief supplies throughout Lebanon, including Ramesh, Tyre, Jezzine, Tripoli, and Aarida. No U.N. convoys have traveled south of the Litani River since August 7.

| NUMBERS AT A GLANCE - LEBANON             |                      | SOURCE                |
|---|----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Dead</b>                               | 1,071                | GOL - August 13, 2006 |
| <b>Injured</b>                            | 3,628                | GOL - August 13, 2006 |
| <b>IDPs</b>                               | 695,762              | GOL - August 12, 2006 |
| <b>Displaced to Neighboring Countries</b> | 231,000              | GOL - August 12, 2006 |
| <b>Total Displaced Population</b>         | 973,334 <sup>1</sup> | GOL - August 13, 2006 |

**Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Lebanon.....\$24,069,301**  
**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 1,071 people have been killed and 3,628 people have been injured. As of August 13, HRC reported that 973,334 people have fled their homes, or more than one-fourth of Lebanon’s population. According to UNICEF, 45 percent of displaced are children. Most IDPs are located in 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 and Sidon (Saida), local authorities report that only 25,000 people are in villages along the Israel–Lebanon border, according to 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 in 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.

#### Coordination

- OCHA reports that the U.N. and the GOL are working to strengthen humanitarian coordination. The U.N. has agreed to provide government liaison officers for all clusters: water and sanitation, health and nutrition, logistics, shelter, food and emergency relief supplies, protection, and recovery. The U.N. has requested that the GOL provide a single point of contact for overall coordination.
- The U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) continues to support U.N. efforts to respond to the needs of displaced in Lebanon. In addition to providing assistance to more than 5,500 Lebanese IDPs and 16,000 displaced

<sup>1</sup> As of August 13, the GOL has updated the total number of displaced persons, but had not yet provided revised figures on IDPs and refugees.

refugees, UNRWA is providing office and warehouse space, fuel storage, and logistical support, including vehicles and drivers, for U.N. agencies in both Lebanon and Syria. According to the Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM), UNRWA has offered the use of its office and warehouse facilities in Sidon for the establishment of U.N. humanitarian hub.

### ***Health and Nutrition***

- According to the USG Disaster Assistant Response Team (DART), unsolicited medications continue to arrive in Lebanon, despite the U.N. World Health Organization's (WHO) August 3 announcement that sufficient medical supplies are now in country. According to the DART, unsolicited medications may be due in part to the fact that not all health providers are participating in health cluster meetings.
- To date, the Ministry of Health (MOH), in collaboration with UNICEF, WHO, and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners, has vaccinated approximately 13,000 children against measles and polio in the Beirut area and southern Metn, according to UNICEF. Pending IDF concurrence for the U.N. to transport an additional 200,000 doses of each vaccine from Syria, the MOH will expand the campaign to other areas of Lebanon.
- Urgent fuel supplies are needed for hospitals and the maintenance of cold chains and medical storage, according to WHO.
- OCHA reports that agencies participating in the nutrition cluster continue to work on providing hot meals for IDPs.

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

- As of August 11, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) had provided more than 850 metric tons (MT) of food to approximately 210,000 beneficiaries. On August 11, WFP delivered wheat flour, canned meat, vegetable oil, and high-energy biscuits for distribution to 15,000 people in Nabatiye and Baalbek.
- On August 12, an International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) ship received concurrence to dock in Tyre to deliver 100 MT of food, 4 vehicles, and 100 MT of medical and relief supplies. According to OCHA, this is the first shipment of supplies to arrive in southern Lebanon in more than a week.
- On August 13, two ships contracted by WFP are scheduled to arrive in Beirut with food, fuel, and relief supplies from U.N. agencies and NGOs. Pending IDF concurrence, on August 13, U.N. convoys are scheduled to transport relief supplies from Beirut to Lebanon and deliver relief supplies to affected populations in Ramesh, Tyre, Jezzine, and Tripoli.

### ***Protection***

- On August 12, OCHA reported that the International Organization for Migration (IOM) had evacuated 9,400 third country nationals (TCNs) to date. IOM aims to evacuate an additional 2,600 TCNs by August 15.
- UNICEF is working to raise awareness of trauma and unexploded ordinances (UXOs). The first television spot, which seeks to help parents identify signs of stress and help their children to cope, is scheduled to be aired during the week of August 14. UNICEF aims to raise awareness of UXOs through posters, leaflets, and television spots.
- The Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has shared a protection monitoring tool with relief agencies and is finalizing television spots on the availability of psycho-social counseling, according to UNICEF.

### ***Water and Sanitation***

- According to OCHA, urgent water and sanitation needs include the repair of urban water supplies, improved sanitation systems for host communities, and water quality monitoring. In order to better identify specific needs and gaps, the water and sanitation cluster is currently working to map all water and sanitation support to IDPs.
- ICRC has delivered approximately 2,000 liters of fuel to enable the Tyre pumping station to supply water for another four days, with a 12 hour rationed service, according to OCHA.
- During the week of August 7, UNICEF's water and environmental sanitation (WES) team conducted assessed water and sanitation conditions in 20 IDP centers. The WES team assessments in other centers, according to UNICEF.
- In the 34 most populated IDP centers in Beirut, UNICEF continues to replenish 5,000 liter tanks for daily use. Without improved security, bottled water will remain the only solution in southern Lebanon, according to UNICEF.

### ***Shelter***

- At the shelter cluster meeting on August 10, attended by international and local NGOs, as well as representatives from UNICEF, and the U.N. Development Program (UNDP), the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) encouraged IDPs to travel via bus to northern areas such as Tripoli, where room is still available in schools. The public school facilities in Beirut and much of the south are reportedly at capacity with IDPs.
- The GOL continues to advocate against the use of prefabricated housing, including tents. Despite this policy, the GOL has requested that UNHCR establish two IDP camps in Beirut in order to better respond to sudden displacements—such as the displacement of thousands of south Beirut residents following IDF attacks on August 9—until other solutions can be found. UNHCR reports that camp infrastructure, including water and sanitation facilities, will be ready in 2 to 3 weeks.
- UNHCR is considering using tent stocks to support returns, providing the tents to IDP returnees so they can shelter on their land while rebuilding their homes. According to UNDP, the GOL is examining shelter needs under three scenarios: returnees who can stay on their land while housing is rebuilt, provision of municipal land for temporary shelter as people rebuild, and provisional housing needs in the event that low-intensity conflict continues in the south.

- South Beirut, a densely-populated area with multi-story apartment buildings, is a separate and more complex problem than southern Lebanon, according to agencies involved in shelter response. According to the GOL, at least 4,000 housing units have been destroyed in south Beirut to date.

#### **Education**

- The Ministry of Education (MOE) has agreed to co-chair the education cluster with UNICEF. To date, the GOL has not developed a clear action plan to prepare for the upcoming school year. In partnership with the MOE, UNICEF and NGOs are working to develop a campaign to mobilize teachers. UNICEF has also ordered 4,000 school-in-a-box kits.

#### **Refugees**

- The humanitarian situation in Syria has not yet stabilized, as arriving refugees and TCNs continue to travel to different areas of Syria and neighboring countries, according to OCHA. UNHCR reports that new refugees, 75 percent of whom are women and children, appear more distressed and have fewer resources than previous arrivals.
- Although assessments are still ongoing, UNHCR estimates that 83,000 people are in need of various degrees of assistance in 11 of the 14 Governorates assessed to date. UNHCR has identified 50,000 Lebanese in public sites and 30,000 refugees staying with families, all in the areas of Aleppo, Damascus, Dara, Dair Azzor, Hamah, Homs, Idleb, Lattakia, Qunayterh, Rural Damascus, and Tartous.

#### **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, 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.
- 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 IOM, and \$2 million in support of the U.N. Flash Appeal, including \$2 million to UNHCR and \$2 million to UNRWA.
- In addition to evacuating nearly 15,000 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                    | Affected areas           | \$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           | \$394,162           |
|   | DART administrative costs  | Affected areas           | \$143,850           |
| ICRC  | Protection, food, health, and water and sanitation   | Beirut, Southern Lebanon | \$3,412,000         |
| IOM   | Evacuation of third-country nationals  | Affected areas           | \$1,000,000         |
| UNHCR   | Protection, shelter, and emergency relief supplies   | Affected areas           | \$2,000,000         |
| UNRWA   | Food, health, and emergency relief supplies  | Affected areas           | \$2,000,000         |
| <b>TOTAL FY 2006 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON</b> |  |                          | <b>\$24,069,301</b> |

<sup>1</sup>USG funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 13, 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)